

Document 1

■ Cold War Synopsis

For each document:

- 1) Summarize the main points
- 2) Explain if you agree with that point of view & explain why

Document 2

- The Truman Doctrine

Document 3

- “Iron Curtain Speech”

Document 4

- Stalin Pravda Interview

Document 5

- “Long Telegram”

Document 6

- George Marshall Speech

Document 7

- Creation of NATO

Document 8

- The Domino Theory

Document 1

Cold War Synopsis

Cold War, term used to describe the post-World War II struggle between the United States and its allies and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and its allies. During the Cold War period, which lasted from the mid-1940s until the end of the 1980s, international politics were heavily shaped by the intense rivalry between these two great blocs of power and the political ideologies they represented: democracy and capitalism in the case of the United States and its allies, and Communism in the case of the Soviet bloc. The principal allies of the United States during the Cold War included Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, and Canada. On the Soviet side were many of the countries of Eastern Europe—including Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, and Romania—and, during parts of the Cold War, Cuba and China. Countries that had no formal commitment to either bloc were known as neutrals or, within the Third World, as nonaligned nations.

American journalist Walter Lippmann first popularized the term *cold war* in a 1947 book by that name. By using the term, Lippmann meant to suggest that relations between the USSR and its World War II allies (primarily the United States, Britain, and France) had deteriorated to the point of war without the occurrence of actual warfare. Over the next few years, the emerging rivalry between these two camps hardened into a mutual and permanent preoccupation. It dominated the foreign policy agendas of both sides and led to the formation of two vast military alliances: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), created by the Western powers in 1949; and the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact, established in 1955. Although centered originally in Europe, the Cold War enmity eventually drew the United States and the USSR into local conflicts in almost every quarter of the globe. It also produced what became known as the Cold War arms race, an intense competition between the two superpowers to accumulate advanced military weapons.

Document 2

Truman Doctrine

Baker, Ted R.

The Washington Post (1923-1954), Apr. 15, 1947.

It is surprising to see how many good people have taken up the cry that the United Nations is being scuttled by the Truman Doctrine. On the one hand, there are the "sincere" liberals, the leftists, and the out-and-out reds, all of whom are playing the Stalinist game of bemoaning for the U.N. just after Gromyko has fired his twelfth veto. If the USSR had shown anything but contempt for the U.N. and the spirit of its Charter, then the Communist complaint might have had some foundation. Acting Secretary of State Acheson has been frank and honest in stating that U.N. is simply not prepared to undertake the Greek-Turkish crisis. He of course implies that Gromyko could easily torpedo the aid that must be sent to the Greeks and Turks.

On the other hand, there are the "nationalist" or quasi-isolationist people. These people are utterly resolved not to give Harry Truman any aid on this dire question so that a GOP candidate might have a better chance in the 1948 presidential election. But even Senator Taft sees the fallacy of this point in his announcement of April 10 pledging support for the Truman Doctrine.

Middle-Eastern nations depending upon the U. S. In order of importance, our secondary goals seem to be:

1. Preservation of the Italian republic so that it may become a real democracy.

2. Maintenance of United States lifelines to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, etc., to protect a vital oil supply for needs of the United States Navy.

3. Encouragement of democratic elements in France, which has been recently described in a periodical as the country which the Communists can take over merely with a few telephone calls.

4. Establishment of a constitutional monarchy in Spain, which deserves a stable democratic government so that it may once again join the family of nations.

These are our specific aims. There is also a general goal not so easily described. It may roughly be termed as being notice to all concerned of America's cognizance that Stalinism is fascism of another color—red. Acceptance of the Truman doctrine serves to revivify America's initiative in the fight of ideology. Democracy cannot be defended through indifference and inertia. We must not only match—

There are, finally, many Greek-Americans in the U. S. who fear that the country of their national origin is becoming a pawn among the big powers—or worse yet, the practice ground for World War III. Their fears are understandable. Metaxas is still too recent a memory for them and not much comfort can be gained by the ascendancy of Paul to the throne. In the meantime, the Greek people are scarcely improved from the chaotic status to which the recent war reduced them. The Truman Doctrine seems a near reality and one hopes that one of its first fruits will be to supply a more than adequate supply of life's necessities to the land of the Hellenes.

