How did the perspectives of the U.S. and Soviet Union differ at the end of WWII that affected world Peace for decades to come?

Student Activity:
1) Read all of the sources provided. As you read, answer the comprehension questions for each document to guide your understanding of the source.
2) Once you have completed the comprehension questions, write a “Poem from 2 Perspectives” using the handout provided.

Background Info: The Soviet Union and the United States
Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States were driven by a complex interplay of ideological, political, and economic factors, which led to shifts between cautious cooperation and often bitter superpower rivalry over the years. Although World War II brought the two countries into alliance, based on the common aim of defeating Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union's aggressive, antidemocratic policy toward Eastern Europe had created tensions even before the war ended. The distinct differences in the political systems of the two countries often prevented them from reaching a mutual understanding on key policy issues and even, as in the case of the Cuban missile crisis, brought them to the brink of war.

The Soviet Union and the United States stayed far apart during the next three decades of superpower conflict and the nuclear and missile arms race. Beginning in the early 1970s, the Soviet regime proclaimed a policy of detente and sought increased economic cooperation and disarmament negotiations with the West. However, the Soviet stance on human rights and its invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 created new tensions between the two countries. These tensions continued to exist until the dramatic democratic changes of 1989-91 led to the collapse of the Communist system and opened the way for an unprecedented new friendship between the United States and Russia, as well as the other new nations of the former Soviet Union.

Sources: http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/intro2.html http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/assets/theme_asset/000/006/446/6446_main.jpg
United States Perspective

Source A
1) Sourcing. Who wrote this source, when?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

2) What was “the shadow” that had fallen over the world according to Churchill’s speech?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

3) How did the people of Great Britain view the Russian people?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

4) What lies behind the Iron Curtain? What do these places have in common?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

5) Why is communism in Eastern Europe a threat to Great Britain and the United States?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Source C (U.S. Perspective)
1) What evidence does Keenan provide that shows that the Russian people themselves can live peacefully with the United States?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

2) Summarize the 4 steps the U.S. should take in dealing with Russia?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Soviet Union’s Perspective

Source B
1) In what ways does Stalin compare Churchill to Hitler?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

2) How does Stalin justify his desire for Eastern Europe to be communist?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

3) How does Stalin portray the communist people?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Source C (Soviet Union’s Perspective)
1) What 2 capitalist nations are considered the greatest threat to the Soviet Union?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

2) What benefit do capitalist conflicts hold for the Soviet Union?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

3) Why should no opportunity be missed to create conflict between capitalist countries?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

How did the perspectives of the U.S. and Soviet Union differ at the end of WWII that affected world Peace for decades to come?
United States Perspective

**Source D**

1) Who was a threat to Greece and Turkey in 1947?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2) What would be the result of not providing Greece and Turkey with $400 million in aid?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Source E

1) What would be the result of Europe not receiving aid?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2) Why would Europe need so much assistance at this time (notice the year)?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Source G

1) What countries were members of the NATO alliance?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2) What did all these countries have in common?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3) Who do they view as a threat? (see Source H for help)

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Soviet Union’s Perspective

**Source F**

1) What are the motives of the United States from the perspective of the Soviet Union?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2) How does the United States benefit by helping Europe, according to the Soviet Union?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3) Does the Soviet Union support the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine? Provide evidence to support your response.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Source H

1) What does the Soviet Union believe are the United States’ motives for forming NATO?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Source I

1) What countries were members of the Warsaw Pact alliance?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2) What did all these countries have in common?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3) Why was the Warsaw Pact created?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

How did the perspectives of the U.S. and Soviet Union differ at the end of WWII that affected world Peace for decades to come?
How did the perspectives of the U.S. and Soviet Union differ at the end of WWII that affected world Peace for decades to come?

United States Perspective

Source L
1) Describe Cartoon L.
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

2) Why is one question mark bigger than the other?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

2) What is the overall message of the cartoon?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

Source M
1) Describe Cartoon M.
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

2) What is the wall trying to contain?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

3) Where in the world was “communist aggression” appearing?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

4) Based on the cartoon, how successful was the U.S. in containing communist aggression in Indochina and Korea? How do you know?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

Soviet Union’s Perspective

Source J
1) Describe Cartoon J. Read the caption.
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

2) Who do the people in the cartoon represent?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

3) What is Uncle Sam giving the Russian man? What plan do the eggs/can represent? (Look at source E for help)
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

4) Does the Soviet Union welcome the “aid”? Provide evidence to support your response.
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

Source K
1) Describe Cartoon K. Read the caption.
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

2) Who is the man on “stilts”?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

3) How does the Soviet Union believe peace with the United States can be achieved?
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
Was Europe Divided by an Iron Curtain?
How did the United States and Soviet Union view the post-war world?

