A Divided World

Organizations and spheres of influence after World War II

SS24.WH.13a "Identify major international organizations and the spheres of influence that developed as the result of World War II and the emergence of Cold War hostilities, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), United Nations (UN)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of the three international organizations and circle phrases that identify the Western and Eastern spheres of influence. Write 1 beside the organization that brought countries across the divide together, and 2 beside each rival military alliance.

Three Organizations, Two Spheres

1. In 1948, cargo planes brought food and fuel to West Berlin after the Soviet Union blocked land routes into the city's western sectors. The crisis made Europe's postwar split hard to ignore. After World War II, the United States and Soviet Union held opposing ideas about government and economic life. Each superpower gained a sphere of influence, a region where its power strongly shaped other countries' choices. Western European governments generally worked with the United States. Governments in much of Eastern Europe came under Soviet control or heavy pressure. Berlin, divided into occupation sectors, showed that split in one city.

2. The United Nations began in 1945, when countries sought ways to prevent another world war. Its members included both the United States and the Soviet Union, along with countries outside either superpower's sphere. They could debate disputes in the General Assembly, while the Security Council could address threats to peace. The five permanent Security Council members, including the two superpowers, could veto its major decisions. The UN was not a military alliance for one side. Cold War rivals often disagreed there, but the organization offered a place for countries across the divide to meet.

3. Western nations formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, in 1949. Its members, including the United States, Canada, and several Western European countries, promised to treat an armed attack on one as an attack on all. NATO helped link the Western sphere through collective defense. In 1955, the Soviet Union and several Eastern European governments formed the Warsaw Pact, a separate military alliance under Soviet leadership. It tied the Eastern sphere more closely to Moscow. Membership was not universal: some countries, such as India, joined neither military alliance. Unlike the UN, NATO and the Warsaw Pact organized defense around rival blocs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which organization included countries from both spheres of influence, and how did its purpose differ from the two military alliances?

2. Which organization linked the Western sphere, and what did its members promise to do?

3. Which organization tied the Eastern sphere more closely to Moscow, and who led it?

4. What does India's relationship to NATO and the Warsaw Pact show about the reach of the two spheres?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper brief set in 1956. Describe how a NATO member in the U.S.-aligned Western sphere, a Warsaw Pact member in the Soviet-aligned Eastern sphere, and a country outside both military alliances could each use an organization, and explain why the third country's choice differs.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.13a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of the three international organizations and circle phrases that identify the Western and Eastern spheres of influence. Write 1 beside the organization that brought countries across the divide together, and 2 beside each rival military alliance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which organization included countries from both spheres of influence, and how did its purpose differ from the two military alliances?	**The UN included countries from both spheres and offered a place to discuss disputes. NATO and the Warsaw Pact organized collective defense for rival blocs.**
2	Which organization linked the Western sphere, and what did its members promise to do?	**NATO linked the Western sphere. Its members promised to treat an armed attack on one member as an attack on all.**
3	Which organization tied the Eastern sphere more closely to Moscow, and who led it?	**The Warsaw Pact tied the Eastern sphere more closely to Moscow under Soviet leadership.**
4	What does India's relationship to NATO and the Warsaw Pact show about the reach of the two spheres?	**India joined neither military alliance, showing that the rival blocs did not include every country.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A NATO member in the U.S.-aligned Western sphere could seek collective defense through NATO. A Warsaw Pact member in the Soviet-aligned Eastern sphere could seek collective defense through the Warsaw Pact. A country outside both military alliances could bring a dispute to the UN for discussion. Unlike the two military alliances, the UN includes countries from both spheres and beyond.

Accept responses that distinguish the UN's broad membership and discussion role from the rival alliances' defense roles. A country could belong to the UN without joining either military alliance.