Power Beyond Borders

Trace three presidents' approaches to intervention.

SS24.US2.1c "Trace United States' interventions around the world under Theodore Roosevelt's Big Stick Diplomacy, William Howard Taft's Dollar Diplomacy, and Woodrow Wilson's Moral Diplomacy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each place where the United States intervened and circle what it did there, so you can trace how each president used U.S. power.

Three Policies, Lasting Effects

1. In 1903, U.S. warships kept Colombian troops from stopping Panama's break from Colombia. Theodore Roosevelt's administration then secured rights to build and control a canal across Panama. Roosevelt called for speaking softly while carrying a big stick: negotiation backed by force. His 1904 Corollary claimed a U.S. right to intervene in Latin American countries to prevent European involvement. In 1905, U.S. officials took charge of collecting Dominican customs revenue to pay debts. The United States gained influence, while its neighbors lost control over important decisions.

2. William Howard Taft favored Dollar Diplomacy, using U.S. investment and loans to extend influence abroad. His administration encouraged American bankers to join a loan for railroad construction in China, hoping financial ties would expand U.S. influence. In Nicaragua, Taft's administration backed opponents of President José Santos Zelaya in 1909. After more unrest, U.S. Marines landed there in 1912 to protect American interests and support a friendly government. Loans and troops could serve the same goal, but Nicaraguans faced an outside power shaping their politics.

3. Woodrow Wilson's Moral Diplomacy promised to favor governments he considered just, rather than support rulers simply to protect U.S. investments. Yet his administration also used force. In 1914, U.S. forces occupied the Mexican port of Veracruz during a dispute with Mexico's government. In 1915, Wilson sent Marines to Haiti after political violence, and U.S. officials took control of Haitian finances. These actions exposed a gap between Wilson's stated ideals and the reality of intervention: people in Mexico and Haiti faced U.S. military power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Roosevelt's actions in Panama and the Dominican Republic extend U.S. influence in different ways?

2. Trace the two methods Taft's administration used in China and Nicaragua. What goal did they share?

3. How did Wilson's actions in Mexico and Haiti conflict with the aims of Moral Diplomacy?

4. From Roosevelt through Wilson, what changed in the stated reasons for intervention, and what use of power continued?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word editorial arguing which diplomacy label least matches its president's actions. Compare that president with one other, cite two interventions from the passage, and explain a cost to another country.

ANSWER KEY

Power Beyond Borders

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.1c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each place where the United States intervened and circle what it did there, so you can trace how each president used U.S. power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Roosevelt's actions in Panama and the Dominican Republic extend U.S. influence in different ways?	**Warships helped Panama separate from Colombia, after which the United States gained canal rights. In the Dominican Republic, U.S. officials took charge of collecting customs revenue.**
2	Trace the two methods Taft's administration used in China and Nicaragua. What goal did they share?	**It encouraged American participation in a railroad loan in China and backed opponents of Nicaragua's president, later sending Marines. Both methods sought greater U.S. influence.**
3	How did Wilson's actions in Mexico and Haiti conflict with the aims of Moral Diplomacy?	**Wilson promised to favor governments he considered just, but U.S. forces occupied Veracruz and intervened in Haiti, where officials took control of finances.**
4	From Roosevelt through Wilson, what changed in the stated reasons for intervention, and what use of power continued?	**Roosevelt emphasized negotiation backed by force, Taft promoted financial influence, and Wilson spoke of just governments. U.S. military force remained a tool, from Roosevelt's warships to the Marines sent under Taft and Wilson.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Moral Diplomacy most conceals how the United States used power. Wilson spoke of just governments, yet his administration occupied Veracruz and placed Haitian finances under U.S. control after sending Marines. Haitians lost authority over their own money. Roosevelt's Big Stick label was more candid: U.S. warships helped Panama separate from Colombia, and Washington gained canal rights. Both presidents claimed reasons for acting abroad, but military pressure limited other nations' choices.

Accept a different choice of label if the editorial accurately compares two presidents, cites two interventions, and identifies a cost to another country. The sample is 70 words.