Name: _____   Date: _____

The Warsaw Pact

By Joseph Stalin

In the aftermath of World War I and World War II, Soviet leaders felt very worried about Germany once again becoming a military power--a concern that was shared by many European nations on both sides of the Cold War divide.

In the mid-1950s, however, the U.S. and a number of other democratic NATO members began to support making West Germany part of the alliance and allowing it to form an army under tight restrictions. The Soviets warned that such an offensive action would force them to make new security preparations in their own sphere of influence, and they were true to their word. West Germany formally joined NATO as a democratic state on May 5, 1955, and the Warsaw Pact was signed less than two weeks later in Warsaw, Poland, on May 14, 1955. Joining the USSR in the communist alliance were Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Hungary, Poland and Romania.

Like the NATO alliance, the Warsaw Pact focused on the objective of creating an allied communist defense among its member nations in order to prevent an enemy attack. There was also an internal security factor to the agreement that proved useful to the USSR. The alliance provided a way for the Soviets to have even tighter control over the other Communist states in Eastern Europe and prevent pact members from seeking greater independence. This was the communist alliance created to battle the democratic alliance of NATO.

Read the document and answer the questions. Record your answers on the graphic organizer.

Who: Who created the Warsaw Pact? Who were its members?

What: What was the Warsaw Pact?

Where: Where was it created? Where did it have influence/ power?

When: When was it created?

Why: Why was the Warsaw Pact created? What was its purpose/ main goal?