

**THE MARSHALL PLAN
AT THE MID-MARK**

Harry S. Truman



The men responsible



"The truth of the matter is that Europe's requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products—principally from America—are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have very substantial help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character."

"The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries and of Europe as a whole."

Secretary of State George Marshall at Harvard, June 5, 1947

"It is further declared to be the policy of the people of the United States to sustain and strengthen principles of individual liberty, free institutions, and genuine independence in Europe through assistance to those countries of Europe which participate in a joint recovery program based upon self-help and mutual cooperation . . ."

Preamble to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948

These are some pictures of Europe as it looks at the mid-mark of the Marshall Plan. The pictures tell their own story.

Behind the pictures are solid statistics. It took Western Europe seven years to regain just the prewar level of industrial production after World War I. Today, after two years of the Marshall Plan, and less than five years after the devastation of World War II, in which the destruction was far greater than in the first war, industrial production has not merely been lifted to the prewar level, but stands 20 percent above it.

Hard coal production rose 17 percent.
Steel production, 52 percent.
Electric power, 21 percent.
Cement production, 58 percent.
Cotton yarn production, 31 percent.

Farm production as a whole has been brought nearly to prewar level and if the weather is favorable, during the present crop year will reach the prewar level or exceed it. In the past two years, after the grave crop failures of 1947,

Total grain production rose 30 percent.
Sugar, 30 percent.
Meat, 16 percent.
Milk, 19 percent.
Fats and oils, 19 percent.

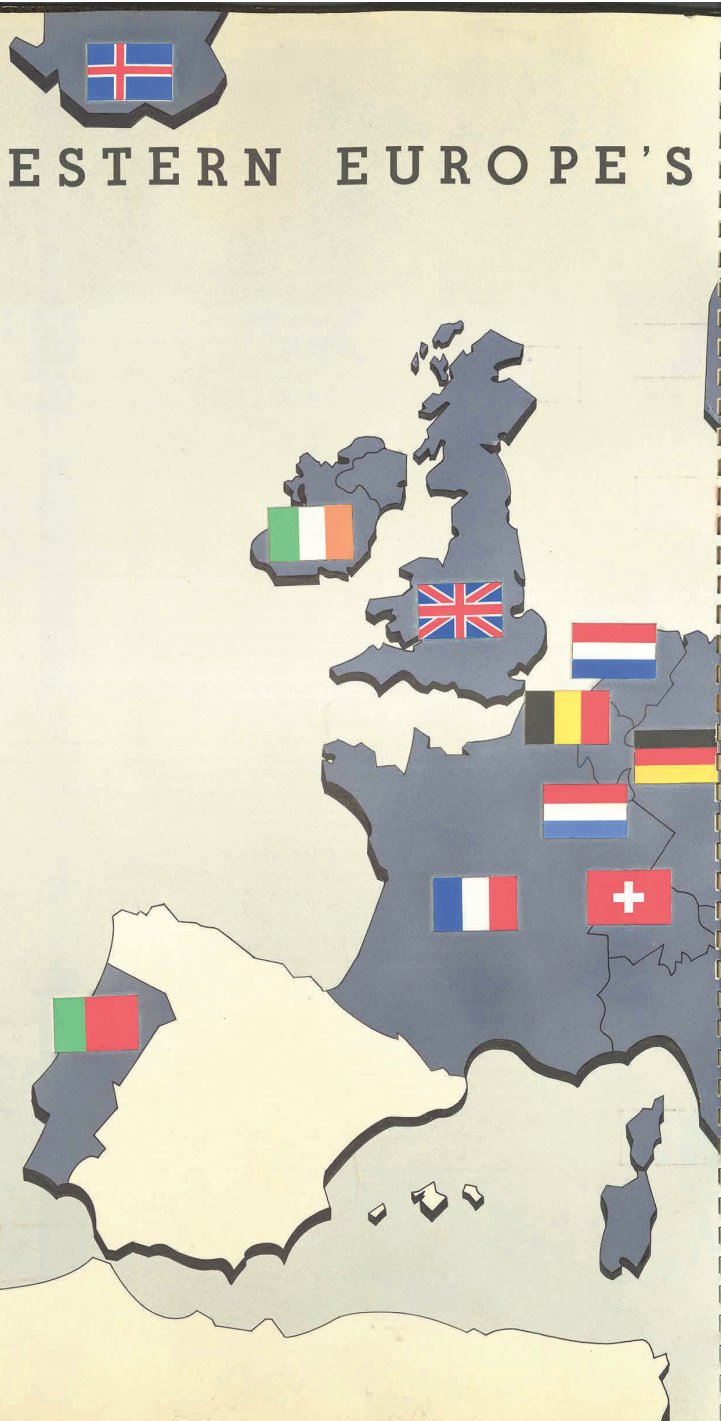
With courageous efforts, involving self-restraint by the Europeans and especially organized labor, the governments have put their financial houses in much better order and financial stability in most of the countries is being well maintained. An end has been put to the rampant inflation of 1947-48. Prices are generally being held. The prospect for sustaining this financial stability is definitely encouraging.

