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**GREAT BRITAIN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR:
INTERESTS, VULNERABILITIES AND ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE
SOVIET UNION
(Summary)**

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At the end of World War II, Great Britain seemed to have remained a colossus with great chances to engage decisively in the reorganization of the postwar world. However, the basis of the British power has become very fragile. The United Kingdom had lost, after the war, a quarter of the Imperial possessions and had become the biggest borrower of the world. In these circumstances, the Conservative and Labour Government, between 1944 and 1950, opted for sustained efforts to maintain the empire and the status of great power. Without benefiting from the support of the United States, London tried to accommodate to the postwar world, in which the Soviet Union acted as an aggressive and expansive actor. Confronted with a massive economic crisis, Great Britain understood that it did not have the resources to engage in a vast worldwide policy anymore and tried to formulate priorities. In this context, the abandonment of interests in Eastern Europe has also been made in order to save key territories for the British Empire (Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean). As the Moscow's enmities increased, in Europe and the world, the Labour government agreed to pursue an anti-Communist and anti-Soviet policy. The need to assure the Western Europe's security and the possibility of economic recovery with American money has brought London and Washington in close relationships. The creation of NATO has led to the overcoming of the mutual suspicions between Great Britain and the United States, confirming the beginning of a new era. Europe was subordinated to America, and together with it, it entered in the logic of the cold war policy, conducting strong anti-Communist actions.

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