However, it is arguable that East Germany only formed as a result of the formation of West Germany.

Source B, takes a similar view in blaming the USA for the build up of the Cold War tensions. Source B notes that the build up of West Germany resulted in tension due to the ‘new currency’. The introduction of the Deutschmark to West Germany on the 20th June 1948 highlighted the success of capitalism right on the doorstep of communism. This was humiliating for the USSR who suffered greatly in the Second World War unlike the Americans. This humiliation may be said to have caused tension by undermining communism and, as already discussed building up a state feared by the Soviets. The counter argument to this may be that the Soviets themselves were exerting their influence beyond their borders such as the communist coup of Czechoslovakia in February 1948 and this scared the Americans causing them to build up allies, not to mention the impact of the invasion of South Korea by the North in 1950. The Soviets had also embarrassed the Americans by ignoring the Atlantic Charter of 1941 so could simply be said to be using the same tactics. The formation of NATO in 1949 despite Soviet ‘restraint’ (Source B) in the airlift of 1948 showed Americans to be actively building up military allies, which was far more threatening than Soviet actions regarding Berlin, adding to the points raised by B and A.

Finally, Source B supports the view that the USA were to blame as ‘their efforts to make themselves more secure were perceived as threatening by Moscow’. This is most definitely true of the 1946 Baruch Proposals. The plans for an international atomic energy authority in which only the USA was allowed to create atomic weapons was undoubtedly threatening to the USSR who already felt the USA was using ‘atomic blackmail’ as a way to gain Soviet concessions. Whilst the plans may have been viewed as threatening the USSR was invited to join the council but declined, beginning the arms race, so they were responsible for adding tension too. Ultimately, the USA knew these plans would trap Stalin, so can be viewed as responsible for a build up in the Cold War tension as a result.

When both sides of the argument are considered it appears the USA and USSR both added to the tension in 1944 and 1953 by acting aggressively. It seems that the aggressive measures taken were to defend national security interests and were misperceived rather than merely being viewed as defensive. As a result both sides began to act aggressively out of fear of the other, increasing the tensions in relations between 1944 and 1953. Therefore, it can be said that rather than one side alone being to blame both the USA and USSR’s misperceptions regarding national interests were to blame.