

SOURCEBASED EXERCISE

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Sources in this paper have been edited: word additions or explanations are shown in square brackets []; substantive deletions of text are indicated by ellipses ... ; minor changes are not indicated.

These sources and questions relate to the Percentage Agreement between Churchill and Stalin in October 1944

SOURCE 1: Extract from the biography "*Stalin – The First In-depth Biography Based on Explosive New Documents from Russia's Secret Archives*" published 1997. Written by Edvard Radzinsky. Edvard Stanislavovich Radzinsky (born in Moscow, Russia on September 23, 1936). He studied in the Moscow Archive Institute and is a trained historian.

Churchill made haste. On October 9, 1944, he and Eden were in Moscow, and that night they met Stalin in the Kremlin, without the Americans. Bargaining went on throughout the night. Churchill wrote on a scrap of paper that the Boss had a 90 percent "interest" in Romania, Britain a 90 percent "interest" in Greece, both Russia and Britain a 50 percent interest in Yugoslavia. When they got to Italy the Boss ceded that country to Churchill. The crucial questions arose when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed "percentages" in Eastern Europe. Molotov's proposals were that Russia should have a 75 percent interest in Hungary, 75 percent in Bulgaria, and 60 percent in Yugoslavia. This was the Boss's price for ceding Italy and Greece. Eden tried to haggle: Hungary 75/25, Bulgaria 80/20, but Yugoslavia 50/50. After lengthy bargaining they settled on an 80/20 division of interest between Russia and Britain in Bulgaria and Hungary, and a 50/50 division in Yugoslavia. U.S. Ambassador Harriman was informed only after the bargain was struck. This gentleman's agreement was sealed with a handshake.

SOURCE 2: Extract from "*Wikipedia*" 5/3 2015.

The percentage agreement was an agreement between Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin on how to split South-Eastern Europe into spheres of influence. On October 9, 1944 the two leaders met in Moscow. Churchill suggested that the Soviet Union would have a 90 percent influence in Romania and 75 percent in Bulgaria; Britain would have 90 percent in Greece; in Hungary and Yugoslavia Churchill suggested that they would have 50 percent each. Churchill wrote down the numbers on a piece of paper which he gave to Stalin. The Soviet leader put a tick on the paper.

"Will it not seem cynical if it is found out that we decided on these issues, which are of vital importance to millions of people, in such a strange way? Let us burn the paper", said Churchill.

"No, you can keep it", replied Stalin.

Foreign ministers Anthony Eden and Vyacheslav Molotov then negotiated for two days about the number of percentages, which led to an increase of the Soviet influence in Bulgaria, and which was more remarkable, in Hungary. It was raised to 80 percent. Stalin kept his promise in Greece; in the Civil War, the British supported the Greek national forces but the Soviet Union did not assist the communist guerrillas.

SOURCE 3: German cartoon 1944 from *Kladderadatsch*. *Kladderadatsch* (onomatopoeic for "Crash") was a satirical German-language magazine first published in Berlin on May 7, 1848, and appearing "daily, except for weekdays".

RUSSIA - POLAND



Starter

"Kladderadatsch", Germany

QUESTIONS

- 1a. What, according to **SOURCE 2**, was the significance of the Percentage Agreement? [3 marks]
- 1b. What is the message conveyed by **SOURCE 3**. [2 marks]
2. With reference to the origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations of **SOURCE 1**? [6 marks]
3. "The Western powers gave away Eastern Europe to Stalin in Moscow 1944". Use these sources and your own knowledge to evaluate the validity of this claim. [9 marks]