Influence Across Borders

Trade agreements and security efforts in the 1990s

USH.C.8.4.A "Describe the United States of America's continuing global influence which contributed to the creation of NAFTA and NATO interventions to restore stability to the former Yugoslav republics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details showing how U.S. influence helped shape NAFTA, circle two details showing how it operated through NATO, and number one sentence showing a limit on U.S. power.

Two Ways to Shape Events

1. In the early 1990s, a truck carrying auto parts could cross from the United States into Mexico and face trade barriers that raised costs. U.S. leaders argued that lowering such barriers would link North American markets and expand trade. They negotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, with Canada and Mexico. The agreement took effect in 1994 and gradually removed many tariffs, taxes on imported goods, among the three countries. U.S. economic size and bargaining power helped shape this regional agreement, but all three governments had to agree to it. NAFTA was replaced by a new agreement in 2020.

2. Across the Atlantic, the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s led to wars among groups seeking control of territory. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a former Yugoslav republic, attacks on civilians and prolonged fighting drew international concern. The United States worked through NATO, a military alliance, rather than acting alone. In 1995, NATO launched air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces. U.S. diplomacy also helped bring the warring parties to the Dayton peace agreement. Afterward, a NATO-led force helped carry out its military terms. U.S. influence thus included military power and negotiation, both used with allies to reduce fighting.

3. The crisis in Kosovo showed another use of U.S. influence. Kosovo was then a province of Serbia, a former Yugoslav republic. In 1999, reports of violence against ethnic Albanian civilians and failed peace talks preceded a NATO air campaign against Yugoslav forces. Mass displacement intensified during the campaign. The United States played a leading role alongside other NATO members. Yugoslav forces withdrew, and a NATO-led security force entered Kosovo. The intervention ended that phase of fighting, but it did not settle every dispute over Kosovo's future. Together, NAFTA and these NATO actions show the United States shaping trade rules and security efforts through partnerships, not acting alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did U.S. economic influence help bring about NAFTA, and why did the United States need partners?

2. How did the United States use both NATO and diplomacy to help reduce fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

3. How did U.S. leadership within NATO affect the Kosovo crisis, and what did the intervention leave unresolved?

4. Compare how U.S. influence operated in NAFTA and in the NATO interventions. What role did other countries play in each?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence briefing for a new president recommending one principle for using U.S. influence abroad. Support it with evidence from NAFTA and either Bosnia and Herzegovina or Kosovo, then explain one limit shown by those events.

ANSWER KEY

Influence Across Borders

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.8.4.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing how U.S. influence helped shape NAFTA, circle two details showing how it operated through NATO, and number one sentence showing a limit on U.S. power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did U.S. economic influence help bring about NAFTA, and why did the United States need partners?	**U.S. leaders used the country's economic size and bargaining power to negotiate lower trade barriers, but Canada and Mexico also had to agree.**
2	How did the United States use both NATO and diplomacy to help reduce fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina?	**The United States worked with NATO, which launched air strikes and later helped carry out the peace agreement's military terms. U.S. diplomacy helped bring the warring parties to the Dayton agreement.**
3	How did U.S. leadership within NATO affect the Kosovo crisis, and what did the intervention leave unresolved?	**The United States helped lead NATO's air campaign and subsequent security effort. Yugoslav forces withdrew, but disputes over Kosovo's future remained.**
4	Compare how U.S. influence operated in NAFTA and in the NATO interventions. What role did other countries play in each?	**For NAFTA, the United States used economic bargaining to make trade rules with Canada and Mexico. In the former Yugoslav region, it used diplomacy and military power with NATO allies to reduce fighting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States should work with partners when trying to shape events beyond its borders. Its economic power helped it negotiate NAFTA, but Canada and Mexico also had to agree to the trade rules. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United States worked with NATO allies and used diplomacy to help reduce fighting. These examples show that partnerships can turn U.S. influence into shared action. They also show a limit: U.S. power alone could not make other governments accept an agreement.

Accept different principles if the response uses accurate evidence from NAFTA and one NATO intervention. The stated limit should follow from the passage, such as the need for partners or the unresolved disputes over Kosovo.