Paths After War

Political change and Cold War connections in East and Southeast Asia

MWH.C.7.4 "Analyze political and cultural transformations occurring in East and Southeast Asia during the postwar era. Explain how civil conflicts in Korea and French Indochina became proxy wars between superpowers during the Cold War..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two political turning points, circle examples of foreign involvement, and number two consequences of economic policies. Use your marks to trace how local changes connected to global forces.

Different Paths, Shared Pressures

1 In 1911, revolutionaries inspired by Sun Yat-sen overthrew China's last imperial dynasty. Sun argued for nationalism, democracy, and people's livelihood, but the new republic remained divided. After Japan's defeat in 1945, civil war resumed between Communists and Nationalists. In 1949, the Communists founded the People's Republic of China on the mainland; the Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan, continuing as the Republic of China. Both began with authoritarian rule, but Taiwan later developed a multiparty democracy and a market economy.

2 In Korea, division after World War II produced rival governments. North Korea's 1950 invasion brought aid from the Soviet Union and China, while the United States led a United Nations force defending South Korea. An armistice ended fighting in 1953 without a peace treaty. In French Indochina, Vietnamese independence fighters battled French colonial forces. Communist China and the Soviet Union aided the fighters; the United States funded France. Local struggles thus became Cold War proxy conflicts.

3 On the mainland, Mao Zedong's one-party government seized farms and businesses. His Great Leap Forward forced farming into communes and pushed unrealistic production goals, helping cause a famine that killed millions. During the Cultural Revolution, officials and young activists persecuted alleged enemies and attacked cultural traditions. After Mao, Deng Xiaoping allowed private enterprise and foreign investment, accelerating growth and trade with the United States. In 1989, protesters at Tiananmen Square demanded political reform; troops crushed the protests. Economic opening did not end one-party rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Sun Yat-sen's goals differ from China's political reality after the 1911 Revolution?

2. How did foreign powers turn the conflicts in Korea and French Indochina into proxy wars?

3. Compare one economic effect of Mao's policies with one effect of Deng's reforms.

4. What did the response to the Tiananmen Square protests reveal about political change under Deng?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing mainland China and Taiwan after 1949. Explain a political difference, an economic change, and how a foreign connection shaped either place.

ANSWER KEY

Paths After War

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two political turning points, circle examples of foreign involvement, and number two consequences of economic policies. Use your marks to trace how local changes connected to global forces. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Sun Yat-sen's goals differ from China's political reality after the 1911 Revolution?	**Sun called for democracy, but the new republic remained divided.**
2	How did foreign powers turn the conflicts in Korea and French Indochina into proxy wars?	**The Soviet Union and China aided North Korea and Vietnamese independence fighters. The United States helped defend South Korea and funded France.**
3	Compare one economic effect of Mao's policies with one effect of Deng's reforms.	**Mao's Great Leap Forward helped cause a deadly famine. Deng's reforms expanded private enterprise, foreign investment, and trade.**
4	What did the response to the Tiananmen Square protests reveal about political change under Deng?	**Troops crushed demands for political reform, showing that economic opening did not end one-party rule.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After 1949, mainland China had a Communist government, while the Nationalists governed Taiwan. Taiwan later became a multiparty democracy, but mainland China remained under one-party rule. Deng's reforms brought private enterprise and foreign investment to the mainland, unlike Mao's earlier economic policies. Growing trade with the United States helped connect China's expanding economy to the wider world.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. The museum label should connect a political difference and an economic change to a specific foreign relationship.