

Document Discussion Questions:

Source 1: Source Information: Excerpt from Colonel Richard Park Jr. Report on the O.S.S.

****Note:** Col. Richard Park was a trusted military, bipartisan advisor to both FDR and Truman. This document is part of a long report on the O.S.S., submitted to Truman in April 1945. Prior to U.S. involvement in World War II, Park had served in the Soviet Union as the assistant military attache, attached to the Soviet Army. After Pearl Harbor, Park returned to Washington, serving in the map room. He also attended Yalta with President Roosevelt as military advisor.

1. What is Col. Park's view on the role of a secret intelligence agency in a democratic society?
2. Consider Col. Park's experience in the Soviet Union might have shaped his views on a secret organization.

Source 2: Source Information: William Donovan (Director of OSS 1945) proposal for post-war intelligence agency outlined in memo to Mr. Harold D. Smith (Director of Bureau of the Budget) August 1945

****Note:** *Source 1, Col. Park's report on the O.S.S. focused mainly on the problems of the O.S.S., with scathing comments on the conduct of Donovan.*

1. Compare and contrast sources 1 and 2. On what points do the documents agree and on what points do they differ?
2. What might you hypothesize Donovan's relationship to Col. Park to be?
3. How might Donovan's experience in the O.S.S. have shaped his position on the role of a secret agency in the United States after World War II?
4. Why might this document be addressed to a budget director? What does that tell you about some of the early debate over the CIA?
5. Which document, source 1 or source 2, do you believe most persuaded Truman?

Source 3: Source Information: Telegram, George Kennan to James Byrnes ["Long Telegram"], excerpt, February 22, 1946. Harry S. Truman Administration File, Elsey Papers.

Note: Kennan served as ambassador to Moscow and is generally seen as the architect of containment.

1. What is Kennan's view of the Soviet Union?
2. How might Kennan's argument support or refute the need for a central intelligence agency?
3. To what extent do you think Kennan's document shaped Truman's decision regarding the formation of the CIA?

Source 4

Source Information: Correspondence from Paul A. Neuland, May 6, 1947, with attached newspaper articles; Central Intelligence; Subject File; Elsey Papers.

Note: The article references the "CIG," which stands for Central Intelligence Group. This was an early name for the secret intelligence agency that later would become the CIA under the National Security Act.

1. How does the headline of this article convey a particular perspective on the organization of a secret intelligence agency?
2. Why is the term "Gestapo" important in examining this document?
3. What evidence does the author provide to support the position on the CIG forming?
4. How might World War II have shaped the position presented in this article?

Source 5: Source Information: Congressman Harold F. Youngblood, R-Detroit to Harry S. Truman, March 8, 1948 with attached petition reply from Matthew J. Connelly, Truman's Appointments Secretary

1. This document contains a petition, as well as the accompanying memo and Truman's response via his secretary. Why might Youngblood have submitted this document to Truman?
2. Youngblood was a Republican Congressman. Why is that information important? What does it reveal about Truman's relationship with Congress?
3. Based on the reply of Truman's secretary, Matthew Connelly, do you think Youngblood knew the CIA already had been formed? If so, why do you think he submitted the petition to Truman? Explain your reasoning and any questions this document raises.
4. Compare and contrast this source with the tone of the newspaper article presented in Source 4. Not quite one year had passed between the publishing of

source 4 and the submission of source 5. What does that illustrate about the pace of changing public opinion during the Cold war?

Source 6: Source Information: Telegram, Joseph McCarthy to Harry S. Truman, February 11, 1950, with Truman's draft reply; McCarthy, Joseph; General File; PSF; Truman Papers.

1. What prior knowledge do you have of Joseph McCarthy? (Consider prior class periods, as well as the video presented in this lesson.)
2. What is McCarthy's tone in the telegram? What are your thoughts about whether this is an appropriate way to address the President?
3. How does Truman respond to McCarthy? Why do you think Truman never sent his response?
4. What do these two documents reveal about the historical context under which Truman was making decisions regarding the use of the CIA?

Source 7: Source Information: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, April 1950.

1. Compare this document with earlier documents on public opinion (sources 4 and 5). How did public opinion shift as the Cold War progressed?
2. How might Source 7 relate to Source 6?
3. What events between 1945 and 1950 might contribute to the public opinion illustrated in this document?
4. How might this document relate to the creation of a secret intelligence agency?

Source 8: Source Information: Central Intelligence Agency Report on Iranian Political Situation 12 October 1951

Note: The CIA's involvement in Iran often is seen as the first successful mission of the CIA.

1. Why was Iran an area of concern in 1951, according to this document?
2. What do you think is the key phrase in this document that illustrates how the Cold War shaped the use of the CIA?

3. What part of this document would be of greatest concern to Truman, given his foreign policy goals?

Source 9: Source Information: Ambrose, Stephen (historian), *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938*, revised edition 2010.

**Note: This document is a secondary source. It details the use of the CIA to orchestrate the overthrow of Premier Mossadegh and the implementation of the Shah. The document is intended to give information about the Iran coup to provide understanding for this CIA action. If a teacher prefers to share this information in another way, this document easily could be omitted.

1. Ambrose is a historian, so this document is his interpretation of the events in Iran. How would you describe Ambrose's analysis of this event?
2. In what ways do events in Iran support Truman's major foreign policy goal?
3. Although the Iran Coup d'état occurred during the Eisenhower years, it was organized during the Truman administration. Given what you know about Truman, to what extent do you believe Truman was involved in the decision to use the CIA in this way? Explain your reasoning.

Source 10: Source Information: Interview of Harry S. Truman 1961-62, as presented in *Plain Speaking; the Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman* by Merle Miller

1. Nearly ten years after leaving office, how did Truman describe his position on the CIA? What was his opinion of what the CIA had become and how Eisenhower used it?
2. We've all heard that "hindsight is 20-20." How do you think that idea might be illustrated in this document?
3. Truman was a student of history and was well aware of his historical legacy. To what extent do you think this document reflects that fact? Do you think Truman may have felt differently during his presidency? Why or why not?