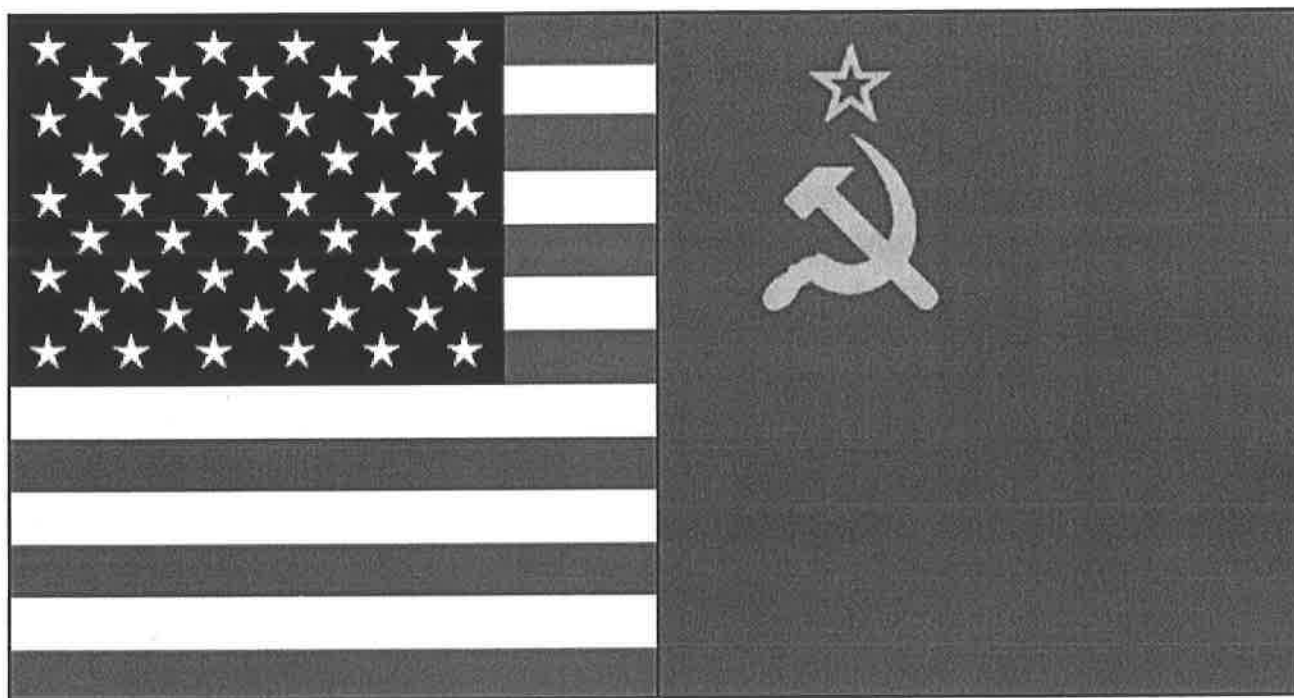

The Geography of the Cold War: What Was Containment?

EV



Overview: From the end of World War II in 1945 until 1991, the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a battle of nerves called the Cold War. Throughout almost all of this period the United States was guided by a foreign policy called ‘containment.’ This Mini-Q asks you to express your understanding of containment using mostly maps as your sources.

The Documents:

- Document A: The Long Telegram
- Document B: The Berlin Blockade and Airlift (map)
- Document C: The Korean War (map)
- Document D: The Cuban Missile Crisis (map)

A Mini Document Based Question (Mini-Q)

Step Two: Establishing the Context

General Instructions

- Review the Timeline on the Background Essay Questions page.
- Pre-teach the bold-faced vocabulary.
- Have students read, or read aloud, the Background Essay.
- Have students answer the Background Essay questions on the next page

Specific Considerations

The main purpose of the Background Essay is to create a context for the Mini-Q exercise. Its job is to provide a sense of time, place, story, and introduce important vocabulary and concepts. Doing this well gives all students a more equal chance to succeed with the Mini-Q.

