



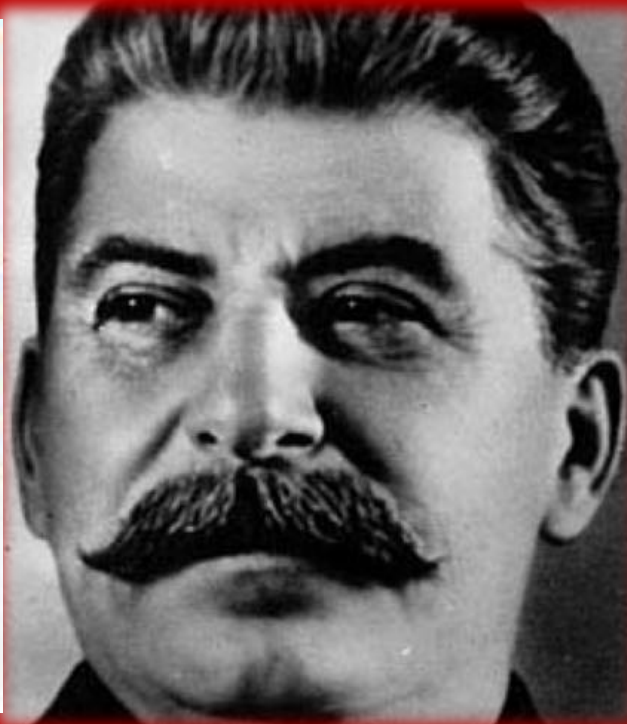
What impact did the atomic bomb have on US-Soviet relations?

**Aim:**

**To evaluate the importance of different factors in  
the worsening relations between USA & USSR**

Although the Grand Alliance had agreed on many issues at the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences, by the end of Potsdam it was clear that there were significant disagreements.

- Stalin wanted control of Eastern Europe to protect the Soviet Union
- Truman believed Stalin was trying to spread communism West
- Very quickly, war time alliance turned to peacetime hostility



As you watch these clips, answer the following questions:

1. Why would this new weapon change the world forever?
2. why would displaying it's power like this on Japan give USA an advantage as a world power?

- 120,000+ Japanese civilians killed instantly
- It has been argued that USA could have defeated Japan without using the bombs? It has been claimed they only used them to give them bargaining power with the Soviets
- Truman certainly felt more confident going to Potsdam with this power, as did the countries of Europe who allied with USA felt more protected



Warning: Graphic images...





**President Truman**

## **What did Truman hope for?**

**By having this bomb and the capability it brings, it will be easy to persuade Stalin to allow Eastern European countries more freedom.**

**We're the only country in the world with this power!**

**There is no way he will not follow our demands...**



## What did Stalin think about it?

**Stalin was even more determined to secure the Soviet Union with a buffer zone of pro-communist countries between Germany and the Soviet's western borders.**

**My scientists are working on our own Nuclear bomb as well, why should USA have all the power?**

**All Truman did was encourage anger and animosity, as well as a lack of trust!**



# Stalin



# What did Stalin think about it?

**Stalin was even more determined to secure the Soviet Union with a buffer zone of pro-communist countries between Germany and the Soviet's western borders.**

**All Truman did was encourage anger and animosity, as well as a lack of trust!**

**Roosevelt was much more willing to work with Stalin than Truman!**



**Stalin**





- First test July 1945
- First use in war – Hiroshima, 6 August 1945
- 2<sup>nd</sup> use in war – Nagasaki, 9 August 1945

- First test - 29 August 1949

This is our sole mission, to build our Nuclear arsenal, we will not be bullied or intimidated by the USA



By 1964, Britain, France and China also had the atomic bomb

# List the pros and cons of the atomic bomb:

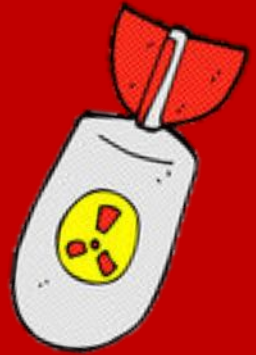
## Pro

Deterrent for future wars

Protection

Leading the way in Science

## Con



Kill millions of people,  
easily!

