Power and Pressure

Tracing the effects of US involvement in the 1970s Middle East

SS24.US2.16b "Evaluate how the United States' increasing involvement in the Middle East during the 1970s affected both the region and the United States itself."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one US action, circle one effect in the Middle East, and draw a box around one effect in the United States. Use your marks to compare the outcomes.

Three Turning Points in the Middle East

1. In October 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel to regain land Israel had captured in 1967. The United States supplied Israel during the war. Arab oil exporters then imposed an oil embargo on the United States and other countries that supported Israel. The embargo ended in 1974, but oil prices had risen sharply. In the United States, drivers waited in gasoline lines, and higher fuel costs helped drive inflation. In the Middle East, oil revenue increased the economic and political influence of exporting states. A US decision made during a regional war thus reshaped both household budgets and regional power.

2. Oil was not the only reason Washington became more involved. President Jimmy Carter hosted Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin at Camp David in 1978. Their agreements laid the groundwork for the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty. Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, and Egypt became the first Arab state to make peace with Israel. The United States promised substantial aid to both countries, giving Washington closer ties to each. Yet many Arab leaders condemned Egypt's separate peace, and the agreements did not settle Palestinian demands for self-rule. Diplomacy reduced one risk of war while leaving a major dispute unresolved.

3. In Iran, deeper US ties produced a different result. During the 1970s, the United States sold weapons to Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, a ruler whose government jailed political opponents. Many Iranians opposed the shah, though their reasons differed. After a 1979 revolution overthrew him, the United States admitted him for medical treatment. Iranian militants seized the US embassy in Tehran and held American diplomats and staff hostage. The crisis strained relations and dominated US news and politics. Iran's new government rejected its former partnership with Washington. These events showed that closer ties could also leave the United States exposed to lasting hostility.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1973 oil embargo change the position of oil-exporting states in the Middle East and affect people in the United States?

2. Evaluate the Camp David agreements as a US diplomatic effort. What did they help achieve in the Middle East, what did the United States gain, and what remained unresolved?

3. How did the change in Iran's government limit US influence there, and how did the resulting crisis affect the United States?

4. Based on two different turning points in the passage, did greater US involvement bring only benefits? Support your judgment with effects on both the Middle East and the United States.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising a US president at the end of 1979. Propose one policy priority for the next decade, use evidence from two different paragraphs, predict one effect in the Middle East and one in the United States, and acknowledge a possible drawback.

ANSWER KEY

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one US action, circle one effect in the Middle East, and draw a box around one effect in the United States. Use your marks to compare the outcomes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1973 oil embargo change the position of oil-exporting states in the Middle East and affect people in the United States?	**Higher oil revenue increased exporting states' economic and political influence. In the United States, drivers faced gasoline lines, and higher fuel costs helped drive inflation.**
2	Evaluate the Camp David agreements as a US diplomatic effort. What did they help achieve in the Middle East, what did the United States gain, and what remained unresolved?	**The agreements laid the groundwork for peace between Egypt and Israel and helped reduce the risk of war between them. US aid strengthened Washington's ties to both countries, but Palestinian demands for self-rule remained unresolved.**
3	How did the change in Iran's government limit US influence there, and how did the resulting crisis affect the United States?	**Iran's new government rejected its former partnership with Washington. The embassy hostage crisis strained relations and dominated US news and politics.**
4	Based on two different turning points in the passage, did greater US involvement bring only benefits? Support your judgment with effects on both the Middle East and the United States.	**No. Camp David helped bring peace between Egypt and Israel and gave the United States closer ties to both, but the 1973 embargo increased oil exporters' influence while higher fuel costs contributed to US inflation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would make reducing US dependence on imported oil the top priority by funding conservation and new energy sources. The 1973 embargo showed how a regional war could raise US fuel costs. The 1979 embassy seizure showed that closer ties in the region could also turn into political crises. Using less oil could make US households less vulnerable to price shocks and reduce oil exporters' leverage in regional disputes. However, changing energy use would take time and would not repair relations with Iran.

Accept other supported judgments and policy priorities. Part 3 responses should draw on two different paragraphs, predict effects in both places, and identify a plausible drawback.