Beyond that, one can only hope devoutly that the corollaries of this present policy will come to fruition in all the other European and

but even outdo the dynamism which sparkes the Communists.

If we insist upon the dignity of the individual man, then let us act upon such a level. Therefore just as we deny Hitler's Fuehrer principle, so do we deny the need for the International Communist revolution.

The Truman doctrine truly represents the sentiment of the vast majority of Americans. Furthermore, it is hardly selfish or imperialistic; on the contrary, it is altruistic. The money we send Greece and Turkey and now Korea seems a negative factor since taxes will not be cut this year as we had anticipated. But if you want to know what you are buying, then read the new book by Louis Brandeis, "This is My Story."

TED R. BAKER.

Warren, Ohio.

Document 3

“Iron Curtain Speech”
Winston Churchill
Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri
March 5, 1946

“The United States stands at this time at the pinnacle of world power. It is a solemn moment for the American democracy.... We must, and I believe we shall, prove ourselves equal to this severe requirement. I have a strong admiration and regard for the valiant Russian people and for my wartime comrade, Marshal Stalin. There is deep sympathy and goodwill in Britain -- and I doubt not here also -- toward the peoples of all the Russias and a resolve to persevere through many differences and rebuffs in establishing lasting friendships....”

“...It is my duty, however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe. 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 and Sofia: 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. The safety of the world, ladies and gentlemen, requires a unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast. It is from the quarrels of the strong parent races in Europe that the world wars we have witnessed, or which occurred in former times, have sprung....”

“...the Communist parties or fifth columns constitute a growing challenge and peril to Christian civilization. The outlook is also anxious in the Far East and especially in Manchuria. The agreement which was made at Yalta, to which I was a party, was extremely favorable to Soviet Russia, but it was made at a time when no one could say that the German war might not extend all through the summer and autumn of 1945 and when the Japanese war was expected by the best judges to last for a further eighteen months from the end of the German war. I repulse the idea that a new war is inevitable -- still more that it is imminent. It is because I am sure that our fortunes are still in our own hands and that we hold the power to save the future, that I feel the duty to speak out now that I have the occasion and the opportunity to do so. 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. But what we have to consider here today while time remains, is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as rapidly as possible in all countries. Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed by closing our eyes to them. They will not be removed by mere waiting to see what happens: nor will they be removed by a policy of appeasement. What is needed is a settlement, and the longer this is delayed, the more difficult it will be and the greater our dangers will become...”

“...From what I have seen of our Russian friends and allies during the war, I am convinced that there is nothing they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness. For that reason the old doctrine of a balance of power is unsound. We cannot afford, if we can help it, to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength....If we adhere faithfully to the Charter of the United Nations and walk forward in sedate and sober strength, seeking no one's land or treasure, seeking to lay no arbitrary control upon the thoughts of men, if all British moral and material forces and convictions are joined with your own in fraternal association, the high roads of the future will be clear, not only for us but for all, not only for our time but for a century to come.”

Document 4 Text of Interview With Stalin by Pravda
The Washington Post (1923-1954); Mar 14, 1946:

London, March 13 (AP). — The text of the interview follows:

Pravda: "What do you think of the latest speech by Mr. Churchill, made by him in the United States?"

Stalin: "I consider that it is a dangerous act with a view of sowing the seeds of disunity between the countries and hampering further cooperation."

Pravda: "Can one consider that Mr. Churchill's speech does harm to peace and security?"

