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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular *Defining Documents in History Series: The Cold War (1945-1991)*

Defining Documents in American History: The Cold War offers in-depth analysis of a broad range of historical documents and historic events related to the Cold War era, starting with Potsdam Accords in 1945 at the end of World War II and Churchill's famous Iron Curtain speech in 1946. This two volume set closely studies more than eighty primary source documents and delivers a thorough examination of the Cold War and its effect on the U.S. from 1945 to 1991.

The 1950s and 60s saw the United States struggling to deal with fears related to Communism, starting with the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to the Kennedy's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The McCarthy era "witch hunts" and testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee define the Red Scare in the United States. An era of negotiation that led to détente and de-escalation of the Cold War began with the brinkmanship of the Able Archer exercises and ended with the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Defining Documents in American History: The Cold War is organized under four broad categories

- **Post-War Cold War** – an examination of the events following World War II that led to the Cold War
- **Red Scare** – from loyalty screenings to the Senate's censure of Joseph McCarthy
- **Escalation and Détente** – the downing of a U2 spy plane to SALT II
- **End Game** – starting with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and ending with Gorbachev's farewell address

The Cold War is a two-volume set that contains 86 primary source documents—many in their entirety. Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected texts, including letters, doctrines, memos, speeches, executive orders, treaties, laws, government reports, and national security orders, among other genres. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as author's rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, listed above, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape life as we know it around the world.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

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