Time: Be sure students review the Timeline on the Background Essay Questions page.

Place: Much of this Mini-Q is about maps and place. If students have a reasonable grounding in 20th century European political geography, the Hook exercise will be good review. If not, you may want to have students take a close look at eastern Europe on a wall map. Do students understand Stalin's motivation for wanting strong influence over a line of buffer countries from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic? (Remind students that the Soviet/US death ratio in World War II was 90:1.)

Another source of confusion may be the distinction between the Soviet Union and Russia. Created in 1922, the Soviet Union by 1940 was a collection of 16 republics. The largest of these republics, both in area and population, was Russia. In 1991, the Soviet Union was dismantled. The republics became independent countries.

Story: Consider reading the Background Essay aloud. We believe it is good for many students, even good readers, to hear the words as they see them. For many it is important to hear the cadence of the language, to experience pauses and emphasis.

Vocabulary and Concepts:

You may want to pre-teach the seven bold-faced terms in the essay. Our feeling about vocabulary is that some pre-teaching is good but keep the word list short. Understanding vocabulary is another reason for reading aloud.

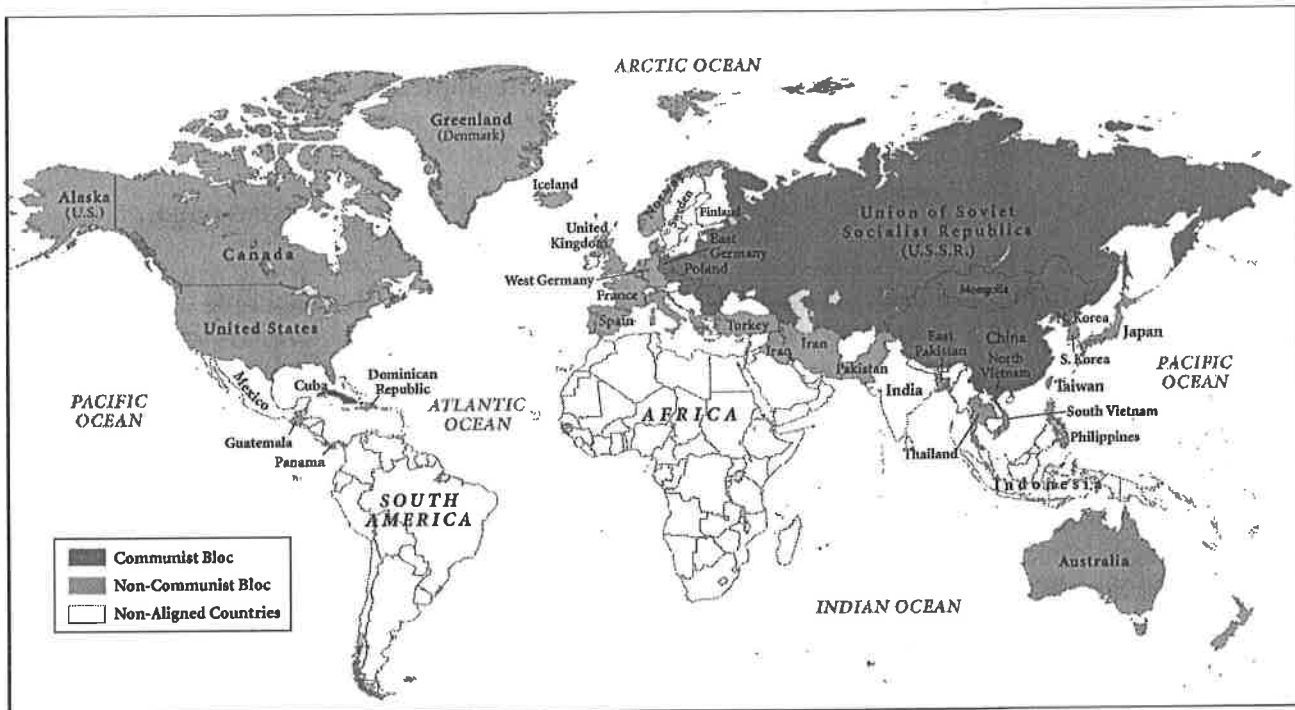
An Important Note on the Analytical Question

DBQ questions and Mini-Q questions often involve taking a position and making an argument. This Mini-Q is different. Rather the task is to explain the policy of containment by describing three different instances where containment was employed. The challenge is to develop three coherent storylines from somewhat fragmented evidence on the maps, like putting a puzzle together.

