Containment Takes Shape

Compare U.S. responses to threats in four settings.

SS24.US2.9b "Compare the application of the United States' policy of containment to various areas of the world outside the Soviet Union in the late 1940s and 1950s."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the threat in each setting: Greece and Turkey, Western Europe, West Berlin, and Korea. Circle the U.S. response in each setting, then number the four responses so you can compare their methods.

One Policy, Different Responses

1. In 1947, the United States faced two crises on the edges of southeastern Europe. In Greece, a civil war pitted the government against communist-led insurgents. In nearby Turkey, Soviet pressure over control of the Turkish Straits alarmed leaders. Britain could no longer afford to support either government, so President Harry Truman asked Congress for aid. Congress approved $400 million for Greece and Turkey, including money for equipment and military advisers. The United States did not send combat troops into either country. This approach aimed to keep both states from falling under communist influence by strengthening their existing governments.

2. Beginning in 1948, the Marshall Plan offered economic aid to Western European nations rebuilding after World War II. Leaders hoped that stronger economies would make communist parties less appealing. In Berlin, a more immediate test began in June 1948, when Soviet authorities blocked land routes into the city's western sectors. Rather than withdraw or fight through the blockade, the United States and Britain flew food and fuel to West Berlin. The airlift continued until the blockade ended in May 1949. Both efforts sought to keep Soviet influence from spreading, but one rebuilt economies while the other kept an isolated city supplied.

3. In East Asia, containment took a different form. In June 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. The United States led a United Nations force that fought alongside South Korea's military. American leaders believed that leaving the invasion unanswered could encourage further communist expansion. UN forces drove north after pushing the invaders back, but China's entry into the war forced them south again. An armistice in 1953 stopped the fighting near the original dividing line, without a peace treaty. Unlike aid in Greece and Turkey or supplies flown into Berlin, the Korean response involved sustained ground combat and heavy casualties.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the U.S. responses in Greece and Turkey differ from its response in Korea in the use of American combat troops?

2. Compare the aims and methods of the Marshall Plan and the Berlin airlift.

3. How did the U.S. response to pressure on Turkey differ from its response to the blockade of West Berlin?

4. Compare the threats that led the United States to support Greece and Turkey with the threat that led it to fight in Korea.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A newspaper editor in 1953 claims, "Containment meant sending U.S. troops wherever communism threatened." Write one paragraph that challenges this claim by comparing at least three settings in the passage. Explain how the threats shaped the different responses.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.9b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the threat in each setting: Greece and Turkey, Western Europe, West Berlin, and Korea. Circle the U.S. response in each setting, then number the four responses so you can compare their methods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the U.S. responses in Greece and Turkey differ from its response in Korea in the use of American combat troops?	**The United States sent aid and advisers, but no combat troops, to Greece and Turkey. In Korea, U.S. troops fought as part of a UN force.**
2	Compare the aims and methods of the Marshall Plan and the Berlin airlift.	**Both sought to limit Soviet influence. The Marshall Plan provided economic aid to rebuild Western Europe, while the airlift delivered food and fuel to West Berlin during a blockade.**
3	How did the U.S. response to pressure on Turkey differ from its response to the blockade of West Berlin?	**The United States helped Turkey with money, equipment, and military advisers. It responded to the Berlin blockade by flying supplies into West Berlin.**
4	Compare the threats that led the United States to support Greece and Turkey with the threat that led it to fight in Korea.	**Greece faced communist-led insurgents, and Turkey faced Soviet pressure over the straits. In Korea, North Korean forces invaded South Korea, raising fears of further communist expansion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The claim is too simple. In Greece and Turkey, the United States sent money, equipment, and advisers to support governments facing a civil war or Soviet pressure, not American combat troops. In Western Europe, the Marshall Plan offered aid to rebuild economies and weaken the appeal of communist parties. During the Berlin blockade, U.S. and British planes brought food and fuel because land routes were blocked. In Korea, the United States led UN troops in ground combat after North Korea invaded the South. These different threats called for aid, emergency supply flights, or fighting rather than one fixed response.

Accept comparisons that accurately distinguish aid, the airlift, and combat. Students should connect each method to a threat or condition described in the passage.