

Containment Decisions

Compare why foreign powers entered conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

SS7H3.e "Explain the reasons for foreign involvement in Korea and Vietnam in terms of containment of communism."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that gives a reason an outside country became involved, then write K or V in the margin to show whether it refers to Korea or Vietnam.

Why Foreign Powers Became Involved

- ① After World War II, Korea was divided near the 38th parallel. The Soviet Union supported a communist government in North Korea, while the United States supported a noncommunist government in South Korea. In 1950, North Korean forces invaded the South. The United States led a United Nations force to defend South Korea. U.S. leaders feared that allowing the invasion to succeed would expand communist control in East Asia. This goal, called containment, shaped their decision to fight.
- ② China entered the war after United Nations troops moved north toward its border. Chinese leaders did not want a hostile, U.S.-supported army close to China, and they wanted to protect communist North Korea. Soviet support also helped the North continue fighting. The war ended with an armistice in 1953, not a peace treaty, and Korea remained divided. The conflict showed how the Cold War turned a Korean civil war into an international struggle. Each outside power acted to limit the influence or security threat it feared.
- ③ Vietnam was also divided after France's colonial war ended in 1954. Communist North Vietnam, led by Ho Chi Minh, sought to unite the country under its rule. The United States gave money, weapons, and advisers to South Vietnam, then sent combat troops in 1965. U.S. leaders believed that a communist victory could lead nearby countries to become communist. They used containment and the domino theory to explain U.S. involvement. China and the Soviet Union supplied North Vietnam because they supported communist allies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did U.S. leaders fear would happen in East Asia if North Korea's invasion succeeded?

2 Why did Chinese leaders enter the Korean War?

3 What support did the United States provide to South Vietnam before and during 1965?

4 How did containment and the domino theory help U.S. leaders justify involvement in Vietnam?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a noncommunist country next to a communist-led country is attacked by a communist force. Write four sentences, 55 to 75 words, advising U.S. leaders whether to become involved. Use the word *containment*, explain the feared result, and compare your advice to Korea or Vietnam.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that gives a reason an outside country became involved, then write K or V in the margin to show whether it refers to Korea or Vietnam. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did U.S. leaders fear would happen in East Asia if North Korea's invasion succeeded?	They feared that communist control would expand in East Asia.
2	Why did Chinese leaders enter the Korean War?	They wanted to keep a hostile, U.S.-supported army away from China's border and protect communist North Korea.
3	What support did the United States provide to South Vietnam before and during 1965?	The United States gave money, weapons, and advisers, then sent combat troops in 1965.
4	How did containment and the domino theory help U.S. leaders justify involvement in Vietnam?	Leaders said involvement could stop communism from spreading and prevent nearby countries from becoming communist after a communist victory.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would advise the United States to support the attacked country because containment aims to stop communist control from spreading. If the attack succeeds, leaders might fear that nearby countries will also face pressure from communist governments. This reason is similar to U.S. involvement in Korea, where the United States led a UN force after North Korea invaded the South. I would first support an international defense effort rather than send U.S. combat troops alone.

Accept equivalent descriptions of containment as stopping the spread of communism and of the domino theory as fear that nearby countries could become communist. For the open response, accept either policy position if the student explains a containment-based reason and makes an accurate comparison to Korea or Vietnam.