

Recorders of the Big Four Conference

Instructions: Your job is very important to the success of today's activity. At the conclusion of the presentations from the representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain, and France, you will be asked to compare and contrast the differences among the four positions. Not all of the issues will be addressed by each of the four countries. The representatives will speak only on what they feel is important to their country's security. If an issue is not mentioned, you may assume that it is not of high priority. This is an important point to be brought out in your summary. Representatives of countries often appear to talk past one another at international conferences. This is because they are often looking for bargaining advantages or are tailoring their remarks for another audience—perhaps world opinion or their own citizens. Unlike domestic political debates, in which the participants often expect to reach an agreement or consensus through bargaining, in international politics countries frequently expect to live with fundamental disagreements rather than compromise on issues that they feel are vital to their interests. For each of the countries, answer the following questions:

1. What are the primary security concerns expressed by each country?
 - a. Soviet Union:

 - b. United States:

 - c. Great Britain:

 - d. France:

2. What are the ideas or values that seem to lie behind these concerns?
 - a. Soviet Union:

 - b. United States:

 - c. Great Britain:

 - d. France:

3. What are the lessons of history (from the perspective of 1946) upon which these concerns are based?
 - a. Soviet Union:

 - b. United States:

Name: _____

c. Great Britain:

d. France:

4. How does each country perceive the attitudes of the other three countries?

a. Soviet Union:

b. United States:

c. Great Britain:

d. France:

5. What evidence does each country cite to support its perceptions?

a. Soviet Union:

b. United States:

c. Great Britain:

d. France:

6. According to each country, what are the major threats to world peace?

a. Soviet Union:

b. United States:

c. Great Britain:

d. France: