

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

### Bell Ringer: An Unlikely Alliance

**Instructions:** Examine the picture. Read the background. Answer the questions.



**Background:** During World War II, Adolf Hitler led Germany to try and conquer virtually all of Europe. Hitler joined in an Alliance with Italy and Japan to form the Axis Powers. When Japan attacked the USA at Pearl Harbor, America joined the Allies, which included Britain, France, and the Russian Soviet Union. The Soviet Union joined the Allies when Hitler broke a Non-aggression pact he had signed with the Russians and attacked their nation. This made a strange alliance. Britain, France, and the USA practiced forms of Democracy and attempted to give power to the people. The Soviet Union was Communist. In Communism, one leader has absolute control of the nation as dictator. Joseph Stalin ruled as this dictator in the Soviet Union. Prior to World War II, America, France, and Britain were suspicious and critical of Communism. Communism removed the rights of citizens and did not allow people to own private property or practice Democracy. Yet, when the Axis Powers went to war with the Allies, the Communist Soviet Union united with the Democracies of France, Britain, the USA to take down Hitler's Nazi regime. When World War II was over, that which united the Russian Communists with the other allies was gone, namely the goal to defeat Hitler. Britain, the USA, and France continued a cooperative relationship, but they all three quickly developed tension with the Soviet Union, after World War II. In the cartoon above, the USA, the Soviet Union, and Britain form one united fist to strike Hitler.

1. What led the Soviet Union to join the Allies in World War II? What led the USA to join the Allies in World War II?

2. How did America, Britain, and France view Communism, prior to World War II? Why did they view it this way?

3. Why was it strange that the Soviet Union had joined forces with Britain, France, and the USA in World War II? Why did they unite?

**Answers:**

1. What led the Soviet Union to join the Allies in World War II? What led the USA to join the Allies in World War II?  
The Soviet Union joined the Allies because Hitler broke his non-aggression pact with them. The USA joined the Allies because a member of the Axis Powers, Japan, attacked them at Pearl Harbor.

2. How did America, Britain, and France view Communism, prior to World War II? Why did they view it this way?  
They were critical of Communism. Communism allows a dictator to rise up, does not allow private property, and does not allow Democracy. These were all allowed in America, France, and Britain and they were upset that Russia was utilizing an oppressive government.

3. Why was it strange that the Soviet Union had joined forces with Britain, France, and the USA in World War II? Why did they unite?  
The Soviet Union was Communist. America, France, and Britain all practiced Democracy. Yet, they had to fight together to stop Hitler.