

Containing Communism

Trace how U.S. actions were meant to limit communist expansion.

8.7b "The United States based its military and diplomatic policies from 1945 to 1990 on a policy of containment of communism."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action the United States took. Circle words that explain how the action was meant to contain communism, then number the four case examples 1 through 4.

A Cold War Strategy

- ① After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became rivals. The Soviet government supported communist governments in Eastern Europe, while U.S. leaders feared that communism would spread to other nations. They adopted containment, a policy meant to limit the expansion of communism rather than attack the Soviet Union directly. From 1945 to 1990, U.S. leaders used diplomacy, economic aid, and military action to support countries they believed were threatened by communist influence. These choices shaped the Cold War.
- ② Proposed in 1947 and enacted in 1948, the Marshall Plan provided U.S. economic aid to help rebuild Western European countries after the war. U.S. officials hoped that jobs, food, and stable governments would make communist parties less appealing. The plan was a diplomatic and economic tool because it strengthened ties between the United States and its partners. It did not send U.S. troops into Europe, but it aimed to reduce communist influence by supporting recovery and democratic governments in the region.
- ③ Containment also led to military decisions. In 1950, the United States joined United Nations forces to defend South Korea after North Korea invaded it. During the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, President John F. Kennedy used a naval quarantine and negotiations to press the Soviet Union to remove missiles from Cuba. In Vietnam, the United States sent troops and aid to support South Vietnam against communist North Vietnam. These actions differed, but each reflected the goal of containing communism.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did the policy of containment seek to limit, and what did it avoid doing directly?

2 How did the Marshall Plan use economic aid to support containment?

3 Which Cold War event in the passage shows the United States using diplomacy during a crisis? Name the two actions President Kennedy used.

4 How did U.S. actions in Korea and Vietnam both support containment?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences proposing aid or diplomacy for a Cold War country facing communist pressure, plus a military response if invaded. Explain how both could support containment.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action the United States took. Circle words that explain how the action was meant to contain communism, then number the four case examples 1 through 4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the policy of containment seek to limit, and what did it avoid doing directly?	Containment sought to limit the expansion of communism. It avoided directly attacking the Soviet Union.
2	How did the Marshall Plan use economic aid to support containment?	It helped rebuild Western Europe and supported jobs, food, stable governments, and democratic governments. U.S. officials hoped these conditions would make communist parties less appealing.
3	Which Cold War event in the passage shows the United States using diplomacy during a crisis? Name the two actions President Kennedy used.	The Cuban missile crisis. Kennedy used a naval quarantine and negotiations to pressure the Soviet Union to remove missiles from Cuba.
4	How did U.S. actions in Korea and Vietnam both support containment?	In Korea, the United States joined United Nations forces to defend South Korea after an invasion. In Vietnam, it sent troops and aid to support South Vietnam against communist North Vietnam. Both actions aimed to limit communist expansion.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States could offer food and rebuilding loans to strengthen the country's noncommunist government. U.S. diplomats could work with allies to show support without attacking the Soviet Union. If an invasion began, the United States could join an international force to defend the country and limit the spread of communism.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect U.S. economic, diplomatic, or military actions to limiting communist expansion. For the open response, accept plausible Cold War-era plans that include both required types of action and clearly connect them to containment.