Destroy the world many  
times over

Severe consequences

Instead of war, USA & USSR entered an arms race to ensure they were more powerful than the other, all this did was further add to the tensions...

# The Big Fourth

Who were the Big 3?

In the source, what is the 'Big Fourth'?

Why is it called the 'Big Fourth'?

What do you think the shadow represents?



One effect the atomic bomb had on US-Soviet relations was... (Remember to use connectives and link back to the Q)

*Showing off*

*Tensions*

*No trust*

*Paranoia*

*Threatened*

*Agreements*



Write a short paragraph on how the atomic bomb affected US-Soviet relations, you can use the above sentence starter if you want

# RISING TENSION



One thing we both still agree on is that the break up of our Grand Alliance might lead to future conflict



I need to know what he's thinking!

I need to know what he's thinking!

# RISING TENSION



Both Truman and Stalin asked their embassies to report back the attitudes in each other's countries. These reports were sent as telegrams...

**Read your copies of each telegram and underline / highlight anything you think would raise suspicion or worry for either Stalin or Truman...**



**Kennan Long Telegram**  
**22 Feb 1946**  
**Moscow to Washington**

*We have here a political force committed fanatically to the belief that it is desirable and necessary that our traditional way of life (capitalism) be destroyed, the international authority of our state be broken if Soviet power is to be secure, but the problem is within our power to solve, without military conflict.*

US ambassador to the Soviet Union, George Kennan

What would Truman think of this telegram, what would he interpret was the mood in USSR? Should he be worried?



**Kennan Long Telegram  
22 Feb 1946  
Moscow to Washington**

***“You see, I knew it! Kennan’s Telegram  
has just confirmed my suspicions!***

***Stalin wants to see capitalism destroyed!***

***I agree with Kennan that Stalin isn’t that  
crazy that he’ll fight me, and so we will  
adopt an aggressive response of  
containment and he will back down!”***





**Novikov telegram**  
**27 September 1946**  
**Washington to Moscow**

*US foreign policy has been characterized in the postwar period by a desire for world domination. All these steps to preserve the great military potential are not an end in itself, of course. They are intended only to prepare conditions to win world domination in a new war being planned by the most warlike circles of American imperialism.*

USSR ambassador to the USA, Nikolai Novikov



What would Stalin think of this telegram, what would he interpret was the mood in USA? Should he be worried?



**Kennan Long Telegram  
22 Feb 1946  
Moscow to Washington**

***“You see, I knew it! Novikov’s Telegram has just confirmed my suspicions!”***

***Truman wants to see capitalism destroyed. Now Roosevelt is dead the US won’t work with us!***

***We must protect ourselves and the only way to do this is building up our satellite states as a buffer zone”***



# RISING TENSION



**Truman thought...**

- **USSR doesn't trust Truman**
- **Stalin wanted to see the destruction of Capitalism and were building their military**
- **Stalin is paranoid of the rest of the world**
- **USSR was not suicidal so USA could force Stalin to back down**
- **A policy of 'containment' should be adopted to stop the spread of Communism**



**Stalin thought...**

- **USA doesn't trust Stalin**
- **USA wanted to use the massive military to dominate the world**
- **Since Roosevelt's death, the USA were no longer willing to co-operate with USSR**
- **American people would support their government in a war**
- **To protect themselves, USSR needed to develop as much protection as possible**



## British point of view:

Although Churchill was no longer Prime Minister, he was still very influential. In March 1946 he visited USA and delivered a speech that is regarded as the defining moment in US-Soviet relations.

Listen to his speech and note down what you feel are the main points he is trying to make...

