The Iron Curtain Descends

Because the:

1) Soviets refused to allow free elections in Poland

2) U.S. refused to share the secrets of the atomic bomb
   - Stalin refused to withdraw troops from Eastern Europe.
   - He put Communist in power in Eastern European countries.
   - Travel, trade, and communication with the western world was stopped.

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent”

- Winston Churchill

Task: Why did Churchill call it an “iron curtain?”
1946: Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech

- In March 1946, Churchill gave a famous speech before President Truman at Fulton, Missouri. By this time there were communist governments in Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.
- He used the phrase "Iron Curtain" to describe the European border between the Democracies of the West and the Communist-controlled countries of the East.
- He accused the USSR of being an aggressive dictatorship and called for an alliance between Britain and the USA to keep it under control.

Source A: Extract from Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Speech, March 1946
"A shadow has fallen upon the scenes 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...all are subject...to a very high...measure of control from Moscow...I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power...Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed...by a policy of appeasement."

Source B: Stalin's reply to Churchill's speech
"Mr Churchill has called for a war on the USSR....It should not be forgotten that the Germans invaded the USSR through Finland, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The Germans were able to invade because governments hostile to the Soviet Union existed in these countries. As a result the Soviet Union had a loss of life several times greater than that of Britain and the United States put together...And so what is surprising about the fact that the Soviet Union, anxious for its future safety, is trying to see that governments loyal to the Soviet Union should exist in these countries?"

Task 1
a. Why do you think that Churchill used the specific phrase “iron curtain” to describe the division of Europe?

b. In what ways are Sources A&B similar, and in what ways are they different?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A British Cartoon on Churchill's &quot;Iron Curtain&quot; Speech</th>
<th>c. What is the message of this cartoon? (Remember CID!)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Cartoon Image" /></td>
<td><strong>Context</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the time this source was produced,...</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Interpretation</strong></td>
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<td>I think the message of the cartoonist is that...</td>
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<td><strong>Detail</strong></td>
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<td>The cartoonist creates this impression in a number of</td>
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<td>ways...</td>
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</table>
Use the CID method from the previous slide to describe the meaning of each cartoon.
Source A: Stalin speaking on 9th Feb. 1945. Victory means, first of all, that our Soviet social system has won...The Soviet social system has successfully stood the test in the fire of war and it has proved its complete vitality. The Soviet social system has proved to be more capable and more stable than a non-Soviet social system. The Soviet social system is a better form of society than any non-Soviet social system.

Source B: At Yalta, in February 1945, Stalin tried to explain to Churchill and Roosevelt why Poland was so important to the Soviet Union.
Mr. Churchill has said that for Great Britain the Polish question is one of honour. But for the Russians it is a question of both honour and security. Throughout history Poland has been the corridor of attack on Russia. It is not merely a question of honour for Russia, but one of life and death.

Source C: In March 1946, Stalin replied to Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech.
It should not be forgotten that the Germans invaded the USSR through Finland, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The Germans were able to invade because governments hostile to the Soviet Union existed in these countries. As a result the Soviet Union had a loss of life several times greater than that of Britain and the United States put together...And so what is surprising about the fact that the Soviet Union, anxious for its future safety, is trying to see that governments loyal to the Soviet Union should exist in these countries?

a. Using these sources and notes made in your earlier www.activehistory.co.uk worksheets, identify FIVE reasons why Stalin wanted to take control of Eastern Europe.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5.
PART I.
Directions:
Use a map
To write the
Full names
Of each
Country below.
Then,
create
A color key
To shade
In the
Eastern
And Western
Blocs.

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**“Salami Tactics”: The Soviet Takeover of Eastern Europe**

- By 1948, the Soviet Union had established communist regimes in all of the territories that they had "liberated" during World War Two.
- The Hungarian Communist Rakosi described this process as "Salami Tactics" because Stalin sliced away opposition bit by bit. Communists:
  1. shared power in a coalition after free elections;
  2. forced their opponents out of office through threats and bribery;
  3. outlawed all opposition parties;
  4. executed their opponents to leave them in total control.

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**Key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Bloc</th>
<th>Western Bloc</th>
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