Containing the Conflict

Compare Cold War choices and their consequences

SS24.US2.9 "Outline the foreign policy changes that led the United States into the Cold War and contributed to its emergence as a superpower. 9a Develop an argument regarding the effectiveness of the United States policy of containment that resulted..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one U.S. action in Europe and one in Korea, number them 1 and 2, and circle a result of each to prepare for a comparison.

One Policy, Different Choices

1. In 1945, American and Soviet troops stood among the victors of World War II, but their governments disagreed about Europe's future. Soviet-backed communist governments took power across Eastern Europe. U.S. leaders moved away from wartime cooperation and adopted containment, a policy meant to stop further communist expansion, not overthrow existing communist states. In 1947, President Truman offered aid to Greece and Turkey against communist pressure. Commitments abroad, backed by U.S. wealth and military power, helped establish the United States as a superpower.

2. Containment took different forms outside the Soviet Union. In Western Europe, the Marshall Plan funded economic recovery, while U.S. and British planes supplied West Berlin during a Soviet blockade in 1948 and 1949. The blockade ended without war, and West Berlin remained outside Soviet control. In Asia, the United States supported Japan's recovery and backed South Korea's defense. Economic aid and air transport could protect allies in Europe, but stopping an invasion in Korea required combat troops.

3. In June 1950, North Korean forces crossed the border into South Korea. Truman sent U.S. troops under United Nations command to repel the invasion, seeing it as a test of containment. After UN forces advanced north, China entered the war. Truman rejected a wider war with China and dismissed General Douglas MacArthur after their public dispute. A 1953 armistice left Korea divided near its original border. At home, Senator Joseph McCarthy's unsupported accusations of communist ties damaged careers and fueled fear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did U.S. policy change after World War II, and how did that change help make the country a superpower?

2. Compare one U.S. action in Europe with its action against the invasion of South Korea. Why did the methods differ?

3. Why did Truman enter the Korean War, and what was one consequence of keeping it limited?

4. How did McCarthy's accusations show that Cold War tensions affected life within the United States?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine advising Congress in 1954. In five or six sentences, argue whether the United States should continue containment unchanged or revise it, using examples from two regions in the passage and weighing one risk or cost.

ANSWER KEY

Containing the Conflict

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one U.S. action in Europe and one in Korea, number them 1 and 2, and circle a result of each to prepare for a comparison. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did U.S. policy change after World War II, and how did that change help make the country a superpower?	**The United States moved from wartime cooperation toward containment. Its commitments abroad, supported by its wealth and military power, increased its global influence.**
2	Compare one U.S. action in Europe with its action against the invasion of South Korea. Why did the methods differ?	**The United States helped supply West Berlin by air during a blockade, but sent combat troops to defend South Korea. An invasion required troops, while air transport could supply a blockaded city.**
3	Why did Truman enter the Korean War, and what was one consequence of keeping it limited?	**Truman sent troops after North Korea invaded South Korea, viewing the invasion as a test of containment. The war ended in an armistice that left Korea divided near its original border.**
4	How did McCarthy's accusations show that Cold War tensions affected life within the United States?	**His unsupported accusations of communist ties fueled fear and damaged people's careers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress should keep containment but place clearer limits on the use of force. The airlift helped West Berlin resist a blockade without starting a war. In Korea, defending South Korea required troops, but advancing north brought China into the fighting. Limiting the war reduced the risk of a wider conflict, although Korea remained divided. Congress should use nonmilitary tools when possible and set clear goals before sending troops.

Accept supported comparisons using other actions in the passage, such as the Marshall Plan. For the open task, look for a clear position, evidence from two regions, and a reasoned discussion of a cost or risk.