Three Global Commitments

How U.S. partnerships address defense, trade, and humanitarian needs

USG.C.7.2.E "Explain the government's role regarding national defense, trade, and humanitarian efforts by examining contemporary commitments to international organizations and alliances."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, circle the organization, underline one U.S. action or commitment, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside a sentence that shows a limit of that commitment.

What Can an Alliance or Organization Do?

1. At a training ground in Estonia, U.S. troops join forces from other NATO countries. These exercises are part of a continuing U.S. commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a defense alliance. NATO members promise to treat an armed attack on one member as an attack on all. Each member then decides what assistance it considers necessary, which may include armed force. For the U.S. government, taking part can deter aggression and help protect allies. The promise does not mean that U.S. troops automatically enter every conflict involving a member.

2. A shipment of imported steel can become part of a trade dispute if governments disagree about a tariff. The United States belongs to the World Trade Organization, or WTO, where members negotiate rules for trade and can bring complaints about another member's trade measures. WTO agreements limit some tariffs, but they do not ban all tariffs. By taking part, the U.S. government seeks more predictable conditions for American exporters and importers. A WTO decision does not itself change a U.S. law. U.S. officials must decide how to respond to a dispute while considering both trade agreements and domestic priorities.

3. A truck carrying food toward families displaced by conflict may be part of an operation run by the United Nations World Food Programme, or WFP. The United States helps fund WFP, which works with partners to deliver food in emergencies. That contribution is a humanitarian commitment, not a NATO military mission or a WTO trade rule. U.S. funding can help relief workers reach more people, but the U.S. government does not run every delivery. Fighting, damaged roads, and limited funding can still block aid. Across these three organizations, U.S. commitments serve different goals and leave different decisions to the government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the U.S. commitment to NATO help defend allies, and what decision remains with each member after an armed attack?

2. How can WTO membership help the U.S. government address a tariff dispute, and what can a WTO decision not do?

3. How does U.S. funding of WFP support a humanitarian goal, and what could keep that support from reaching families?

4. Why would a WTO trade complaint not take the place of NATO assistance or WFP funding?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A senator suggests using just one international organization to handle an attack on an ally, a disputed steel tariff, and families cut off from food. In 5 to 6 sentences, explain why that plan would not work, recommend a U.S. action through each organization in the passage, and identify one limit on a recommendation.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.7.2.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, circle the organization, underline one U.S. action or commitment, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside a sentence that shows a limit of that commitment. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the U.S. commitment to NATO help defend allies, and what decision remains with each member after an armed attack?	**Joint exercises can help deter aggression and protect allies. After an armed attack, each member decides what assistance it considers necessary.**
2	How can WTO membership help the U.S. government address a tariff dispute, and what can a WTO decision not do?	**The United States can bring a complaint under shared trade rules. A WTO decision cannot itself change U.S. law.**
3	How does U.S. funding of WFP support a humanitarian goal, and what could keep that support from reaching families?	**Funding helps WFP and its partners deliver emergency food. Fighting, damaged roads, or limited funding can block aid.**
4	Why would a WTO trade complaint not take the place of NATO assistance or WFP funding?	**WTO complaints address trade measures, while NATO assistance concerns defense and WFP funding supports emergency food delivery.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One organization cannot handle all three problems because each partnership has a different purpose. If an ally is attacked, the United States should consult NATO members and decide what assistance to provide. For the steel tariff dispute, U.S. officials could bring a complaint through the WTO. To help families without food, the government could fund WFP relief efforts. These actions use cooperation to address defense, trade, and humanitarian needs. Even with U.S. funding, fighting or damaged roads could prevent WFP from delivering food.

Accept other passage-supported actions and limits. In Part 3, look for distinct uses of NATO, WTO, and WFP, plus a limit that fits the proposed action.