**Soviet Perspective: How the USSR views the Postwar world**

- (a) USSR still lives in antagonistic "capitalist encirclement" with which in the long run there can be no permanent peaceful coexistence. As stated by Stalin in 1927 to a delegation of American workers:
  
  "In course of further development of international revolution there will emerge two centers of world significance: a socialist center, drawing to itself the countries which tend toward socialism, and a capitalist center, drawing to itself the countries that incline toward capitalism. Battle between these two centers for command of world economy will decide fate of capitalism and of communism in entire world."

- (b) Capitalist world is beset with internal conflicts, inherent in nature of capitalist society. These conflicts are insoluble by means of peaceful compromise. Greatest of them is that between England and US.

- (d) Intervention against USSR, while it would be disastrous to those who undertook it, would cause renewed delay in progress of Soviet socialism and must therefore be forestalled at all costs.

- (e) Conflicts between capitalist states, though likewise fraught with danger for USSR, nevertheless hold out great possibilities for advancement of socialist cause, particularly if USSR remains militarily powerful, ideologically monolithic and faithful to its present brilliant leadership.

  Everything must be done to advance relative strength of USSR as factor in international society. Conversely, no opportunity must be missed to reduce strength and influence, collectively as well as individually, of capitalist powers. Soviet efforts, and those of Russia's friends abroad, must be directed toward deepening and exploiting of differences and conflicts between capitalist powers. If these eventually deepen into an "imperialist" war, this war must be turned into revolutionary upheavals within the various capitalist countries.

**U.S. Perspective: Realities of Communism & Capitalism**

First, [the current Soviet Union’s ideology] does not represent the natural outlook of Russian people. Latter are, by and large, friendly to outside world, eager for experience of it, eager to measure against it talents they are conscious of possessing, eager above all to live in peace and enjoy fruits of their own labor.... Experience has shown that peaceful and mutually profitable coexistence of capitalist and socialist states is entirely possible... To speak of possibility of intervention against USSR today, after elimination of Germany and Japan and after example of recent war, is sheerest nonsense. If not provoked by forces of intolerance and subversion "capitalist" world of today is quite capable of living at peace with itself and with Russia...At bottom of Kremlin's neurotic view of world affairs is traditional and instinctive Russian sense of insecurity...For this reason they have always feared foreign penetration, feared direct contact between Western world and their own, feared what would happen if Russians learned truth about world without or if foreigners learned truth about world within.
**U.S. Perspective: How to handle the Soviet Union**

I think we may approach calmly and with good heart the problem of how to deal with Russia. As to how this approach should be made, I only wish to advance, by way of conclusion, following comments:

1. Our first step must be to apprehend, and recognize for what it is, the nature of the movement with which we are dealing. We must study it with same courage, detachment, objectivity, and same determination not to be emotionally provoked or unseated by it, with which doctor studies unruly and unreasonable individual.

2. We must see that our public is educated to realities of Russian situation. I cannot over-emphasize importance of this. Press cannot do this alone. It must be done mainly by Government, which is necessarily more experienced and better informed on practical problems involved. In this we need not be deterred by [ugliness?] of picture. I am convinced that there would be far less hysterical anti-Sovietism in our country today if realities of this situation were better understood by our people. There is nothing as dangerous or as terrifying as the unknown. It may also be argued that to reveal more information on our difficulties with Russia would reflect unfavorably on Russian-American relations. I feel that if there is any real risk here involved, it is one which we should have courage to face, and sooner the better. But I cannot see what we would be risking. Our stake in this country, even coming on heels of tremendous demonstrations of our friendship for Russian people, is remarkably small. We have here no investments to guard, no actual trade to lose, virtually no citizens to protect, few cultural contacts to preserve. Our only stake lies in what we hope rather than what we have; and I am convinced we have better chance of realizing those hopes if our public is enlightened and if our dealings with Russians are placed entirely on realistic and matter-of-fact basis.

3. Much depends on health and vigor of our own society. World communism is like malignant parasite which feeds only on diseased tissue. This is point at which domestic and foreign policies meets Every courageous and incisive measure to solve internal problems of our own society, to improve self-confidence, discipline, morale and community spirit of our own people, is a diplomatic victory over Moscow worth a thousand diplomatic notes and joint communiqués. If we cannot abandon fatalism and indifference in face of deficiencies of our own society, Moscow will profit—Moscow cannot help profiting by them in its foreign policies.

