



Questions on 1947 Darling New York Herald Tribune cartoon

1. Explain the “wall” in the background of the cartoon.
2. Who are the three men (which nations do they represent)?
3. How can you tell who the cartoonist thinks is the most powerful of the three?
4. Who is the woman and what is she trying to do?
5. Why do you believe the cartoonist chose to portray her as a woman?
6. What do you believe the overall message of the cartoon to be?

Answers

1. It represents the so-called iron curtain that existed between the west and Soviet Russia after WWII, in eastern Europe. Notice how solid the wall is, representing the strength of the division.
2. USA, France, and Britain.
3. Uncle Sam is the tallest in stature, representing his strength over the others, Britain is second tallest, and France is the smallest representing that they emerged from WWII the weakest.
4. She represents the United Nations and she is trying to lift the iron curtain, unsuccessfully.
5. Answers will vary but might include: Women are generally referred to as the weaker sex, certainly that was a widely held belief in the 1940s. The author clearly does not believe in the strength of the UN to remove the barrier between the west and the USSR. If you look closely you can see she is dressed more for a party than a difficult task.
6. Answers will vary but might include: the iron curtain was a solid wall, notice the detail of each brick and how well it is fastened together; it seems hopeless to bring it down; many in the international community have tried, notice the oil can behind the three men as well as the other tools they've tried to use to bring down the wall; the UN is not a viable organization to try and solve this crisis, etc