People’s Century: Brave New World (1945)

Directions: Watch the documentary provided on Europe and the Cold War Era. Answer the questions below about the film.

1. Using the events of the April 1945 meeting on the Elbe how would you describe Soviet and American relations? What was the case?

2. Describe the sight of Germany post World War II. Politically what fear did the Germans face?

3. What did Stalin promise as far as political leadership at the Potsdam conference in 1945?

4. What was the major focus for the American soldiers returning home from WWII? What was the American economy like following the war?

5. In the spring of 1946 how did British Prime Minister Winston Churchill warn the American public of the issues growing in Europe that could affect their peacetime happiness?

6. How did U.S. and Soviet media sources differ on the two superpowers goals for the restructuring of Europe? (Using the Meeting of the Elbe as their primary example.)

7. How did the Soviet forces attempt to rid Berlin of allied influence starting in June 1948? How did the United States respond?

8. What was life like under the Communist regime? How did they portray themselves to the world?

9. How did the Soviets portray the American “West” in order to control their people?
10. What is the one factor that keeps Stalin from gaining equal power with the West? When did he achieve this goal?

11. How did the United States react to the Soviet Communist threat?

12. How did the Korean Conflict in 1950 escalate the U.S. fears of Communist threat and Vise Versa?

13. What happens to the Soviet Communist regime in 1953? Who comes to power?

14. How did de-Stalinization effect areas such as Budapest in October 1956?

15. How did the Communist party began to lose their hold over followers around the globe?

16. What did Vice President Richard Nixon suggest would help relations between the Communist East and the democratic West?

17. What did the Communist decide to do in order to address the flow of migrants from East Germany in 1961?

18. What were the two opposite names provided for the Berlin Wall?