

★ **Enrichment Activity 20****The Marshall Plan**

George C. Marshall's European aid program of 1947, known as the Marshall Plan, was not universally popular.

Under the Marshall Plan, Western Europe received billions of dollars in economic aid from the United States. Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson articulated the rationale for the plan, declaring that Western Europe was "the keystone in the arch which supports the kind of a world which we have to have in order to conduct our lives."

The terms of the Marshall Plan ensured that the United States would receive an economic return—as well as a political one—on its "investment" in Europe. Legislation establishing the plan specified that all foreign aid dollars received by European nations must be spent on American products in the United States. Despite this stipulation, many conservative Americans denounced the Marshall Plan as a "share-the-American-wealth plan." Meanwhile, liberal critics considered it a "Martial Plan" designed to further the United States's long-term military aims.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the questions below in the space provided.

1. Interpret Dean Acheson's statement. What did he mean by "the keystone in the arch" and "the kind of a world which we have to have in order to conduct our lives"? _____

2. Suppose that you lived in the postwar era and followed with interest the formulation of the Marshall Plan. Give your opinion of the plan and support that opinion. _____
