An Uneasy Pact

Cooperation and Soviet expansion in World War II

TOT.C.8.3.D "cooperation with Nazi Germany (e.g., Nazi-Soviet pact, Soviet annexations and population deportations, the Winter War,the Katyn massacre)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details showing German-Soviet cooperation, then circle two actions the Soviet Union carried out on its own.

A Pact and Its Consequences

1. In August 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a nonaggression pact. They publicly promised not to attack each other. A secret agreement divided parts of eastern Europe into zones of influence. Germany invaded Poland on September 1; Soviet forces entered eastern Poland on September 17. The two powers then divided Poland. Soviet shipments of oil and grain also helped Germany wage war. The pact let both governments expand without fighting each other at first.

2. The secret agreement placed Estonia, Latvia, and Finland in the Soviet zone; a later revision placed Lithuania there too. In November 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Finland, starting the Winter War. Finland resisted, but in March 1940 it gave up territory and remained independent. In 1940, Soviet forces occupied Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and the Soviet Union annexed them. Soviet authorities deported many residents of the Baltic states and occupied eastern Poland.

3. In spring 1940, Soviet security forces executed about 22,000 Polish captives, including military officers and other members of Poland's elite, at Katyn and other sites. This was a Soviet crime, not a joint German-Soviet operation. Still, it followed the partition of Poland, which had left those captives in Soviet hands. Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, ending their cooperation. These events show how a temporary agreement helped both powers expand, while Soviet actions had their own victims.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the pact help Germany and the Soviet Union divide Poland?

2. How did the outcomes for Finland and the Baltic states differ after Soviet expansion?

3. How was the Katyn massacre connected to the pact, and why was it not a joint operation?

4. What did Soviet shipments do for Germany, and what event ended the two powers' cooperation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum visitor claims that Germany carried out every Soviet action described here. Write a three-sentence exhibit label that corrects the claim using evidence from Poland, Finland or the Baltic states, and Katyn.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing German-Soviet cooperation, then circle two actions the Soviet Union carried out on its own. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the pact help Germany and the Soviet Union divide Poland?	**Its secret agreement divided eastern Europe into zones of influence. Germany invaded Poland from the west, Soviet forces entered from the east, and the two powers divided the country.**
2	How did the outcomes for Finland and the Baltic states differ after Soviet expansion?	**Finland gave up territory but remained independent. The Soviet Union annexed Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.**
3	How was the Katyn massacre connected to the pact, and why was it not a joint operation?	**The pact helped bring about Poland's partition, which left Polish captives in Soviet hands. Soviet security forces, not a joint German-Soviet force, executed them.**
4	What did Soviet shipments do for Germany, and what event ended the two powers' cooperation?	**Shipments of oil and grain helped Germany wage war. Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 ended their cooperation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Germany and the Soviet Union cooperated in dividing Poland after signing their pact. The Soviet Union then invaded Finland, which lost territory but remained independent. Soviet forces also killed Polish captives at Katyn and other sites; this was a Soviet crime, not a joint operation.

Accept labels that connect the pact to Poland's partition while identifying the invasion of Finland or annexation of the Baltic states and the Katyn massacre as Soviet actions.