Hook Exercise: Containment

Directions: After World War II, most of the countries in the northern part of the world divided themselves into two large groups or blocs. One bloc was communist and was dominated by Russia, the largest republic in the huge country called the Soviet Union. The other bloc was largely democratic and was led by the United States. Examine the map below and answer the questions that follow.

Map: Two Worlds
Circa 1960



Questions

1. Including the Soviet Union, list two European countries in the communist bloc.
2. Excluding the Soviet Union, list the Asian countries in the communist bloc.
3. List five North American and European countries in the non-communist bloc.
4. List three Asian countries in the non-communist bloc.
5. With a partner, discuss why looking at this map would make both a Russian and American of 1960 very nervous. Write down your ideas.

Russian fears

American fears

Step One: The Hook

Teacher Note: The purpose of the Hook Exercise is to create some initial interest in the Mini-Q. Divide the class into pairs and give the students about ten minutes to examine and answer the questions. This is not the time for a lengthy discussion of the meaning of communism. That will come out of reading the Background Essay. For now, a simple statement about communism will suffice: Soviet communism did not trust democracy and was against private property and unequal wealth.

Answers to Questions:

1. Including the Soviet Union, list two European countries in the communist bloc.
Poland and East Germany (Not labeled: Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, et. al.)
3. Excluding the Soviet Union, list the Asian countries in the communist bloc.
China, North Korea, Mongolia, and North Vietnam
3. List five North American and European countries in the non-communist bloc.
United States, Canada, Iceland, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Spain, Norway, Turkey, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Denmark, Greece et. al.)
4. List three Asian countries in the non-communist bloc.
Japan, India, Pakistan and Thailand, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan
5. With a partner, discuss why looking at this map would make both a Russian and American of 1960 very nervous. Write down your ideas.
Russian fears: Americans and their allies are surrounding us on every side. America's support in Europe makes us very nervous given that we have been invaded twice this century and over 30 million Russians have died in these wars.

American fears: Yes, we have allies all over the world, but the enormous mass of land in Asia scares me because it is communist. We just fought a war in Europe and it looks like the Russians could attack at any minute. Also, it looks like Russia is expanding with Cuba now a communist country.

The Geography of the Cold War: What Was Containment?

It was a glorious meeting. On April 25, 1945, at the Elbe River in Germany, two powerful armies met. Coming from opposite ends of Europe, the Americans and Russians had cut Hitler's Germany in two. Now at the Elbe, soldiers from the Red Army of the Soviet Union reached out their hands to their American counterparts. It was a time for great happiness. World War II, the deadliest war in all of human history, was nearly over.

Unfortunately, the warmth of the handshakes did not last. The Soviet Union and the United States had serious differences. Their greatest difference was over a political and economic system called **communism**.

In its pure form, communism is a belief that private property should be replaced by community ownership. In the Soviet Union this idea was not easily accepted by the people. Russian leaders Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin were ruthless in their elimination of those who had different ideas about Russia's future. It is estimated that in the 1930s, Stalin was responsible for killing more than 10,000,000 Soviet people who he believed were in his way.

Soviet communists did not like **capitalism**. They opposed private ownership economies of the United States and its allies. Russian leaders believed that capitalism was doomed and that communism would spread throughout the world. This caused great tension and the emergence of a new kind of war, a **Cold War**. Mistrust ran deep. In the words of Winston Churchill, it was as if an "**iron curtain**" had been drawn between the Soviet-con-

trolled countries in Eastern Europe and the Western democracies.

