Good evening, my fellow Americans.

... This evening, I come to you with a message of leave-taking and farewell, and to share a few final thoughts with you, my countrymen.

... We now stand ten years past the midpoint of a century that has witnessed four major wars among great nations. Three of these involved our own country. Despite these holocausts, America is today the strongest, the most influential, and most productive nation in the world. Understandably proud of this pre-eminence, we yet realize that America's leadership and prestige depend, not merely upon our unmatched material progress, riches, and military strength, but on how we use our power in the interests of world peace and human betterment.

... We face a hostile ideology global in scope, atheistic in character, ruthless in purpose, and insidious [insidious] in method. Unhappily, the danger it poses promises to be of indefinite duration (i.e. no end in sight)....

Until the latest of our world conflicts (WWII), the United States had no armaments industry. American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense. We have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. Added to this, three and a half million men and women are directly engaged in the defense establishment. We annually spend on military security alone more than the net income of all United States ... corporations.

Now this conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence -- economic, political, even spiritual -- is felt in every city, every Statehouse, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet, we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications...

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together...
Homework Questions:

1. What is the Military industrial Complex? Use Eisenhower’s speech and the accompanying diagram to put it into words.

Diagram of Military Industrial Complex

- Congress:
  - Approves ever growing defense budget
  - Campaigns contributed to by Defense Contractors/Weapons Manufacturers

- Military:
  - Uses the weapons
  - Can be mobilized quickly

- Defense Contractors/Weapons Manufacturers:
  - Permenant weapons makers
  - Lobbies Congress to purchase their weapons
  - Contributes to Congressional Campaigns
  - Factories in most states (i.e. a single tank may be assembled in 10 different states)
2. Who is Eisenhower referring to in line 11 as a “hostile ideology?”

3. Having now identified the “hostile ideology” Ike refers to in line 11, according to lines 12-13, how long will this conflict with the “hostile ideology” last?

4. Did this permanent arms industry exist prior to WWII?

5. According to this pie chart, how much of every dollar in taxes is spent on defense?
6. Chart 1 – Of the entire amount the planet spends on defense, what percentage of that amount does the US spend?

7. Chart 1 – Who spends the 2nd most? How much less than the US?

8. Chart 2 – Of the top 10 largest weapons manufacturers, how many are US companies?

9. Chart 3 – List the top 3 nuclear nations and the number of Total nuclear warheads.

10. Chart 4 – How many billions of dollars in weapons does the US sell worldwide (and within the US)?
Questions to annotate during video (1-2) and for post video discussion (3-4):

1. What is the “undue influence” of the Military Industrial Complex that Eisenhower warns of in lines 22-30?

   *In other words*, he warns that we must never let this Military Industrial Complex endanger our liberties and democracy.

   *Put another way*, How might it do so? How could the huge size and wealth of this complex reduce our democratic processes?

2. Why is it tough to combat the military industrial complex?

3. Does this resonate with you? Impact your thinking? Does it have 2011 implications? Is this something we should be concerned with?

4. This topic goes hand in hand with a discussion “security” vs “liberty.” What do you think? Is it worth the price? What do you value more, and why? Must it be one or the other? *In other words*, must you choose one over the other?

5. Would it be more difficult to make the case for war if the lead up to war involved domestic sacrifice (i.e. the military industrial complex is currently enabling us to engage in 2 public wars and 1 unknown war in Pakistan seemingly without any sacrifice at home)?