With increasing production and sounder financial conditions, Western Europe's performance in trade has also strikingly improved. Total exports have risen 50 percent since 1947, and except for the all-important dollar area, Western Europe's payments are now about in balance. Intra-European trade has been restored almost to prewar levels. Dollar earnings are also rising, but there is a long way to go before the European dollar gap is closed.

Administrator Hoffman summarized these Marshall Plan accomplishments at the mid-mark to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee and pointed out that grave problems remain—the closing of the dollar gap, the urgent necessity for greater effort toward economic unification of Western Europe, and the winning of the cold war.

In these pictures is the story of what has been done. Better than mathematics they tell of the restoration of hope, of faith, of courage and determination, the gratitude of ordinary European men, women and children. The Marshall Plan is for people.

WESTERN EUROPE'S



RECOVERY



THE MARSHALL PLAN



641203

● In the Grand Dining Room of the French Foreign Office, the Conference for European Economic Cooperation meets, July, 1947



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● The President signs the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948

TAKES FORM



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● The trade union men of Europe get together to talk over participation in the Marshall Plan



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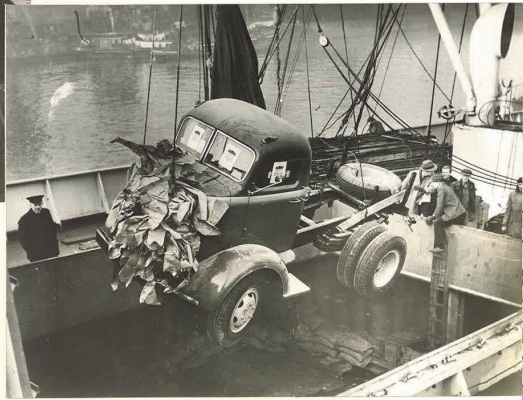
● The lights burn past midnight at OEEC offices in Paris

AMERICAN GOODS



● Sulphur to Manchester

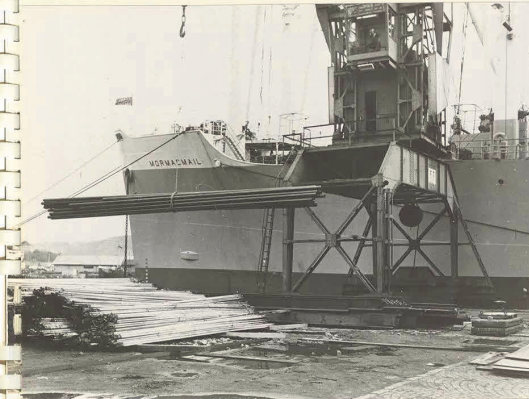
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● Trucks to Rotterdam

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BEGIN TO FLOW



● Boiler Tubes to Oslo

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● Grain to Tunis

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REBUILDING FROM

EUROPE IN 1947



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● Kirkenes, Norway, had scarcely begun to rise from the ground

