

Document-Based Question: Period 8 (Adapted from 2006-Form B DBQ)

Suggested reading and writing time: 55 minutes

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the documents and 40 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following.

- ▶ **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.
 - ▶ **Argument Development:** Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification.
 - ▶ **Use of the Documents:** Utilize the content of at least six of the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
 - ▶ **Sourcing the Documents:** Explain the significance of the author's point of view, author's purpose, historical context, and/or audience for at least four documents.
 - ▶ **Contextualization:** Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
 - ▶ **Outside Evidence:** Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument.
 - ▶ **Synthesis:** Extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and ONE of the following.
 - › A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area.
 - › A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history).
1. Evaluate the causes of the beginning of the Cold War between the US and the USSR from 1945 to 1950.

Document 1

Source: Joseph Stalin, February 6, 1945

Prime Minister [Churchill] has said that for Great Britain the question of Poland is a question of honor. For Russia it is not only a question of honor but of security. . . . During the last 30 years, our German enemy has passed through this corridor twice.

Document 2

Source: Gallup Polls conducted in the United States

August 1945

Do you think Russia can be trusted to cooperate with us after the war?	
Yes	54%
No	3
No opinion	16

March 1946

Do you think Russia will cooperate with us in world affairs?	
Yes	35%
No	52
No opinion	13

July 1946

As you hear and read about Russia these days, do you believe Russia is trying to build herself up to be the ruling power of the world, or is Russia just building up protection against being attacked in another war?	
Ruling power	60%
Protection	26
No opinion	14

May 1948

Do you think the United States is too soft or too tough . . . in its policy toward Russia?	
Too soft	69%
Too tough	6
About right	14
No opinion	11

Document 3

Source: George Kennan, State Department official, September 1946

I don't think that we can influence them [the Soviets] by reasoning with them, by arguing with them, by going to them and saying, "Look here, this is the way things are." I don't believe that is possible. . . . If we can keep them maneuvered into a position where it is always hard and unprofitable for them to take action contrary to the principles of the United Nations and to our policies and where there is always an open door and an easy road to collaboration . . . I personally am quite convinced that . . . sooner or later the logic of it will penetrate their government and will force changes there.

Document 4

Source: President Harry Truman, Speech to Joint Session of Congress, March 12, 1947

The peoples of a number of countries of the world have recently had totalitarian regimes forced upon them against their will. The Government of the United States has made frequent protests against coercion and intimidation, in violation of the Yalta agreement, in Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria. I must also state that in a number of other countries there have been similar developments. . . . At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression. The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms. I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

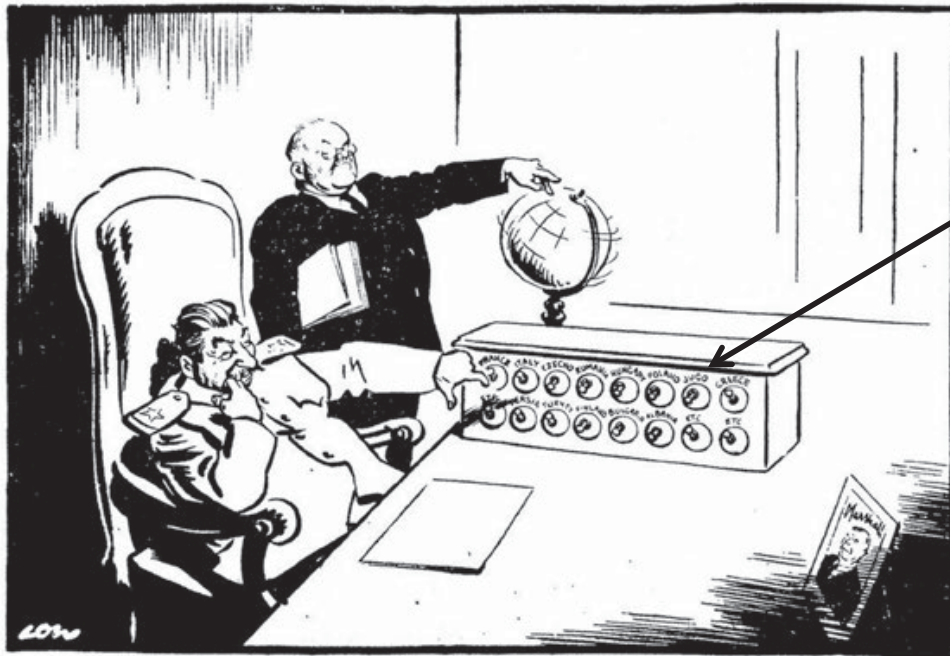
Document 5

Source: V. M. Molotov, Soviet foreign minister, "The Task of Our Time: Unite Against the Enslavement of the People," broadcast to the Russian people, November 6, 1947

Today the ruling circles of the United States and Great Britain head one international grouping which has as its aim the consolidation of capitalism and the achievement of the domination of these countries over other peoples. . . . Take, for example, the German question. If in the postwar period America and Britain had adhered to all the principles — let us say, for example, the democratic principles — of the Yalta and Potsdam conferences on the German question, which made possible and fruitful the collaboration of the great allies against Hitlerite Germany, with the aim of liquidating the remnants of fascism, then collaboration between the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain would also today produce good results. But the United States and Britain have departed from these democratic principles and have violated the decisions jointly taken.

Document 6

Source: David Low cartoon in the *London Evening Standard*, March 1948

Buttons:

France
Italy
Czecho
Rumania
Hungary
Poland
Jugo
Greece
Persia
Turkey
Finland
Bulgaria
Albania
Etc
Etc

Document 7

Source: Testimony of Whitaker Chambers before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, August 3, 1948

For a number of years I had myself served in . . . an underground organization of the United States Communist Party. . . . Later . . . a member of this group . . . was Alger Hiss, who, as a member of the State Department, later organized the conferences at Dumbarton Oaks, San Francisco, and the United States side of the Yalta Conference. . . . The Communist Party exists for the specific purpose of overthrowing the Government; at the opportune time, by any and all means; and each of its members, by the fact that he is a member, is dedicated to this purpose. . . . Americans [must] recognize at last that they are at grips with a secret, sinister, and enormously powerful force whose tireless purpose is their enslavement.