Power and Limits

U.S. foreign policy after the Cold War

SS24.US2.18 "Analyze the shifts in United States foreign policy and challenges to it after the Cold War and into the twenty-first century. 18a Investigate the role and influence of the United States in peacekeeping efforts around the world from the..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline U.S. goals and circle results in the passage. Number one challenge in each paragraph to help you compare the choices leaders faced.

When U.S. Forces Went Abroad

1 After the Cold War, U.S. leaders increasingly joined missions meant to protect civilians, not just defend allies. In Somalia, U.S. troops helped deliver food during a UN-backed relief effort, but fighting with militias and American deaths eroded support at home. In Bosnia, NATO airstrikes led by the United States helped pressure warring parties toward the 1995 Dayton peace agreement. The two cases show both the reach of U.S. influence and the limits set by danger and political will.

2 After the September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States invaded Afghanistan because the Taliban government sheltered al-Qaeda, the group responsible. U.S. forces toppled the Taliban government, but a long war ended with the Taliban's return to power in 2021. At home, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate protection and passed the USA PATRIOT Act, expanding investigative powers. These steps expanded security efforts, yet the war's outcome and concerns about surveillance raised questions about their effectiveness and costs.

3 Two wars in Iraq reveal another shift. In 1991, Operation Desert Storm, backed by a UN-authorized coalition, expelled Iraqi forces from Kuwait after Iraq invaded it. The quick victory boosted President George H. W. Bush's standing at home and reinforced cooperation among allies. In 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom toppled Saddam Hussein amid U.S. claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, which were not found. The prolonged conflict reduced public support, divided allies, and left Iraq facing years of instability.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the outcomes in Somalia and Bosnia show both a strength and a limit of U.S. peacekeeping efforts?

2. Why would it be too simple to call the U.S. response to September 11 either a complete success or a complete failure?

3. How did the reasons for the two Iraq wars differ, and how did international support differ?

4. How did the length and outcomes of the two Iraq wars affect U.S. public support differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word recommendation to Congress proposing one rule for future U.S. interventions. Use evidence from all three paragraphs and explain one tradeoff your rule creates.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.18

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline U.S. goals and circle results in the passage. Number one challenge in each paragraph to help you compare the choices leaders faced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the outcomes in Somalia and Bosnia show both a strength and a limit of U.S. peacekeeping efforts?	**U.S.-led airstrikes helped bring Bosnia's warring parties toward a peace agreement, but fighting and American deaths in Somalia weakened support for that mission.**
2	Why would it be too simple to call the U.S. response to September 11 either a complete success or a complete failure?	**U.S. forces toppled the Taliban, and new domestic measures expanded security efforts. But the Taliban returned to power, and expanded investigative powers raised surveillance concerns.**
3	How did the reasons for the two Iraq wars differ, and how did international support differ?	**Desert Storm expelled Iraqi forces after Iraq invaded Kuwait and had UN-authorized coalition backing. Iraqi Freedom toppled Saddam Hussein amid weapons claims that proved unfounded and divided allies.**
4	How did the length and outcomes of the two Iraq wars affect U.S. public support differently?	**The quick 1991 victory boosted President Bush's standing, while the prolonged conflict after the 2003 invasion reduced public support.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would require Congress to approve a clear exit plan before any future U.S. intervention. Somalia shows that a relief mission can become dangerous when fighting changes conditions, while Bosnia shows that focused pressure can help produce a peace agreement. Afghanistan shows that a quick military victory may not lead to lasting peace. The long conflict after the 2003 Iraq invasion also eroded public support, unlike the shorter 1991 war. Requiring an exit plan could delay urgent aid, but it would force leaders to confront likely costs.

Accept different judgments when students accurately connect outcomes to goals, public support, or international cooperation. For Part 3, look for one proposed rule, evidence from each paragraph, and a plausible tradeoff.