# Cold War Choices

Sort actions that shaped the early Cold War.

**USH.C.6** "Analyze foreign events and policies during the early Cold War Era. Analyze the origins of international alliances and efforts at containment of communism immediately following World War II..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### CONTAINMENT

The United States and its allies used containment to limit the spread of Soviet influence. These actions could involve aid, diplomacy, or military support.

In 1946, the United States urged the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Iran.

### SOVIET PRESSURE

The Soviet Union used pressure to increase its influence or limit another country's independence. It could use treaties, political control, or military force.

In 1948, the Soviet Union pressured Finland to sign a treaty that limited Finland's foreign policy choices.

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each numbered action, then choose two items and explain how each action fits its category.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The United States funded Western Europe's recovery through the Marshall Plan. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **2.** | The Soviet Union blocked land routes into West Berlin in 1948. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **3.** | The United States joined NATO, whose members promised to defend one another. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **4.** | United States troops helped defend South Korea after North Korea invaded in 1950. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **5.** | The Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **6.** | Soviet troops crushed an uprising against communist rule in Hungary in 1956. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **7.** | The United States flew food and fuel into West Berlin during the Berlin Airlift. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |
| **8.** | The Truman Doctrine pledged United States aid to Greece and Turkey as they faced communist pressure. | CONTAIN PRESSURE |

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new historical example of containment and one of Soviet pressure, and name the country involved in each.

**CONTAIN** _____

**PRESSURE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Choose one action from each category in Part 1, and explain in two sentences how their opposing aims increased Cold War tensions.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Cold War Choices



## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The United States funded Western Europe's recovery through the Marshall Plan. | **CONTAIN** | The Marshall Plan helped rebuild Western Europe and reduce the appeal of communism. |
| 2 | The Soviet Union blocked land routes into West Berlin in 1948. | **PRESSURE** | The Berlin Blockade was a Soviet attempt to pressure the Western powers in Berlin. |
| 3 | The United States joined NATO, whose members promised to defend one another. | **CONTAIN** | NATO strengthened collective defense against possible Soviet expansion. |
| 4 | United States troops helped defend South Korea after North Korea invaded in 1950. | **CONTAIN** | The United States fought under a UN command to prevent a communist takeover of South Korea. |
| 5 | The Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries. | **PRESSURE** | The Soviet-led alliance strengthened its military influence over Eastern Europe. |
| 6 | Soviet troops crushed an uprising against communist rule in Hungary in 1956. | **PRESSURE** | The Soviet Union used military force to maintain control in Hungary. |
| 7 | The United States flew food and fuel into West Berlin during the Berlin Airlift. | **CONTAIN** | The airlift kept West Berlin supplied despite the Soviet blockade. |
| 8 | The Truman Doctrine pledged United States aid to Greece and Turkey as they faced communist pressure. | **CONTAIN** | The policy offered aid to countries considered at risk of communist expansion. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CONTAIN**: The United States supported the government of Laos against communist forces in the 1950s.
- **PRESSURE**: Soviet troops crushed protests against communist rule in East Germany in 1953.

**Challenge:** The United States joined NATO to help defend its members against possible attacks. The Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact with Eastern European countries, deepening Europe's military division and rivalry.

The sort has five containment actions and three Soviet pressure actions. For Part 2, look for explanations that identify who acted and connect the action to limiting or increasing Soviet influence.