The Soviets had suffered terribly in World War II, losing more than 27,000,000 soldiers and civilians. Stalin was determined that Germany would never be able to strike Russia again. To protect Russia, Stalin wanted a buffer zone in Eastern Europe, but he wanted more. It was no secret that Stalin and his successors wanted to expand the Soviet Empire.

If the Soviet policy was expansion, then the American policy was **containment**. Containment was the idea that the Soviet Union and Soviet communism should not be allowed to spread. One example of containment was the **Truman Doctrine**. In 1947, President Harry Truman declared that the United States would support "free peoples," like those in Greece and Turkey, who were being threatened by communists. The Truman Doctrine was followed by the **Marshall Plan**, which gave over 12 billion dollars in aid to help rebuild European democracies like France and West Germany. The idea was to give these countries resources so that communist ideas would not be so attractive.

By 1947 the United States and the Soviet Union were clearly on a collision course. Stalin and his successors were always looking for weak spots to push and probe, to test American commitment to containment. This Mini-Q features three occasions where the Soviets tested American containment policy. Your task is to examine the maps, then answer the question, *The geography of the Cold War: what was containment?*

EV

Background Essay Questions

1. What happened at the Elbe River in April 1945?
2. The Soviet Union and the United States believed in two very different economic systems. What were the names of each?
3. The Soviet Union had a total of two leaders between the early 1920s and the early 1950s. What were their names?
4. Why did Stalin want control of Eastern Europe after WW II?
5. Define each of the following:

communism

capitalism

Cold War

Iron Curtain

containment

Truman Doctrine

Marshall Plan

1945 – World War II ends

1946 – Winston Churchill delivers “Iron Curtain” speech in Fulton, Missouri

1947 – Jackie Robinson signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers

1948 – Congress approves the Marshall Plan

1948-49 – Berlin Airlift

1950-53 – Korean War

1955 – US stockpile of atomic bombs estimated at 4000; Soviets have 1000

1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis

Step Two: Establishing the Context (continued)

Answers to Background Essay Questions

1. What happened at the Elbe River in April 1945?

The Soviet and US armies met and shook hands.

2. The Soviet Union and the United States believed in two very different economic systems. What were the names of each?

Communism and capitalism

3. The Soviet Union had a total of two leaders between the early 1920s and the early 1950s. What were their names?

Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin

4. Why did Stalin want control over Eastern Europe after WW II?

Buffer states are nations that are in between countries that don't like each other. Stalin wanted buffer states between the Soviet Union and Germany so that Germany could not attack them again.

5. Define each of the following:

communism: an economic system that believes property should be owned not by individuals but by the workers together. It was against capitalism.

capitalism: an economic system where wealth and investment are controlled by individuals and corporations, not the government.

Cold War: the name for the period of conflict between the Soviet Union and her communist allies and the United States and her democratic, capitalist allies. The Cold War lasted from 1945 to 1991 when the Soviet Union fell apart.

Iron Curtain: Winston Churchill's term for describing the huge differences that separated the Soviet Union from the West

containment: the US policy of not letting the Soviet Union expand its empire

Truman Doctrine: a plan for containing communism and dictatorships by helping countries like Greece and Turkey get back on their economic feet

Marshall Plan: an expanded version of the Truman Doctrine and a part of the containment policy. The US ended up giving \$12 billion to help Europe rebuild after World War II.

Document A

Source: "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" by X, *Foreign Affairs*, April 1947.

Note: This is a short passage from an 8,000-word telegram that was secretly sent to US State Department officials on February 22, 1946. X turned out to be George Kennan, an American Foreign Service officer stationed in Moscow. Earlier in the "long telegram," Kennan makes two main points:

1. Stalin and the Soviets believe that communism is better than capitalism.
2. Stalin and the Soviets believe they will win.

