After the Invasions

Tracing the consequences of two U.S. wars

USH.C.9.1.B "Describe the consequences of United States engagement in the Afghanistan and Iraqi wars."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two consequences in Afghanistan, circle two in Iraq, and number two consequences shared by both wars to track how U.S. engagement affected people and governments.

What Followed the Fighting

1. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States invaded Afghanistan to target al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban government that had sheltered it. U.S. forces and Afghan allies drove the Taliban from power, but the war continued as Taliban fighters regrouped. Some Afghan girls gained access to school under the new government. Fighting also killed civilians and forced families to flee. When U.S. troops withdrew in 2021, the Taliban retook control and restricted girls' education.

2. In 2003, the United States invaded Iraq, arguing that Saddam Hussein's government possessed weapons of mass destruction. No active stockpiles of those weapons were found. U.S. forces removed Saddam, but the fall of his government did not bring lasting peace. Fighting among armed groups and attacks on civilians displaced millions of Iraqis. Years later, ISIS seized Iraqi territory, prompting another U.S. military campaign. Iraq held elections, but violence and political divisions continued.

3. Both wars had consequences far beyond the battlefield. Thousands of U.S. service members died, and many veterans returned with injuries or trauma. The United States spent trillions of dollars on the wars and their long-term costs, including veterans' care. Afghan and Iraqi civilians were also killed, lost homes, and faced disrupted daily life. These outcomes sparked debate in the United States about when military force can achieve its goals and who bears the costs when a war lasts for years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did control of Afghanistan change after the U.S. invasion and after the U.S. withdrawal?

2. How did the two changes in control affect Afghan girls' access to school?

3. Describe two consequences for Iraq after U.S. forces removed Saddam Hussein.

4. Describe two costs to the United States that the wars shared.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short note to a future president considering a long war. Use one consequence from each war and one shared consequence to explain two risks the president should weigh.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.9.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two consequences in Afghanistan, circle two in Iraq, and number two consequences shared by both wars to track how U.S. engagement affected people and governments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did control of Afghanistan change after the U.S. invasion and after the U.S. withdrawal?	**U.S. forces and Afghan allies removed the Taliban from power, but the Taliban retook control after U.S. troops withdrew in 2021.**
2	How did the two changes in control affect Afghan girls' access to school?	**Some girls gained access to school under the new government, but the Taliban restricted girls' education after retaking control.**
3	Describe two consequences for Iraq after U.S. forces removed Saddam Hussein.	**Violence displaced millions of Iraqis, and ISIS later seized Iraqi territory.**
4	Describe two costs to the United States that the wars shared.	**Thousands of U.S. service members died, and the United States spent trillions of dollars on the wars and long-term costs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

President, removing a government may not bring lasting peace: the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan, and violence displaced millions in Iraq after Saddam fell. Both wars also cost U.S. lives and money. Before sending troops, weigh those human costs and plan for what might happen after an initial victory.

Accept other passage-supported consequences. For the open task, look for evidence from each war, one shared consequence, and an explanation of two risks.