

Name _____ Date _____

DBQ 13: Start of the Cold War

(Adapted from *Document-Based Assessment for Global History*, Walch Education)

Historical Context:

Between 1945 and 1950, the wartime alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union broke down and the Cold War began. For the next 40 years, relations between the two superpowers swung between confrontation and détente. Each tried to increase its worldwide influence and spread its competing economic and political systems. At times during this period the competitors were at the brink of war. How was the Cold War fought?

- **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you read or the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view. Be sure to:
 1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
 2. Now, read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margins to make brief notes. Answer the questions which follow each document.
 3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the question.
 4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
 5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge outside of the documents.

Question: How did the Cold War begin and what "weapons" were used to fight this war?

Part A—The following documents provide information about the Cold War. Examine the documents carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

Document 1

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

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. . . . All these famous cities and the populations around them lie in the Soviet sphere and all are subject to one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and increasing measure of control from Moscow.

How is the "iron curtain" a dividing line?

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