Stalin: "Unquestionably, yes. Mr. Churchill is at present taking part in inflaming the causes of war. Mr. Churchill is not alone. He has friends not only in England but in the United States. And one must point out that Mr. Churchill and his friends remind one of Hitler and his friends. Hitler began the causes of war by introducing race theories in which he declared that only people who speak the German language are people of pure race. Mr. Churchill also begins incitement for war with the race theory, giving privileges to the races who speak the English language and who have the right to decide the fate of the whole world.

"The German race theory made Hitler and his friends think that they were the only race who have the right to rule other nations. The English race theory which is expressed by Mr. Churchill and his friends says that the nations which speak the English language must rule over the rest of the world.

"Now listen to this: Mr. Churchill and his friends in England and the United States are submitting to the nations who do not speak the English language a sort of ultimatum: You recognize our superiority voluntarily and everything will be all right otherwise war is inevitable.

Refuse New Slavery

"The people have shed blood for five years for the freedom and independence of their countries, not just for changing Hitler's rule to the rule of Churchill. Therefore it is understandable that the non-English speaking nations who represent the majority of the population of the world will refuse to go into new slavery.

"Mr. Churchill's tragedy is this, that he does not understand this simple and clear truth. It is obvious that Mr. Churchill aims for war, with a view to war with the USSR. He is trying to mislead his listeners by saying that the period of the agreement between England and the USSR can be prolonged up to 50 years.

"But how can one take this statement while at the same time he is laying the groundwork for war against the USSR? (words inaudible). This means that he looks at this treaty as an empty piece of paper which is only wanted for covering up and camouflaging his anti-Soviet activities.

"Therefore one cannot take seriously the beautiful statement of Mr. Churchill's friends in England that the treaty between England and Russia should be prolonged. There is no sense to prolonging the treaty if one party breaks it and converts it into an empty piece of paper."

Document 5

"Long Telegram"

DIVISION
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INCOMING TELEGRAM

INFORMATION
COPY

ACTION MUST BE ENDORSED
ON ACTION COPY

PEM-K-M
No paraphrase necessary.

8963

Moscow via War

Dated February 22, 1946

Rec'd 3:52 p.m.

ACTION:EUR

INFO: ~~SECRET~~

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U

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A-B

A-C

A-D

SA

SPA

UNO

EUR/X

DC/R

Secretary of State,

Washington.

511, February 22, 9 p.m.

Answer to Dept's 284, Feb 3 involves questions so intricate, so delicate, so strange to our form of thought, and so important to analysis of our international environment that I cannot compress answers into single brief message without yielding to what I feel would be dangerous degree of over-simplification. I hope, therefore, Dept will bear with me if I submit in answer to this question five parts, subjects of which will be roughly as follows:

(One) Basic features of post-war Soviet outlook.

(Two) Background of this outlook.

(Three) Its projection in practical policy on official level.

(Four) Its projection on unofficial level.

(Five) Practical deductions from standpoint of US policy.

I apologize in advance for this burdening of telegraphic channel; but questions involved are of such urgent importance, particularly in view of recent events, that our answers to them, if they deserve attention at all, seem to me to deserve it at once. HERE FOLLOWS PART ONE: BASIC FEATURES OF POST WAR SOVIET OUTLOOK, AS PUT FORWARD BY OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA MACHINE, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) USSR still lives in antagonistic "capitalist encirclement" with which in the long run there can be no permanent peaceful coexistence. As stated by Stalin in 1927 to a delegation of American workers:

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

Dept. of State letter, Aug. 10, 1972

"In course

~~SECRET~~

and Russia

RUN

~~SECRET~~

-2- #511, February 22, 9 p.m. from Moscow via War

"In course of further development of international revolution there will emerge two centers of world significance: a socialist center, drawing to itself the countries which tend toward socialism, and a capitalist center, drawing to itself the countries that incline toward capitalism. Battle between these two centers for command of world economy will decide fate of capitalism and of communism in entire world."

(B) Capitalist world is beset with internal conflicts, inherent in nature of capitalist society. These conflicts are insoluble by means of peaceful compromise. Greatest of them is that between England and US.