4. We must formulate and put forward for other nations a much more positive and constructive picture of sort of world we would like to see than we have put forward in past. It is not enough to urge people to develop political processes similar to our own. Many foreign peoples, in Europe at least, are tired and frightened by experiences of past, and are less interested in abstract freedom than in security. They are seeking guidance rather than responsibilities. We should be better able than Russians to give them this. And unless we do, Russians certainly will.

Source: https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/coldwar/documents/pdf/6-6.pdf
**U.S. Perspective**

**Source D: 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 [against the Soviet threat], 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. The 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.

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**U.S. Perspective**

**Source E: Excerpt from Secretary of State Marshall’s speech explaining his plan for European recovery, June 5, 1947**

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.

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The so-called Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan are particularly glaring examples of the way in which the principles of the United Nations are violated, of the way in which the Organization is ignored. As is now clear, the Marshall Plan constitutes in essence merely a variant of the Truman Doctrine adapted to the conditions of postwar Europe. In bringing forward this plan, the United States Government apparently counted on the cooperation of the Governments of the United Kingdom and France to confront the European countries in need of relief with the necessity of renouncing their inalienable right to dispose of their economic resources and to plan their national economy in their own way. The United States also counted on making all these countries directly dependent on the interests of American monopolies, which are striving to avert the approaching depression by an accelerated export of commodities and capital to Europe. It is becoming more and more evident to everyone that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States and direct interference by the latter in the internal affairs of those countries. Moreover, this plan is an attempt to split Europe into two camps and, with the help of the United Kingdom and France, to complete the formation of a bloc of several European countries hostile to the interests of the democratic countries of Eastern Europe and most particularly to the interests of the Soviet Union. An important feature of this Plan is the attempt to confront the - countries of Eastern Europe with a bloc of Western European States including Western Germany. The intention is to make use of Western Germany and German heavy industry (the Ruhr) as one of the most important economic bases for American expansion in Europe, in disregard of the national interests of the countries which suffered from German aggression.

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**Should Economic aid be sent to Europe?**
U.S. Perspective
Source G: NATO- North Atlantic Treaty (Excerpt), 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.

Soviet Union’s Perspective
Source H: Speech by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1956 in which he explains his point of view on U.S. actions. (Excerpt)
The inspirers of the “cold war” began to establish military blocs—the North Atlantic bloc, SEATO, 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 re-division 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 ensures 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 its grave in another world war, should it unleash it.

Warsaw Pact

Background Info: The “treaty of mutual friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance” was signed between the People’s Republic of Albania, the People’s Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People’s Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People’s Republic, the Rumanian People’s Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Czechoslovak Republic in May 1955. It was the Communist counteraction to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
Excerpt from Treaty: The contracting parties shall take council among themselves on all important international questions relating to their common interests, guided by the interests of strengthening international peace and security.
They shall take council among themselves immediately, whenever, in the opinion of any of them, there has arisen the threat of an armed attack on one or several states that are signatories of the treaty, in the interests of organizing their joint defense and of upholding peace and security...

Were the U.S. & S.U. taking sides against one another?
The Cartoon caption above reads: “People of the world don’t want a repeat of the horrors of war” - Stalin

This Cartoon reads “Path to Peace”
Directions:
Create a poem that highlights the different perspectives of the United States and Soviet Union during the Cold War. When writing your poem, use the prompts below to guide your writing. Write a response to the following prompts in short phrases, rather than complete sentences- your poem does not need to rhyme. Write the following on your own sheet of paper and complete the missing information:

**Use a BLUE pen/color to write all of the lines related to the United States.**
**Use a RED pen/color to write all of the lines related to the Soviet Union.**

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My Poem

I am the United States (blue pen)
I believe in (use evidence from the sources provided to summarize 3 ideas about the U.S.)

I am the Soviet Union (Red Pen)
I believe in (use evidence from the sources provided to summarize 3 ideas about the S.U.)

We disagree on (Use a mix of blue/red colors and evidence from the sources)

The Soviet Union is wrong because (Blue pen-from the U.S perspective...use evidence from sources)
The United States is wrong because (Red pen-from the S.U. perspective...use evidence from sources)

We do agree on (Use a mix of blue/red colors and evidence from the sources)

The Iron Curtain is (blue pen- from U.S. perspective...use evidence from sources)
The Iron Curtain is (red pen- from S.U. perspective...use evidence from sources)

Aid to Europe is (blue pen- from U.S. perspective...use evidence from sources)
Aid to Europe is (red pen- from S.U. perspective...use evidence from sources)

We do agree on (Mix of blue/red colors- evidence from the source-write something different from above)

I am the United States (blue pen)
I am the Soviet Union (red pen)
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