Cold War Flashpoints

Identify how early confrontations took different forms.

USH.C.6.1.D "Identify early confrontations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America including the postwar division of Berlin, the Berlin Blockade and Airlift, and Soviet attempts to overthrow governments in Europe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that identify the division of Berlin, the blockade and airlift, and Soviet-backed changes of government. Circle the words that name who took action in each confrontation.

A City Divided, Governments Challenged

1. At the end of World War II, Germany was divided into occupation zones controlled by the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. Berlin, although deep inside the Soviet zone, was also split among the four powers. The western sectors of the city became a small pocket governed by the Western allies. The eastern sector was controlled by the Soviets. At first, this was an arrangement for managing defeated Germany. Soon, however, each side feared that the other would use its part of Berlin to spread its political system.

2. In 1948, the Western powers prepared to create a West German state and introduced a new currency in their occupation zones. The Soviet Union objected. In June, it cut off road, rail, and canal routes into West Berlin, hoping the Western allies would abandon their sectors. This Berlin Blockade put more than two million residents at risk of shortages. Rather than leave, the United States and Britain flew in food, coal, and other supplies during the Berlin Airlift. Planes landed around the clock. The Soviet Union lifted the blockade in May 1949, but the contest over Berlin remained.

3. Berlin was not the only place where Soviet power challenged Western hopes for independent governments. In 1948, Soviet-backed communists in Czechoslovakia took control after noncommunist ministers resigned during a political crisis. Soviet pressure helped the communists keep power instead of settling the crisis through a free political process. In 1956, Soviet troops invaded Hungary and overthrew the reform government of Prime Minister Imre Nagy. These were different kinds of confrontation from the blockade: instead of closing routes to a city, Soviet leaders and their allies used political pressure or military force to control who governed European countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How was Berlin divided after World War II, and what made the location of its western sectors unusual?

2. Identify the Soviet action in the Berlin Blockade and the response by the United States and Britain.

3. What made the 1948 change of government in Czechoslovakia a Soviet-backed confrontation?

4. How did the Soviet action in Hungary in 1956 differ from its action against West Berlin in 1948?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4- to 5-sentence museum caption comparing two ways the Soviet Union challenged Western interests in early Cold War Europe. Use one Berlin example and one example from another European country, and explain why the two confrontations were different.

ANSWER KEY

Cold War Flashpoints

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.6.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that identify the division of Berlin, the blockade and airlift, and Soviet-backed changes of government. Circle the words that name who took action in each confrontation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was Berlin divided after World War II, and what made the location of its western sectors unusual?	**The four occupying powers divided Berlin into sectors. The Western allies governed sectors located deep inside the Soviet occupation zone.**
2	Identify the Soviet action in the Berlin Blockade and the response by the United States and Britain.	**The Soviet Union cut off road, rail, and canal routes into West Berlin. The United States and Britain flew in supplies during the Berlin Airlift.**
3	What made the 1948 change of government in Czechoslovakia a Soviet-backed confrontation?	**Soviet-backed communists took control during a political crisis, and Soviet pressure helped them keep power.**
4	How did the Soviet action in Hungary in 1956 differ from its action against West Berlin in 1948?	**Soviet troops invaded Hungary and overthrew its reform government. In West Berlin, the Soviet Union blocked supply routes rather than overthrowing the city's government.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1948, the Soviet Union blocked land and water routes into West Berlin, hoping the Western allies would leave. The United States and Britain responded by flying supplies to the city. In Czechoslovakia that same year, Soviet-backed communists took control of the government during a political crisis. The blockade challenged Western access to a city, while the takeover challenged who would govern a country.

Accept comparisons using either Czechoslovakia or Hungary. Look for accurate identification of a Berlin confrontation, a Soviet-backed change of government, and the difference between controlling access and controlling a government.