EV

In these circumstances it is clear that the main element of any United States policy toward the Soviet Union must be that of a long-term, patient but vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies.

Document Analysis

1. When was this document first telegraphed to American officials in Washington? Was this before, during, or after World War II?
2. Who was X?
3. Looking at the Note, what were the two points X wants American policy makers to remember about the Soviet Union?
4. What would historians probably agree is the most important single word in the document passage?
5. What do you think X would say to an American president who wanted to invade the Soviet Union? What is your evidence?
6. What is the meaning of containment?

Document A: The Long Telegram

Content Notes:

- George Kennan (1904 – 2005) was a respected junior Foreign Service officer when he wrote the 8000 word long telegram. It quickly became the basis for American policy towards the Soviets. In the telegram, Kennan stated that Soviet intentions were expansionist and that would not change. The Soviets would continue to poke and prod looking for opportunities to expand their empire and spread communism. At times they would be tough but they were not fools and would back off when met with resolve. However, said Kennan, Stalin and the Soviets believed time was on their side. Capitalism was inherently flawed because it was greedy. Capitalist nations would soon be at each other's throats. It was historically determined that communism would emerge the victor.
- Kennan believed that the response to Soviet expansionism should be containment. It should be measured, unexcitable, rational, never trying to drive the Soviets into a corner.
- Even though it was a classified document, Stalin got hold of the long telegram and read it with great interest. He had his ambassador in Washington prepare a reply in which the United States was also described as expansionist and striving for world domination.
- It is of further interest that not long after he wrote his telegram, Kennan fell out of favor with some decision makers in Washington. Kennan felt that his ideas had been misinterpreted. He favored more negotiation with the Soviets.

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss the Document Analysis questions:
 1. When was this document first telegraphed to American officials in Washington? Was this before, during, or after World War II?

The telegram was sent February 22, 1946, six months after the end of World War II.
 2. Who was X?

George Kennan, a member of the American foreign service serving in Moscow

3. Looking at the note, what were the two points X wants American policy makers to remember about the Soviet Union?

The Soviets strongly believed communism was better than capitalism. They also believed that they and communism would eventually win out over the United States.

4. What would historians probably agree is the most important single word in the document passage?

Containment

5. What do you think X would say to an American president who wanted to invade the Soviet Union? What is your evidence?

Kennan would advise against invasion. He specifically says to be patient and hang in there over the long term.

6. What is the meaning of containment?

Containment means to keep something from spreading. In this case, it means to keep the Soviet empire and communism from spreading.

- Explain to students that containment was a delicate business, especially because of nuclear bombs. In the years immediately after the war, the United States was the only country in the world with an atomic bomb. This weapons advantage ended abruptly in August 1949 when the Soviets successfully tested their own A-bomb. The successful test caught America off guard. Containment would have to be conducted very carefully.
- Mention to students that the US containment policy would be tested again and again by the Soviets. The next three documents each present one of these Soviet tests. The job of the students will be two-fold:
 1. Examine the document carefully and try to discover the story line of what was happening. That is, what did the Soviet side do; what did the US do?
 2. Explain how each event – the Berlin Blockade and Airlift, the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis – demonstrates the policy of containment.

Document B

Source: Map created from various sources.

1. At the end of WW II, Germany was occupied by four major powers. The western three zones unified and became West Germany. East Germany was communist, but the old capital of Berlin was divided up between the four powers.

2. On June 27, 1948, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union decided to blockade any shipments (including food) coming into West Berlin.

3. West Berlin was completely surrounded by communism and may have had to surrender if it had not been for the US and its allies.

4. America and its allies decide to support the West Berliners by air, flying in supplies for the over two million people for nearly a year. Everything from food to coal was provided. It was a stunning turn of events given that Americans had just three years earlier been fighting Hitler and the Germans.

