

US History

The Cold War - A

Learning Target:

I can identify and examine the major events that helped to start the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

2. The Iron Curtain Speech (1946)

Background:

- 1946 – WWII is over and Churchill is out of power in England
- Churchill is making a goodwill tour in America
- At this point the Soviet Union has established friendly, communist governments in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, & Albania

The Speech:

- Given by Winston Churchill in Fulton, Missouri / Westminster College 3/5/46
- President Truman's hometown

Quote from the speech:

“A shadow has fallen upon the scene so lately lighted by the Allied victory. 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.”

Advice from the speech:

“There is nothing the Communists admire so much as strength and nothing for which they have less respect than for military weakness.”

Result of The Iron Curtain Speech:

1. A wake-up call for the American people.
 - Most Americans had seen the Soviet Union as an ally
 - Now they were being told they were a potential enemy
2. Signaled the formal beginning of the Cold War.

Joseph Stalin's Response:

- When asked about the speech Stalin accused the west of being warmongers
- He explains that the Soviet's actions are to ensure their future security