

Document #1

On February 9, 1946, Joseph Stalin delivered an "Election" speech to an assembly of voters on Moscow. In this speech, Stalin reasserted the validity of Marxist-Leninist thought, blamed the Second World War on the development of world capitalism, and painted the contrast between capitalism and communism in vivid colors.

"It would be incorrect to think that the war arose accidentally or as the result of the fault of some of the statesmen. Although these faults did exist, the war arose in reality as the inevitable result of the development of the world economic and political forces on the basis of monopoly capitalism.

Our Marxists declare that the capitalist system of world economy conceals elements of crisis and war, that the development of world capitalism does not follow a steady and even course forward, but proceeds through crises and catastrophes. The uneven development of the capitalist countries lead in time to sharp disturbances in their relations, and the group of countries which consider themselves inadequately provided with raw materials and export markets try usually to change this situation and to change the position in their favor by means or armed forces. As a result of these factors, the capitalist world is sent into two hostile camps and war follows...

And so, what is the balance of the war; what are our conclusions?...

Now victory means, first of all, that our Soviet social system has won, that the Soviet social system has successfully stood the test in the fire of war and has proved its complete vitality..."

Document #2

On February 22, 1946, George Kennan, the American charge d'affaires in Moscow, sent an 8,000-word telegram to the Department of State detailing his views on the Soviet Union, and U.S. policy toward the communist state. Kennan's analysis provided one of the most influential underpinnings for America's Cold War policy of containment.

[The] USSR still lives in antagonistic 'capitalist encirclement' with which in the long run there can be no permanent peaceful coexistence... At bottom of Kremlin's neurotic view of world affairs is traditional and instinctive Russian sense of insecurity...

In summary, we have here a political force committed fanatically to the belief that with U.S. there can be no permanent modus vivendi, that it is desirable and necessary that the internal harmony of our society be disrupted, our traditional way of life be destroyed, the international authority of our state be broken

"We must formulate and put forward for other nations a much more positive and constructive picture of [the] sort of world we would like to see than we have put forward in past. It is not enough to urge people to develop political processes similar to our own. Many foreign peoples, in Europe at least, are tired and frightened by experiences of past, and are less interested in abstract freedom than in security. They are seeking guidance rather than responsibilities. We should be better able than Russians to give them this. And unless we do, Russians certainly will."

Document #3

In February 1946, several weeks after Stalin's election speech, former British prime minister Winston Churchill visited the U.S. Increasingly concerned over Soviet behavior, he confided his fears in President Truman. The two decided Churchill should give a speech to alert the world to the Soviet threat.

"A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate future, or what are the limits, if any to their expansive and proselytizing tendencies..."

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... All these famous cities and the populations that surround them lie in what I might call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and increasing measure of control from Moscow...

However, 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... These are somber facts for anyone to have to recite on the morrow of a victory gained by so much splendid comradeship in arms and in the cause of freedom and democracy, and we should be most unwise not to face them squarely while time remains."

Document #4

On March 13, 1946 Joseph Stalin completed an interview with a correspondent from Pravda, the official newspaper of the Communist Party and of the Soviet Union.

Question: *How do you appraise the latest speech Mr. Churchill delivered in the United States of America?*

Answer: *I appraise it as a dangerous act calculated to sow the seeds of discord between the Allied States and hamper their cooperation.*

Question: *Can Mr. Churchill's speech be regarded as harmful to the cause of peace and security?*

Answer: *Unquestionably, yes. As a matter of fact, Mr. Churchill's position is now that of the incendiaries of war. And Mr. Churchill is not alone in this – he has friends not only in England but in the United States of America as well.*

It should be noted that in this respect Mr. Churchill and his friends strikingly resemble Hitler and his friends... The German race theory led Hitler and his friends to the conclusion that the Germans as the only superior nation must dominate other nations. The English race theory leads Mr. Churchill and his friends to the conclusion that the English-speaking nations, as the only superior nations, must dominate the other nations of the world.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Churchill and his friends in England and the U.S.A. are presenting something in the nature of an ultimatum to nations which do not speak English: recognize our domination voluntarily, and then everything will be in order – otherwise war is inevitable.