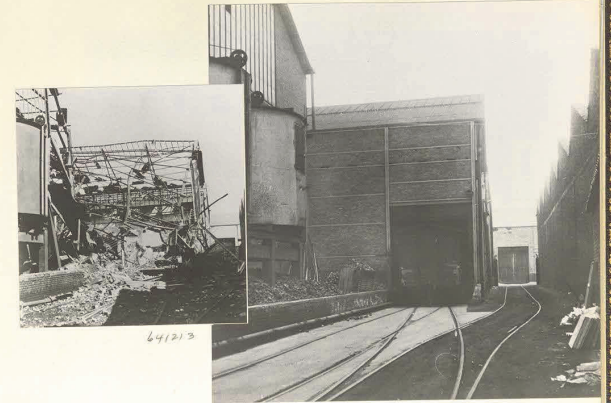


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● A new citizen of Essen, Germany, looks at a world of rubble

THE WRECKAGE OF WAR

THE MARSHALL PLAN
TAKES OVER



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● This Belgian metal works could not contribute to recovery until put in shape by help from the Marshall Plan

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● Walcheren, Holland, as it looked after the Allies bombed the dyke, and as it looks reclaimed with Marshall Plan aid

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THE ROADWAYS ARE



● A road in Palermo



● Dunkirk Harbor

OPENED UP



● The Corinth Canal



● Paris rail yards

THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY



● Textiles in France

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● Coal mining in England

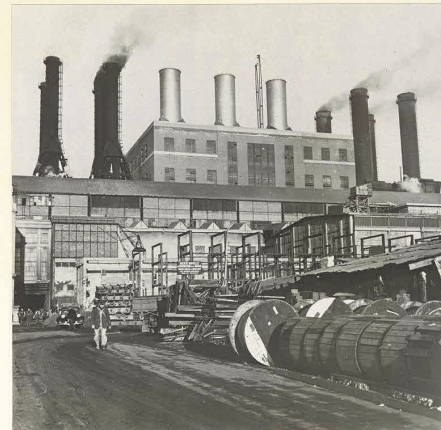
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● Shipbuilding in Italy

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BEGIN TO TURN



● Electric power for Paris

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● Metalworks in Belgium

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● Mining iron in Norway

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THE FARMS INCREASE



● In Hertfordshire, England, this American hay-baler does the work of six



● Koula, a Missouri mule, pulls in harness with a Greek grey mare

THEIR YIELD



● Pruning vines in Burgundy which have been sprayed with copper sulfate—copper from ECA



● Dry soil in Tunisia is plowed deep, with an American caterpillar tractor

EUROPE GETS HOUSES



● Norway: Wooden houses to replace those the Germans destroyed

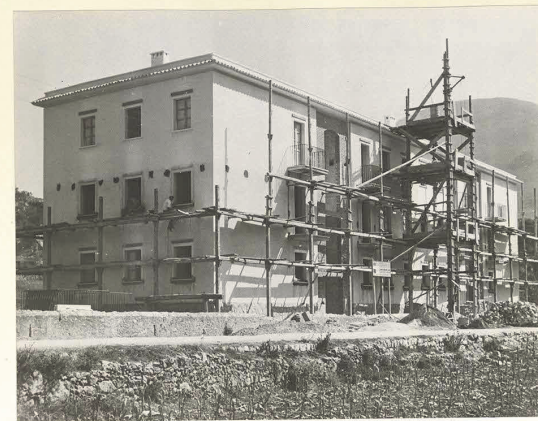
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● Trieste: Modern apartments for workers

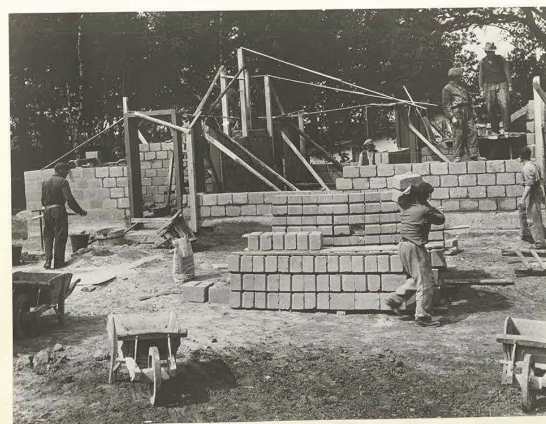
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TO LIVE IN



