**Document 1: March 5, 1946. Winston Churchill delivers a speech at Westminster College in Missouri. This speech is known as the “Iron Curtain” Speech.**

Ladies and gentlemen, the United States stands at this time at the pinnacle of world power. It is a solemn

moment for the American democracy. For with primacy in power is also joined an awe-inspiring

accountability to the future….

A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately light by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate future, or what are the limits, if any, to their expansive and proselytizing tendencies. I have a strong admiration and regard for the valiant Russian people and for my wartime comrade, Marshall Stalin….

*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. Athens alone -- Greece with its immortal glories -- is free to decide its future at an election under British, American, and French observation. The Russian-dominated Polish government has been encouraged to make enormous and wrongful inroads upon Germany, and mass expulsions of millions of Germans on a scale grievous and undreamed-of are now taking place.

The Communist parties, which were very small in these Eastern States of Europe, have been raised to preeminence and power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control. Police governments are prevailing in nearly every case, and so far, except in Czechoslovakia, there is no true democracy. Twice we have seen them drawn by irresistible forces into these wars in time to secure the victory of the good cause, but only after frightful slaughter and devastation have occurred. Twice the United States has had to send several millions of its young men across the Atlantic to find the war; but now war can find any nation, wherever it may dwell between dusk and dawn. Surely we should work with conscious purpose for a grand pacification of Europe, within the structure of the United Nations and in accordance with our Charter….In front of the iron curtain which lies across Europe are other causes for anxiety.

**Document 2: March 1947. President Harry Truman delivers an address to a joint session of Congress. In this address he lays out his agenda that becomes known as the “Truman Doctrine”**

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. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way…. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic

and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes….

It is necessary only to glance at a map to realize that the survival and integrity of the Greek nation are of

grave importance in a much wider situation. If Greece should fall under the control of an armed minority,

the effect upon its neighbor, Turkey, would be immediate and serious. Confusion and disorder might well

spread throughout the entire Middle East. Moreover, the disappearance of Greece as an independent state would have a profound effect upon those countries in Europe whose peoples are struggling against great difficulties to maintain their freedoms and their independence while they repair the damages of war….

In addition to funds, I ask the Congress to authorize the detail of American civilian and military personnel to Greece and Turkey, at the request of those countries, to assist in the tasks of reconstruction, and for the purpose of supervising the use of such financial and material assistance as may be furnished…. The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world. And we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation.

1. What is the purpose of Churchill’s speech?
2. What is the purpose of Truman’s speech? Who is his audience?
3. What was the “Iron Curtain”?
4. What is Winston Churchill warning the western world about in his speech?
5. What is the “Truman Doctrine?” Find one quote in this text that best exemplifies the Truman doctrine
6. Explain why the Soviet Union and U.S.A moved from friends to enemies after WWII
7. Explain why both of these are significant speeches at the start of the Cold War?