5. On May 12, 1949, Stalin removed the blockade. Harry Truman and the nation were thrilled.

Legend:
 West Germany
 East Germany
 Airlift Routes
 Soviet Blockade
 Airfields

EV

Document Analysis

1. "In 1948, western Berlin was a pro-American island in a Soviet sea." Explain.
2. What did the Soviets do between June 27, 1948, and May 12, 1949?
3. Why do you suppose the Soviets did what they did?
4. How did Britain, the United States, and France respond to the June 27th action?
5. How does this document demonstrate the American policy of containment?

Document B: The Berlin Blockade and Airlift

Content Notes:

- As students should now know, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged from World War II as superpowers. In conferences at Yalta (February 1945) and Potsdam (August 1945) Germany was divided into four zones –Soviet, American, British and French. The capital city of Berlin, located well within the Soviet zone, was itself divided into four sectors.
- In late 1947 and early 1948 the three Western nations in Berlin decided to combine their sectors. Berliners were concerned about their security, and with good reason. By then Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania were firmly under Soviet communist control. Berliners feared that the Western powers might give into the growing Soviet presence and leave Berlin unprotected. This was the jittery mood when Stalin closed all surface transport into western Berlin in June of 1948.
- According to Cold War historian John Lewis Gaddis, it is still not clear what Stalin's motive was for blockading Berlin. It may have been as Teaching Tip answer #5 suggests below, that Stalin did want to force out the Western countries. But about that motivation Stalin once said, "It is all lies.... It is not a blockade, but a defensive measure."
- During the winter of 1948-49 Berliners lived largely on powdered eggs, dried potatoes and cans of meat. Electricity was restricted to about four hours a day. Electric power was generated by coal, an airlifting coal for tow million people was a special challenge. The spirits of west Berlin children were buoyed by airdrops of chocolate candy. All in all, the airlift was a remarkable effort.

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss the Document Analysis questions:

1. "In 1948, western Berlin was a pro-American island in a Soviet sea." Explain.

Berlin is geographically located in eastern Germany and in 1948 was completely surrounded by the Soviet zone. Its only physical connection with western Europe were

three flight corridors, the autobahn (highway), and a rail line.

2. What did the Soviets do between June 27, 1948, and May 12, 1949?

The Soviets blockaded all rail and auto-ban connections between western Berlin and western Germany.

3. Why do you suppose the Soviets did what they did?

The Soviets had "expansive tendencies" (Doc.A). They probably wanted to isolate the three western Berlin sectors from the West and eventually take them over.

4. How did Britain, the United States, and France respond to the June 27th action?

The US, Britain and France decided to save western Berlin with an airlift. For about a year they supplied Berlin entirely by plane, averaging one flight every three minutes and landing on three different airfields – Tegel in the French Sector, Gatow in the British sector, and Tempelhof in the American Sector.

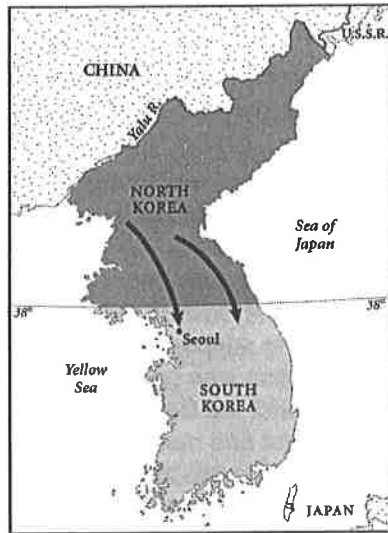
5. How does this document demonstrate the American policy of containment?

The Soviet blockade appears to have been done in order to squeeze the Western pro-democracy, pro-capitalism allies out of Berlin. This would have been one more step in a Soviet push to spread its influence across Europe. The allied airlift was an effort to contain this Soviet push. It showed great patience, just like X had recommended in his long telegram. The US, Britain and France didn't go in with guns blazing.

- A math problem for students: In 1948 the population of western Berlin was about 2 million. On average each individual required one ton of supplies (milk, wheat, coal, etc.) to survive one year. If the typical cargo plane carried eight tons of supplies each trip, how many flights were needed to keep the people of western Berlin alive for a year? (Answer: 250,000. In fact, the actual number of flights was 270,000.)

