Cold War Choices

Compare U.S. strategies in two regions

USH.C.6.1.G "Describe American containment strategies as they applied to the Middle East, as well as United States of America's military involvement in Latin America."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the U.S. policy for the Middle East, circle each place U.S. troops entered, and write C beside the covert action so you can compare the methods.

Different Crises, Different Actions

1. In the Cold War, U.S. leaders tried to contain Soviet influence without fighting the Soviet Union directly. The Middle East mattered because of its oil and key sea routes. In 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower announced a policy offering economic or military aid to Middle Eastern countries threatened by armed aggression from a country controlled by international communism. In 1958, Lebanon's president asked for help during a political crisis, and U.S. Marines landed there. U.S. officials feared instability could expand communist influence, although Lebanon had not been invaded by a Soviet army. The troops withdrew later that year.

2. In Latin America, U.S. leaders also feared that leftist governments might become Soviet allies. Their methods ranged from secret action to open military intervention. In Guatemala in 1954, the CIA supported forces that overthrew elected president Jacobo Árbenz. The United States did not send an invading army, so this was a covert operation, not a U.S. troop invasion. In 1965, a civil war in the Dominican Republic led President Lyndon Johnson to send U.S. troops. His administration said troops would protect Americans and prevent a communist takeover. Soldiers stayed as an international peacekeeping force helped oversee an election.

3. In 1983, a violent coup in Grenada unsettled another Caribbean nation. President Ronald Reagan ordered U.S. troops to invade, citing the safety of American students and concern about Cuban and Soviet influence. The invasion removed the island's military government, but critics questioned whether the threat justified the use of force. Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, and Grenada show different ways U.S. officials used troops during the Cold War. In each place, leaders described a danger that could widen communist influence. Yet the immediate crises differed, and local people had their own political struggles beyond the U.S.-Soviet rivalry.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Eisenhower's 1957 policy aim to contain communist influence in the Middle East?

2. How was U.S. involvement in Guatemala different from its involvement in the Dominican Republic?

3. What reasons did U.S. leaders give for invading Grenada, and what did the invasion do?

4. Compare why U.S. troops entered Lebanon and the Dominican Republic. What concern about communist influence did leaders describe in each case?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence briefing comparing Lebanon with either the Dominican Republic or Grenada. Explain the U.S. goal and use of troops in each place, identify one limit of viewing local crises only through the Cold War, and pose one question a president should ask before sending troops.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.6.1.G

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the U.S. policy for the Middle East, circle each place U.S. troops entered, and write C beside the covert action so you can compare the methods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Eisenhower's 1957 policy aim to contain communist influence in the Middle East?	**It offered economic or military aid to Middle Eastern countries threatened by armed aggression from a country controlled by international communism.**
2	How was U.S. involvement in Guatemala different from its involvement in the Dominican Republic?	**The CIA supported forces that overthrew Guatemala's president in a covert operation. In the Dominican Republic, the United States sent troops during a civil war.**
3	What reasons did U.S. leaders give for invading Grenada, and what did the invasion do?	**Leaders cited the safety of American students and concern about Cuban and Soviet influence. The invasion removed Grenada's military government.**
4	Compare why U.S. troops entered Lebanon and the Dominican Republic. What concern about communist influence did leaders describe in each case?	**Lebanon's president requested help during a political crisis, and U.S. officials feared instability could expand communist influence. Johnson sent troops during the Dominican civil war, saying they would protect Americans and prevent a communist takeover.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Lebanon, U.S. Marines arrived at the president's request because U.S. officials feared instability could expand communist influence. In Grenada, U.S. troops invaded after a coup, with leaders citing students' safety and Cuban and Soviet influence. Both actions used troops to address a perceived risk, but one responded to a request while the other removed a government. Viewing either crisis only through the Cold War overlooks the local political struggles described in the passage. Before sending troops, a president should ask what evidence shows that military action will protect people without worsening the crisis.

Accept comparisons using either the Dominican Republic or Grenada if they accurately distinguish the stated U.S. goals and the use of troops. The briefing should have five sentences and include a limit of the Cold War framing and a relevant question for a president.