During the Second World War, Britain and the Soviet Union were allies. This relationship lasted until 1945, the same year Churchill lost office as the British Prime Minister. However, as an international statesman, he was the first to be aware of the risk the Soviet Union posed on the west. As such, in 1946, he made a famous speech in Fulton, Missouri where he spoke about the "iron curtain" that has taken over Europe as Joseph Stalin consolidated his control on Eastern Europe.