

DBQ: The Cold War

Directions: The following question is based on the attached documents. This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents. Write an essay that:

Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents

Uses all of the documents

Analyzes the documents by grouping them in appropriate ways and **does not summarize them individually**

Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view

You may refer to any relevant previously learned historical information not mentioned in the documents (for this exercise, you may refer to any information from Chapter 32 that could support your analysis)

Question: Using the documents, discuss and assess causes of the Cold War AND its opposing sides' military/political strategies. What additional type of document would help you in your assessment of the causes and/or strategies of the Cold War?

TIPS

- 1) **The question is definitely a guideline to finding groupings for your documents**
- 2) **Since you are on the clock for this DBQ, make your reading assessment cursory. FIND the KEY PHRASES which can HELP answer the questions in the longer documents**
- 3) **DO NOT FORGET TO pay attention to not only the author/speaker (person of historical note), the context of their words but ALSO the introductory title before the document**

DOCUMENT ONE

This is an excerpt from Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech, March 5, 1946

"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, a iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind the line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe...All these famous cities and populations around them lie in 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."

DOCUMENT TWO

This is an excerpt from President Truman's speech to Congress, March 12, 1947

"I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation {domination} by armed minorities or by outside pressure. Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West. The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died. Therefore, I propose giving Greece and Turkey \$400 million in aid."

DOCUMENT THREE

This is an excerpt from secretary of State Marshall's speech explaining his plan for European recovery

"I need to say that the world situation is very serious...Europe must have a great deal of additional help, or face heavy economic, social and political damage. This would have a harmful effect on the world at large. There are also possibilities of disturbances because of the desperation of the people concerned. The effect on the economy of the United States should be clear to all. So the United States should do whatever it can to help restore normal economic health to the world. Without this there can be no political stability or peace. Our policy is directed...against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos [disorder]. Its purpose is to revive a working economy in the world."

DOCUMENT FOUR

This is an excerpt from the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed by the United States, Canada and ten nations of Western Europe in 1948.

“The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or in North America shall be considered as an attack against them all. They agree that if such an armed attack occurs, each of them will assist the party or parties so attacked. Each will immediately take whatever action it considers necessary to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. It will, if necessary, use armed force.”

DOCUMENT FIVE

This map shows the alliances that sprung up in the post-WWII era. The Soviet Union responded to NATO by creating its alliance, the Warsaw Pact.

DOCUMENT SIX

This is an excerpt from a speech by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1956 in which he explains his point of view on US actions

“The inspirers of the ‘cold war’ began to establish military blocs- the North Atlantic bloc, SEATO [SE Asia], and the Baghdad Pact. They claim they have united for defense against the ‘communist threat’. But this is sheer hypocrisy! We know from history that when planning a redivision of the world, the imperialist powers have always lined up military blocs. Today the ‘anti-communism’ slogan is being used as a smoke screen to cover up the claims of one power for world domination. The United States wants, by means of blocs and pacts, to secure a dominant position in the capitalist world. The inspirers of the ‘position of strength’ policy assert that it makes another way impossible because it insures a ‘balance of power’ in the world. They offer the arms race as their main recipe for the preservation of peace! It is perfectly obvious that when nations compete to increase their military might, the danger of war becomes greater, not lesser. Capitalism will find it grave in another world war, should it unleash it.”

DOCUMENT SEVEN

DOCUMENT EIGHT

The threat of nuclear war was obvious in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. This excerpt, from President John F. Kennedy's speech to the American people, explains the US position.

"...We have unmistakable evidence that a series of offensive missile sites is now being built on that island...Cuba has been made into an important strategic base by the presence of these long range offensive weapons of sudden mass destruction. This is an open threat to the peace and security of all the Americas. Our objective must be to prevent the use of these missiles against this or any other country. We must secure their withdraw form the Western Hemisphere...I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this secret and reckless threat to world peace."

DOCUMENT NINE

After Kennedy ordered a quarantine of all offensive military equipment being sent into Cuba, Premier Khrushchev responded with this message.

"Mr. President, the Soviet government decided to help Cuba with means of defense against outside attack. These weapons were only meant for defensive purposes. We have supplied them to prevent aggression against Cuba...With respect and confidence I accept that statement you set forth in your message of October 27, 1962. You said then that Cuba will not be attacked or invaded by any country of the Western Hemisphere...We have given the order to discontinue building the installations. We shall dismantle them and withdraw them to the Soviet Union."