Power Across Borders

Four cross-border actors respond to a disrupted sea route

SS24.CWI.6a "Describe the functions of modern-day alliance systems, regional organizations, and multinational corporations and cartels."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, number the four actors, underline what each one does, and circle a limit on each one's role.

When a Sea Route Is Disrupted

1. A sudden conflict near a major sea route can delay fuel shipments and raise worries about security. NATO, a military alliance of countries in Europe and North America, exists to protect its members. Its members consult when one faces a threat. If a member faces an armed attack covered by the treaty, the others treat it as a concern for all and take action each considers necessary, which may include armed force. This shared defense commitment can discourage an attacker before a crisis begins. A shipping delay alone would not trigger that defense commitment because it is not an armed attack on a member.

2. The same shipping disruption could affect Southeast Asia, where countries work together through ASEAN, a regional organization. Its members discuss shared problems, such as trade delays, and coordinate policies while keeping control of their own governments. They might exchange information about crowded ports or work to make border procedures more efficient. ASEAN also supports cooperation on disaster response and economic development. Unlike NATO, ASEAN has no treaty pledge of collective defense. Its role in this case is to help neighboring governments communicate and cooperate, not to command their armed forces or guarantee military protection.

3. Meanwhile, a multinational corporation, such as a shipping company with offices and crews in several countries, might reroute vessels or buy fuel from another supplier to keep goods moving. It makes business decisions across borders, rather than setting governments' security commitments. OPEC is different: it is a group of oil-producing countries that coordinates members' petroleum policies, including production targets. As a cartel, its efforts to manage supply can influence world oil prices, though other producers and demand matter too. If fuel costs rise, the shipping company may charge customers more, linking the cartel's choices to everyday trade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does NATO's shared defense commitment help its members do, and why would a shipping delay alone not trigger it?

2. How could ASEAN help its members respond to the shipping disruption?

3. How is ASEAN's role in a security crisis different from NATO's?

4. How do the shipping company and OPEC affect trade in different ways?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A storm closes ports in several countries, disrupting medicine shipments and oil exports. In four sentences, describe one useful action each by a regional organization, a multinational corporation, and an oil cartel, then explain why a military alliance's collective-defense pledge would not automatically apply.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.6a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, number the four actors, underline what each one does, and circle a limit on each one's role. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does NATO's shared defense commitment help its members do, and why would a shipping delay alone not trigger it?	**The commitment helps protect members and can discourage an attacker. A shipping delay alone is not an armed attack on a member.**
2	How could ASEAN help its members respond to the shipping disruption?	**Members could share information about crowded ports and coordinate policies or border procedures.**
3	How is ASEAN's role in a security crisis different from NATO's?	**ASEAN helps neighboring governments cooperate but has no treaty pledge of collective defense. NATO has a shared defense commitment for covered armed attacks.**
4	How do the shipping company and OPEC affect trade in different ways?	**The multinational shipping company can reroute vessels or change fuel suppliers to move goods. OPEC coordinates its member countries' oil policies, including production targets, which can influence oil prices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A regional organization could help neighboring governments share information about open ports. A multinational shipping company could reroute medicine deliveries to those ports. An oil cartel could review its members' production targets in response to the disrupted oil supply. A military alliance's collective-defense pledge would not automatically apply because the storm is not an armed attack.

Accept other plausible actions that match each actor's function. Responses should distinguish cooperation, business decisions, coordinated oil policy, and collective defense.