

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Cold War: Introduction

Document A: The Iron Curtain Speech (Modified)

Source: Excerpt from the “Iron Curtain Speech” delivered by Winston Churchill, March 1946 in Fulton, Missouri.

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an **iron curtain** has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow. In a great number of countries, far from the Russian frontiers and throughout the world, Communist fifth columns are established and work in complete unity and absolute obedience to the directions they receive from the Communist center.

Police governments are prevailing in nearly every case, and so far, except in Czechoslovakia, there is no true democracy. This is certainly not the liberated Europe we fought to build up. Nor is it one which contains the essentials of permanent peace. I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines.



1. **Historical Context:** What historical circumstances led to the development of this speech?
2. **Who was the author of this document? What do you know about the author, and why is that important?**
3. **What was the purpose of this speech?**
4. **How does Churchill describe the postwar situation in Europe? What evidence does he provide to support his claim?**

Document B: Soviet Ambassador Telegram (Modified)

Source: Excerpt from a telegram sent by Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Novikov to Soviet Leadership in September 1946

The foreign policy of the United States, which reflects the imperialist tendencies of America, is characterized in the postwar period by a striving for world supremacy, that the United States has the right to lead the world. All the forces of American diplomacy -- the army, the air force, the navy, industry, and science -- are enlisted in the service of this foreign policy. For this purpose broad plans for expansion have been developed and are being implemented through diplomacy and the establishment of a system of naval and air bases stretching far beyond the boundaries of the United States, through the arms race, and through the creation of ever newer types of weapons. . . .During the Second World War . . . American leaders calculated that the United States of America, if it could avoid direct participation in the war,would enter it only at the last minute, when it could easily affect the outcome of the war, completely ensuring its interests. In this regard, it was thought that the main competitors of the United States would be crushed or greatly weakened in the war, and the United States by virtue of this circumstance would assume the role of the most powerful factor in resolving the fundamental questions of the postwar world.

1. How does Novikov describe the United States in this telegram?
2. What evidence does he use to support his description?