Power and Consequences

Weigh the effects and limits of Clinton-era decisions

USH.C.8.4 "Evaluate the major domestic and foreign policies of the William J. Clinton administration. Describe the United States of America's continuing global influence which contributed to the creation of NAFTA and NATO interventions to restore..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three government actions or policies, circle a goal or result of each, and put a star beside one cost or limit. Use your marks to weigh their effects.

Choices at Home and Abroad

1. At a border crossing in 1994, trucks carrying goods between Mexico and the United States entered a new trading era. The North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, joined the United States, Mexico, and Canada in reducing trade barriers. Negotiated under President George H. W. Bush, the agreement won congressional approval and President Bill Clinton's signature in 1993, then took effect in 1994. Clinton argued that wider trade would open markets for U.S. businesses and strengthen ties with neighbors. Critics warned that some U.S. factory jobs could move to lower-wage Mexico. NAFTA showed American influence, but its gains and costs were not shared equally.

2. In the former Yugoslavia, the breakup of a country led to wars and attacks on civilians. Clinton's administration used U.S. leadership within NATO, an alliance of North American and European countries, to respond. NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces in 1995 helped bring the sides to peace talks, which produced the Dayton agreement. In 1999, NATO bombed Yugoslav forces during the Kosovo conflict, seeking to halt attacks on ethnic Albanians; Yugoslav forces later withdrew from Kosovo. Supporters saw the campaigns as evidence that U.S. power could protect civilians. Critics questioned civilian casualties and whether bombing could secure lasting peace.

3. At home, Clinton's 1993 budget raised taxes on higher earners and limited some discretionary spending, the spending Congress sets each year. A growing economy boosted tax revenue; together these factors helped produce a federal budget surplus in 1998. Yet prosperity did not erase political conflict. In 1995, Timothy McVeigh bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. His anti-government violence showed that terrorism could arise within the United States. In 1998, the House impeached Clinton for perjury and obstruction of justice related to an investigation of his conduct. The Senate acquitted him in 1999, fueling debate about presidential accountability and Congress's power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did NAFTA demonstrate U.S. influence, and why might a U.S. factory worker have opposed it?

2. Compare the goals of NATO's actions in Bosnia and Kosovo. What limit did critics raise?

3. How did two Clinton-era policy choices and an economic condition help produce a federal budget surplus?

4. How did the Oklahoma City bombing and Clinton's impeachment each challenge Americans' views of government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph arguing which Clinton-era action in the passage had the most lasting effect on U.S. responsibilities or public trust. Support your choice with two specific details, compare it with another action, and acknowledge one cost or limit.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Consequences

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three government actions or policies, circle a goal or result of each, and put a star beside one cost or limit. Use your marks to weigh their effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did NAFTA demonstrate U.S. influence, and why might a U.S. factory worker have opposed it?	**The United States helped create a three-country agreement that reduced trade barriers. A worker might have feared that a factory job would move to lower-wage Mexico.**
2	Compare the goals of NATO's actions in Bosnia and Kosovo. What limit did critics raise?	**In Bosnia, NATO strikes helped bring the sides to peace talks. In Kosovo, NATO sought to halt attacks on ethnic Albanians. Critics questioned civilian casualties and whether bombing could secure lasting peace.**
3	How did two Clinton-era policy choices and an economic condition help produce a federal budget surplus?	**The 1993 budget raised taxes on higher earners and limited some discretionary spending. A growing economy boosted tax revenue. Together, these factors helped produce a surplus in 1998.**
4	How did the Oklahoma City bombing and Clinton's impeachment each challenge Americans' views of government?	**The bombing showed that anti-government terrorism could come from within the United States. The impeachment and acquittal fueled debate about presidential accountability and Congress's power.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

NATO intervention had the most lasting effect on U.S. responsibilities because it showed that American leadership could draw an alliance into conflicts beyond its members' borders. In Bosnia, NATO air strikes helped lead to the Dayton peace agreement. In Kosovo, NATO bombed Yugoslav forces, which later withdrew. NAFTA also extended U.S. influence by linking three economies through lower trade barriers, but it focused on markets rather than armed conflict. NATO's record was not simply a success: critics questioned civilian casualties and whether bombing could create lasting peace. Even with that limit, the two campaigns set an example of U.S. involvement in overseas crises.

Accept a different choice of action if the paragraph supports it with two accurate passage details, compares another action, and identifies a relevant cost or limit. For the marking job, accept any three identifiable actions or policies matched to passage-supported goals or results.