

# Synthesis... comparing sources... The Cold War

From the 2015 Revised Framework:

Students will... **SYNTHESIZE**...

Make connections between different course themes and/or approaches to history (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual) for a given historical issue.

*Reminder: Just as historians pull information from a plethora of different sources, you must also consider more than one source when analyzing history. Remember at least one of your SAQs on the AP exam will include opposing views and require synthesis! ...At least one multiple choice set will, as well.*

## Step 1: Read each excerpt and analyze each one using your HIPP strategy.

### Source A: *A People's History of the United States*, Howard Zinn, 1980

"That is what happened. When, right after the war, the American public, war-weary, seemed to favor demobilization and disarmament, the Truman administration (Roosevelt had died in April 1945) worked to create an atmosphere of crisis and cold war. True, the rivalry with the Soviet Union was real—that country had come out of the war with its economy wrecked and 20 million people dead, but was making an astounding comeback, rebuilding its industry, regaining military strength. The Truman administration, however, presented the Soviet Union as not just a rival but an immediate threat. In a series of moves abroad and at home, it established a climate of fear - a hysteria about Communism—which would steeply escalate the military budget and stimulate the economy with war-related orders. This combination of policies would permit more aggressive actions abroad, more repressive actions at home."

### Source B: *A Patriot's History of the United States*, Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen, 2004

"Shaking off the shortsightedness of Roosevelt and other policy makers, by 1946 a few advisers in the Truman administration had recognized the dangers posed by an expansionist Soviet Union. Truman himself required more convincing. As late as 1945 the president had referred privately to Stalin as "a fine man who wanted to do the right thing"—this about a dictator whose mass murders had exceeded those of Hitler and Tojo combined. Stalin was, said Truman, "an honest man who is easy to get along with—who arrives at sound decisions." Well before the Missourian spoke those words, however, this "fine man" had started work on a Soviet atomic bomb—developing the weapon in the middle of the Battle of Stalingrad, when it was apparent it could not be ready in time to assist in the destruction of Germany. Stalin was already looking ahead to the postwar world and his new enemies, the United States and Great Britain."

Historical Context – *what is the historical issue?* -- for Both Documents:

HIPP for Source A:

HIPP for Source B:

## Step 2: Answer the SAQ.

On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions. Write in complete sentences, make sure your answers can stand alone, and back up each explanation with at least one specific piece of historical evidence NOT found in the excerpts.

1. Briefly explain ONE way Source A's approach to history differs from Source B's.
2. Provide ONE piece of evidence regarding the historical analysis [NOT included in either excerpt], and briefly explain how it supports Source A.
3. Provide ONE additional piece of evidence regarding the historical analysis [NOT included in either excerpt], and briefly explain how it supports Source B.