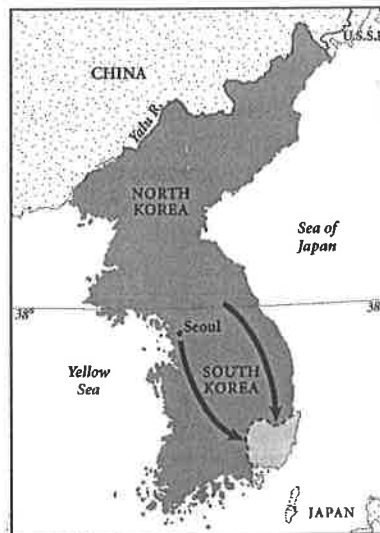
Document C

Source: Map created from various sources.



June 25, 1950

1 Communist North Korea (supported by the Soviet Union) invades US-supported South Korea. The attack comes without warning and President Harry Truman, with the help of the United Nations, vows to defend democratic South Korea.

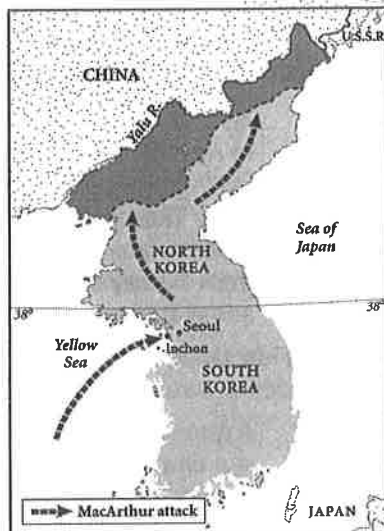


September 14, 1950

2 American forces occupying Japan after WWII are sent to defend South Korea. The US and United Nations forces are nearly pushed off the Korean peninsula. The American commander is General Douglas MacArthur.

EV

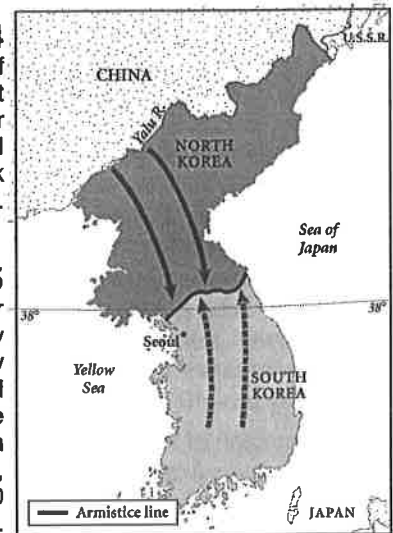
3 MacArthur stages a risky, yet successful counterattack at the port of Inchon. North Korean forces are routed and pushed back all the way to the Yalu River, the border of North Korea and communist China.



November 25, 1950

4 In November of 1950, communist China enters the war and pushes the UN and US forces back into South Korea.

5 The war drags on for several years, finally ending in 1953 very close to the original 1950 borders. The war caused more than two million deaths, including over 50,000 Americans.



July 27, 1953

Document Analysis

1. On what date did North Korea first invade South Korea?
2. Who supported North Korea? Who supported South Korea?
3. North Korea only invaded when the Russian leader Stalin gave his approval. From what you know about Stalin, what was his motive?
4. Why might Communist China have decided to help North Korea?
5. How does this document demonstrate the American policy of containment?