(C) Internal conflicts of capitalism inevitably generate wars. Wars thus generated may be of two kinds: intra-capitalist wars between two capitalist states; and wars of intervention against socialist world. Smart capitalists, vainly seeking escape from inner conflicts of capitalism, incline toward latter.

(D) Intervention against USSR, while it would be disastrous to those who undertook it, would cause renewed delay in progress of Soviet socialism and must therefore be forestalled at all costs.

(E) Conflicts between capitalist states, though likewise fraught with danger for USSR, nevertheless hold out great possibilities for advancement of socialist cause, particularly if USSR remains militarily powerful, ideologically monolithic and faithful to its present brilliant leadership.

(F) It must be borne in mind that capitalist world is not all bad. In addition to hopelessly reactionary and bourgeois elements, it includes (one) certain wholly enlightened and positive elements united in acceptable communistic parties and (two) certain other elements (now described for tactical reasons as progressive or

democratic)

~~SECRET~~

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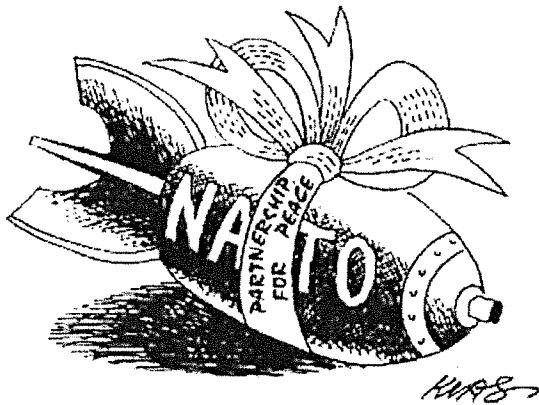
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Document 6 George Marshall Speech Harvard University, 5 June 1947

Biography: Army Chief of Staff from 1939 to 1945, he became Secretary of State in 1947 until 1949 and was nominated Secretary of Defense in 1950.

"Aside from the demoralizing effect on the world at large and the possibilities of disturbances arising as a result of the desperation of the people concerned, the consequences to the economy of the United States should be apparent to all. It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist....Any government that is willing to assist in the task of recovery will find full co-operation I am sure, on the part of the United States Government. Any government which maneuvers to block the recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. Furthermore, governments, political parties, or groups which seek to perpetuate human misery in order to profit there from politically or otherwise will encounter the opposition of the United States."

To Russia, with love...



It is often said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in response to the threat posed by the Soviet Union. This is only partially true. In fact, the Alliance's creation was part of a broader effort to serve three purposes: deterring Soviet expansionism, forbidding the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent, and encouraging European political integration.

The aftermath of World War II saw much of Europe devastated in a way that is now difficult to envision. Approximately 36.5 million Europeans had died in the conflict, 19 million of them civilians. Refugee camps and rationing dominated daily life. In some areas, infant mortality rates were one in four. Millions of orphans wandered the burnt-out shells of former metropolises. In the German city of Hamburg alone, half a million people were homeless.

In addition, Communists aided by the Soviet Union were threatening elected governments across Europe. In February 1948, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, with covert backing from the Soviet Union, overthrew the democratically elected government in that country. Then, in reaction to the democratic consolidation of West Germany, the Soviets blockaded Allied-controlled West Berlin in a bid to consolidate their hold on the German capital. The heroism of the Berlin Airlift provided future Allies with some solace, but privation remained a grave threat to freedom and stability.

Document 8

The Domino Theory



The Domino Theory was a foreign policy theory during the 1950s to 1980s, promoted at times by the government of the United States, that speculated that if one land in a region came under the influence of communism, then the surrounding countries would follow in a domino effect. The domino effect suggests that some change, small in itself, will cause a similar change nearby, which then will cause another similar change, and so on in linear sequence, by analogy to a falling row of dominoes standing on end. The domino theory was used by successive United States administrations during the Cold War to clarify the need for American intervention around the world.