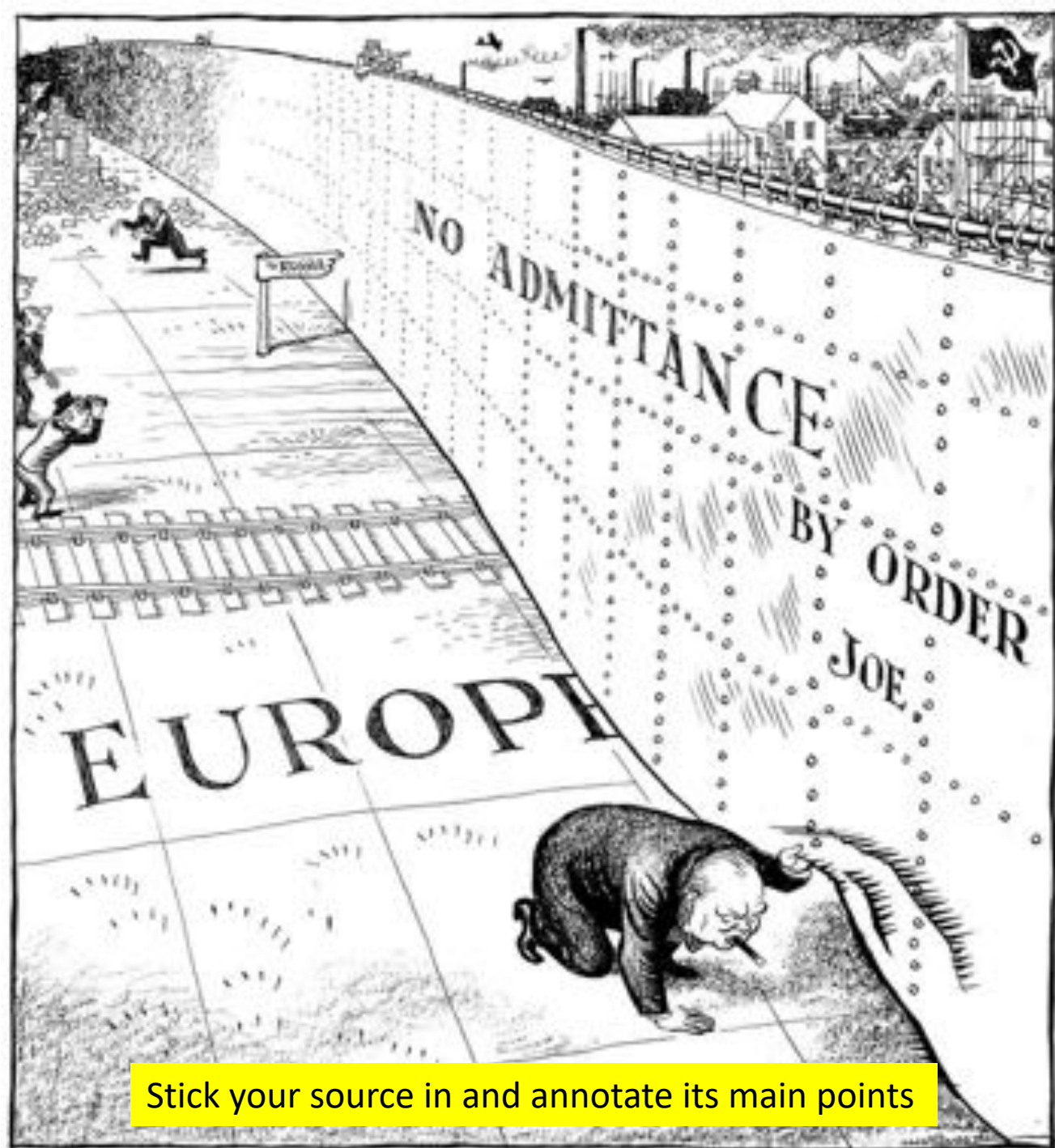
Churchill's iron curtain speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2PUIQpAEAQ>

*So, it is clear, Churchill, you too have abandoned our alliance and have confirmed what I already knew, the West is determined to undermine me. All trust has now gone, you want to play tough, lets play tough!*



“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. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the **Soviet sphere**, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow. The safety of the world, ladies and gentlemen, requires a unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast”.



Stick your source in and annotate its main points

# RISING TENSION



VS.



“Help, our relationship is at  
breaking point”



“Help, our relationship is at breaking point”



## Guests:

Stalin  
Novikov



Truman  
Kennan  
Churchill

