

DE Civics Standard 1a and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2 and 3

This excerpt comes from a speech to be made by Brigadier General Ernest Moore, the Assistant Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Air Force before the Conference of Religious Leaders in Civil Defense. It was delivered to the Governor of Delaware in the form of a Press Release from the Federal Civil Defense Administration on June 13, 1951.

...an appraisal of the military situation requires an examination of the nature of the threat confronting us, and of many aspects of soviet strategy and power, as well as a discussion of Soviet military capabilities themselves.

To all of us who believe in a personal God and thus in the dignity and worth of the individual man, it is not necessary to dwell on the fact that despotism in its totalitarian modern form, with its attempted deification of "The State," or "The Party," or the "Leader" is totally inconsistent with our beliefs.

Down through the centuries men who have believed in the right to speak, think and worship as they pleased have been forced to take stern measures for the control of concentrated power which is, of course, the essence of despotism. Again in the lives of free men the time appears to have come when it behooves them to take up arms and prepare themselves to use them should it become necessary. If a general war comes it will be total in nature, and there will be no prizes for second place.

1. Why does the author choose to point out Soviet opposition to religion?
2. What does Brig. General Moore argue is the key difference between the United States and the Soviet Union?
3. Choose either the Soviet Union or the United States and explain how the history of that state shaped its protection of individual freedoms.

Answer Cues:

1. Why does the author choose to point out Soviet opposition to religion?
  - Audience: The group was a religious group who would find Soviet opposition to religion worrisome
  - Purpose: The purpose of the speech was to distinguish the U.S. from the Soviet Union and religion is a distinguishing feature
  
2. What does Brig. General Moore argue is the key difference between the United States and the Soviet Union?
  - U.S. provides protection of individual liberties such as freedom of religion and the Soviet Union does not
  - The Soviet Union is a despotic totalitarian government and the United States is a free democracy
  
3. Choose either the Soviet Union or the United States and explain how the history of that state shaped its protection of individual freedoms.
  - Soviet Union: Traditions of strong central power, need to limit rights to maintain power, relationship between the monarchy and religion
  - United States: Distrust of strong central power from Revolution, attempt to maintain protection of individual liberties through law, amendments, court decisions, history of freedom of worship



will be no prizes for second place. Lenin expressed the Soviet view as follows: "We cannot live peacefully, one or the other of us must eventually win out ... a requiem will be sung either over the Soviet Republic or over world capitalism." Stalin has never contradicted this thesis. Not only is our political, economic and social way of life placed in jeopardy, but the Church itself is threatened. By word and deed the Soviet masters have indicated that they consider the Church to be an obstacle standing between themselves and their goal of world conquest. We are all familiar with their thesis that religion is the opiate which makes non-Communists reconciled to their lot. Should war come and should we be defeated, we must realize that all of the institutions we cherish in America will be destroyed. The creed of the Soviets demands it - those institutions are their proclaimed enemy. That being so, we must also realize that there would be no Marquis of Queensbury rules to temper their attack or to govern the conflict, and there would be no Soviet Marshall Plan to reconstruct the ruins that would be left in the wake of a Soviet victory.

To us, war is abhorrent and unnatural. To men like Hitler and those who control the Soviet Union, war is a natural and continuous state, a legitimate means of carrying out national policy. Yet while we have as our objective peace and not war, we men of the free world cannot consider peace as an end in itself. The end is a just peace, and that implies the need for military strength. The very existence of our military services is based upon acceptance of this fundamental concept.

The military services of our country are charged with the responsibility for its military defense and must devise the military means required to insure final victory should we be attacked. It is our duty to anticipate and to plan for any military eventuality which could bring disaster upon us. Today we must face the possibility of such an eventuality. The Soviets have proclaimed as