Borders and Choices

Partition and India's changing place in the world

MWH.C.7.3.B "Describe the partitioning of India and subsequent international relations (e.g., Indo-Pakistani wars, Non-Aligned Movement, India's secular constitution, experiences with socialism, free-market reforms)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two consequences of partition, circle three choices India made at home or abroad, and number two places where the passage links a choice to India's relations with other countries.

India After Partition

(1) When British colonial rule ended in August 1947, the subcontinent was divided into India and Pakistan. Pakistan was created in two wings, separated by Indian territory; its eastern wing later became Bangladesh. Borders drawn through Punjab and Bengal split villages and families. Millions of Hindus and Sikhs moved toward India, while millions of Muslims moved toward Pakistan. Attacks on migrants killed hundreds of thousands. The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir became a flash point when its ruler chose to join India after fighters from Pakistan entered. India and Pakistan fought a war, and Kashmir remained divided after a 1949 cease-fire.

(2) That unresolved dispute helped drive another India-Pakistan war in 1965. In 1971, Pakistan's military cracked down on a movement for self-rule in East Pakistan. About ten million refugees fled into India. India supported Bengali independence forces and fought Pakistan in a short war; East Pakistan became independent Bangladesh. These wars made borders and refugees central to the neighbors' relations. Yet India's leaders also sought a wider role beyond the conflict. India helped found the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961, arguing that newly independent countries should not have to join either Cold War military bloc.

(3) Nonalignment did not mean cutting ties with powerful states: India bought Soviet weapons and signed a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union in 1971. At home, India's 1950 constitution established a republic committed to equal citizenship regardless of religion, even though partition had divided British India partly along religious lines. Governments also used state planning and public ownership in major industries, aiming to reduce poverty and dependence on foreign powers. After a financial crisis in 1991, India loosened many controls on business and trade and opened more space for foreign investment. These changes widened economic ties abroad without ending India's effort to make its own choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did partition contribute to conflict between India and Pakistan after 1947?

2. How did events in East Pakistan in 1971 change relations among the countries of South Asia?

3. What relationship did India seek with the Cold War blocs through the Non-Aligned Movement, and how did its Soviet ties complicate that position?

4. How did India's economic approach change after 1991, and what did that change mean for its ties abroad?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are briefing a diplomat in 1992. In 80 to 100 words, make a claim about how India tried to make its own choices after partition, using at least three developments from the passage and explaining one tension or change over time.

Borders and Choices

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two consequences of partition, circle three choices India made at home or abroad, and number two places where the passage links a choice to India's relations with other countries. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did partition contribute to conflict between India and Pakistan after 1947?	**Partition left Jammu and Kashmir disputed and divided after a 1949 cease-fire. The unresolved dispute helped drive another war in 1965.**
2	How did events in East Pakistan in 1971 change relations among the countries of South Asia?	**Pakistan's crackdown sent about ten million refugees into India. India supported Bengali independence forces and fought Pakistan; East Pakistan became Bangladesh.**
3	What relationship did India seek with the Cold War blocs through the Non-Aligned Movement, and how did its Soviet ties complicate that position?	**India argued that newly independent countries should not have to join either military bloc. Yet India bought Soviet weapons and signed a 1971 friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.**
4	How did India's economic approach change after 1991, and what did that change mean for its ties abroad?	**India loosened controls on business and trade and opened more space for foreign investment, widening its economic ties with other countries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

India's choices show that independence meant more than gaining a flag. Partition left Kashmir divided, and the neighbors fought again in 1965, so India could not ignore Pakistan. Yet India helped launch the Non-Aligned Movement to avoid being bound to either Cold War bloc. Its 1971 treaty with the Soviet Union shows a tension: choosing partners could protect Indian interests while complicating nonalignment. After the 1991 crisis, opening trade and investment created more foreign connections. In each case, India's leaders tried to keep control over decisions while responding to pressures beyond their borders.

Accept other accurate claims supported by at least three developments in the passage. The response should explain a tension or change, not merely list events.