● A "counterpart" housing project in Italy

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● Miners' homes in Holland of concrete blocks made with an American block molding machine

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STRONGER BODIES



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● Greece: The personal problem of spaghetti



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● Germany: Miners must eat to work



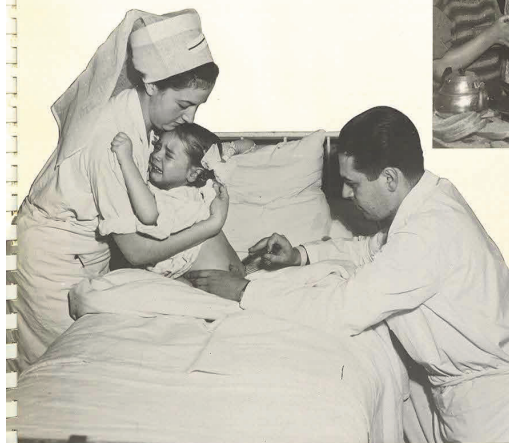
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● Holland: The Red Cross collects plasma with a Marshall Plan truck

AND CALMER MINDS

CLOSE TO HALF THE MARSHALL PLAN PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN FOR FOOD, THE FIRST REQUIREMENT. SHIPMENTS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, RELATIVELY SMALL IN DOLLARS, HAVE PAID HUGE DIVIDENDS IN HEALTH AND STRENGTH



641238
● England: Something for everybody



641239
● France: Streptomycin for tuberculosis

CHANGING THE FACE



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BEFORE

● This was the island of Urk in the Zuyder Zee in 1938. A few fishermen made a living here



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AFTER

● The island is gone in 1949. Farmlands support a bustling community

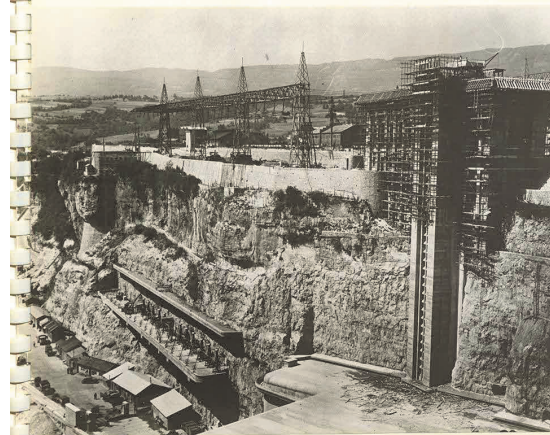
OF A CONTINENT

MORE LAND FOR FARMERS
AND MORE POWER FOR
FACTORIES ARE PART OF A
"TECHNICAL UNIFICATION" OF
WESTERN EUROPE WHICH
SERVES AS AN OUTRIDER FOR
ITS ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



641242

● Reclaiming land in the Sona area of Italy



641243

● The Genissiat Dam on the Upper Rhone is part of the largest construction project under way in the world today

LOOKING AHEAD: TOWARDS



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

● Austrian electrical engineers (above) study a new generator at Schenectady, N. Y., while (below) one of 33 Dutch farm boys visiting America learns to operate a self-propelled combine on a Pennsylvania farm



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CLOSING THE DOLLAR GAP

TOURISM

● American tourists—here shown studying an Alpine ski slope—are visiting a renovated Europe in ever-increasing numbers



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EXPORT

● A 1950 display in Macy's. American merchants have asked for, and are receiving, a rising flow of goods from the revitalized industries of free Europe

THE MARSHALL PLAN



● Manchester dockworkers take time out from unloading a U. S. ship



● Flour from Higginsville, Missouri, goes down the hatch in Greece



● A Belgian workman by a Bessemer converter

IS FOR PEOPLE

● Aase Nielsen moves into her family's new house in Copenhagen



● Mme. Marie Martin, 71, weaves Marshall Plan cotton in France



● A Turkish draftsman works on plans for new mines