

## PART SIX: Making Modern America 1945 to the Present

### DBQ 16

**Directions:** Question 16 is based on the accompanying seven documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 40 minutes writing your answer.

Describe the relationship that the United States had with the Soviet Union during the period 1941–1953. Analyze reasons for changes in that relationship.

#### Document 1: Joint Message of Assistance to the Soviet Union from President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, 15 August 1941

Source: *Peace and War, United States Foreign Policy 1931–1941* (1943).

We have taken the opportunity . . . to consult together as to how best our two countries can help your country in the splendid defense that you are making against the Nazi attack. We are at the moment cooperating to provide you with the very maximum of supplies that you most urgently need. Already many shiploads have left our shores and more will leave in the immediate future. . . .

The war goes on upon many fronts and before it is over there may be further fighting fronts that will be developed. Our resources though immense are limited, and it must become a question as to where and when those resources can best be used to further [to] the greatest extent our common effort. . . .

We realize fully how vitally important to the defeat of Hitlerism is the brave and steadfast resistance of the Soviet Union and we feel therefore that we must not in any circumstances fail to act quickly and immediately in this matter on planning the program for the future allocation of our joint resources.

#### Document 2: "Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill on Portico of Russian Embassy in Teheran [Iran], During Conference—Nov. 28–Dec. 1, 1943"

Source: U.S. Army Signal Corps. Portraits of the Presidents and First Ladies, 1789–Present, American Memory collections, Library of Congress.



U.S. Army Signal Corps. Portraits of the Presidents and First Ladies, 1789–Present, American Memory collections, Library of Congress

#### Document 3: Vera Micheles Dean, *Our Russian Ally*, "Does the U.S. Get Along with Russia?"

Source: American Historical Association, G.I. Roundtable Series pamphlets, January 1945.

Many people in the United States have been critical of Communist propaganda abroad, of Russia's policy toward religion, and of the anticapitalist features of Soviet economy. . . . Since 1941, when both the United States and Russia entered the war, our relations have been marked by increasing understanding and mutual desire to work together both in time of war and in the postwar period. . . .

The process of leveling off differences between Russia and the Western world will proceed [all] the more rapidly if Russia participates freely and equally in the life of the international community. It will be further helped if the Western world seeks to

understand Russia and its policy in terms of Russia's basic national interests. Participation in international agencies would afford the Russians an opportunity to share the experience of Western countries. Most Russians have been acquainted with the West only through Soviet publications, which until the German invasion sought to decry conditions in "bourgeois" countries.

**Document 4: Memorandum from William Leahy, Roosevelt's Chief of Staff, to Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, 11 May 1945**

The following message, sent by Prime Minister Churchill to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, is quoted for your information:

1. I consider the Polish deadlock can probably only be resolved at a conference between the three heads of governments. . . .
2. The Polish question may be easier to settle when set in relation to the now numerous outstanding questions of the utmost gravity which require urgent settlement with the Russians. . . . [T]he [sweeping] tide of Russian domination [over Eastern Europe is] an event which, if it occurred, would be one of the most melancholy in history. . . . Poland would be completely engulfed and buried deep in Russian occupied lands. . . . [T]he territories under Russian control would include the Baltic provinces, [much of Germany], all [of] Czechoslovakia, a large part of Austria, the whole of Yugoslavia, Hungary, [Romania], Bulgaria until Greece in her present tottering condition is reached. . . . If the red section was deleted, the document would be shortened to 171 words. The position of Turkey and Constantinople will certainly come . . . into discussion. . . .
4. It is just about time that these formidable issues were examined between the principal powers. . . . If they are not settled before the United States armies withdraw from Europe and the Western World folds up its war machines, there are no prospects of a satisfactory solution and very little of preventing a third world war. . . . I am against weakening our claim against Russia on behalf of Poland in any way.

**Document 5**

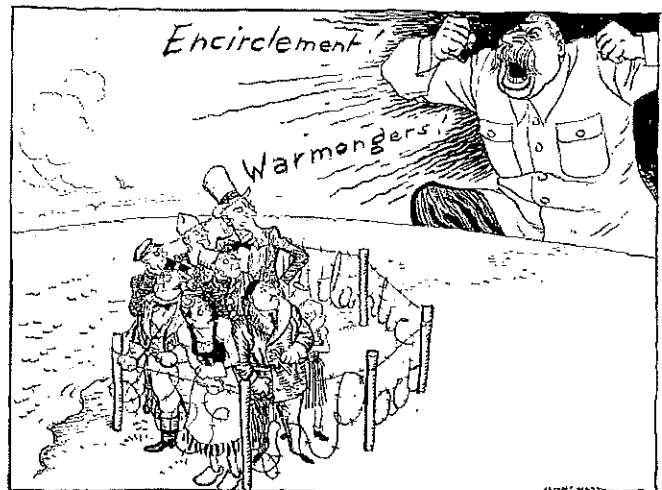
Source: Library of Congress / Credit: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division



Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

**Document 6: Plans for NATO unveiled, Leslie Gilbert Illingworth, London Daily Mail, 20 March 1949**

Source: British Cartoon Archive, Templeman Library, University of Kent, <http://library.kent.ac.uk/cartoons>.



Daily Mail, 20 March 1949 / The British Cartoon Archive, University of Kent

**Document 7: Report on the Conference of the leaders of the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union, 9 to 12 January 1951, Moscow**

Source: <http://www.gwu.edu/%7Eensarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB14/doc4.htm>.

Comrade Stalin opened the conference with the following remarks:

The opinion arose in recent times that the United States is an invincible power and is prepared to initiate a third world war. As it turns out, however . . . the U.S. [is] unprepared to initiate a third world war. . . .

The U.S. is bogged down in Asia and will remain pinned down there for several years.

The fact that the U.S. will be tied down in Asia for the next two or three years constitutes a very favorable circumstance for us, for the world revolutionary movement. . . .

Our task consists of using the two-to-three years at our disposal in order to create a modern and powerful military force. . . . You in the People's Democracies must, within two to three years, create modern and powerful armies that must be combat-ready by the end of the three-year period. . . .

Why is this necessary? This is necessary in view of the imperialists' way of thinking; they are in the habit of attacking unarmed or weakly armed countries in order to liquidate them, but they keep away from well armed countries.