

DOCUMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON THE EARLY COLD WAR

Document A - Speech by Joseph Stalin, 9 February 1946

Our victory demonstrates first and foremost the victory of our Soviet social system. . . secondly, the victory of our Soviet State. . . Production of iron and steel, the basic materials of national defence, must treble and consumer goods must wait until after rearmament.

Document B - Speech by Winston Churchill at Fulton, Missouri, 5 March 1946

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. . . We understand the Russian need to be secure on her western frontiers by the removal of all possibility of German aggression. . . It is my duty however to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe. From Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line all the ancient states of central and eastern Europe. . . are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high, and in many cases increasing, measure of control from Moscow. Athens alone - Greece with its immortal glories - is free to decide its future under British, American and French observation.

Document C - Some press reaction to Churchill's Fulton Speech

The Times of London 6 March 1946 criticised Churchill for these passages in which he appeared to contrast western democracy and communism: 'While western democracy and communism are in many respects opposed, they have much to learn from each other, communism in the working of political institutions and in the establishment of individual rights, western democracy in the development of economic and social planning.'

The Chicago Sun 6 March 1946:

Churchill's object 'is world domination through arms, by the United States and the British Empire. To be sure he speaks again of his regard for Russia and Stalin. But such words are hollow in an address of threat and menace which would unite the British and American peoples against Russia to win "peace" for a "century" through an alliance of the fortunate of the earth'.

The Nation (American periodical) 7 March 1946

Churchill has 'added a sizeable measure of poison to the already deteriorating relations between Russia and the western powers. . . Truman has shown himself remarkably inept in associating himself with the speech by his presence'.

[Truman denied on 8 March 1946, at a press conference, that his presence indicated endorsement, and stated that he had not known in advance what Churchill was going to say.]

Document D - Speech by President Truman to Congress, 12 March 1947

One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion. . . We shall not realise our objectives, however, unless we are willing to help free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose on them totalitarian regimes. . . terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms. . . I believe that we must assist free peoples. . . I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes. . . I therefore ask Congress for assistance to Greece and Turkey in the amount of \$400 000 000.

Document E - From a statement issued by the newly-created Cominform, 23 September 1947

The imperialist camp has as its basic aim the establishment of the world domination of American imperialism and the smashing of democracy, and the anti-imperialist camp has as its basic aim the undermining of imperialism, the consolidation of democracy and the eradication of the remnants of fascism.