Document C: The Korean War

Content Notes:

- Korea had been part of Japan since 1910. After World War II, the Soviet Union and the United States divided Korea at its waist along the 38th parallel. This was done with United Nations approval. The idea was that the two superpowers would eventually withdraw and Korea would be reunited under a single government. In fact, the US and the Soviets did withdraw in 1948-49 but the reunification did not take place.
- At this time the United States was involved in strengthening its military position in Japan and the Philippines. The United States Secretary of State Dean Acheson even announced that Korea was outside the US defense perimeter. This announcement caught Stalin's attention. His decision to encourage a North Korean invasion was based on his belief that the US would not come to South Korea's aid.
- President Harry Truman and his advisors took only a few hours to decide to help the South Koreans. Truman was being consistent with American containment policy. He believed that if Soviet-backed North Korea were able to disregard a UN approved border, the whole system of international security could fall like a house of cards. It was again time to fight back and to contain.
- The war's length was largely due to Stalin. He pushed both China and North Korea to continue the fight but both of these nations were exhausted by war. When Stalin died in 1953, the war came to an end.
- Recent archival material has disclosed that Soviet and American planes did actually encounter each other in combat over the peninsula. At the time, both countries realized the danger of escalation and had an unspoken agreement to keep the matter quiet.
- Casualties in the Korean War were horrendous. The death toll for American soldiers was over 50,000, for Chinese soldiers at least 600,000, and for Korean soldiers and civilians more than two million. In a country smaller than California, the Koreans lost about twice as many people in three years as the US has lost in all the wars it has ever fought.

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss these Document Analysis questions:

1. On what date did North Korea first invade South Korea?

June 25, 1950

2. Who supported North Korea? Who supported South Korea?

North Korea was supported by the Soviet Union and Communist China. South Korea was supported by the United States and United Nations soldiers.

3. North Korea only invaded when Stalin gave his approval. From what you know about Stalin, what was his motive?

We learned in the Background Essay, and we know from the Berlin Blockade, that Stalin was always trying to spread Soviet power and communist ideas. Here he may have seen an opportunity to have South Korea do the expanding for him.

4. Why might Communist China have decided to help North Korea?

China was communist. It may have shared the Soviet Union's goal to spread communism.

5. How does this document demonstrate the American policy of containment?

The maps indicate that the United States joined the fighting sometime in the summer or early fall of 1950. Under MacArthur, the US helped the South Koreans push North Korea back to the Chinese border. When the Armistice Line was established in 1953 and fighting stopped, the border between North and South Korea was set near its original position. This indicates that the US helped hold the Soviet ambitions in check. In other words, the United States had once again contained communism.

- It is our belief that there is enough information tucked into the document for students to create a rough story of the Korean War. It is the kind of task that historians face all the time – limited data and a need to create a narrative that makes some sense. Encourage students to give it their best shot. It is like putting together a puzzle with some of the pieces missing.

Document D

Source: Map created from various sources.



Cuban Missile Crisis Timeline

January 1959: Cuba becomes communist under Fidel Castro.

April 1961: Bay of Pigs invasion with US support fails. Castro remains in power.

May 1962: Soviets secretly begin shipping 40,000 troops, 60 missiles and 158 nuclear warheads to communist Cuba.

October 15, 1962: US spy planes find evidence of medium range nuclear missile sites being rapidly installed in Cuba.

October 23: US announces a quarantine against ships carrying offensive weapons to Cuba.

Oct. 24: Numerous Soviet transport ships stop dead in water just outside the quarantine line.

Oct 25: Soviet SS-4 nuclear missiles become operational.

Oct. 28: Soviets begin to remove missiles, crisis is avoided.

April 1963: In a quiet agreement with Soviets, US removes missiles from Turkey.

EV

Document Analysis

1. What was the date of Fidel Castro's communist takeover in Cuba?
2. What is a quarantine? (Note: The Soviets had to look the word up.)
3. Using only information from the map, tell the Cuban Missile Crisis story.
4. How does United States action in Cuba demonstrate the policy of containment?

Document D: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Content Notes:

- Joseph Stalin died in 1953 and Nikita Khrushchev became the de facto leader of the Soviet Union in 1955. When Castro marched into Havana on January 1, 1959, Khrushchev and the Kremlin were both surprised and delighted; surprised because this had been achieved without Soviet help, and delighted because communism now had a toe-hold in the Western hemisphere.
- At first Castro sought US support but this effort failed. The United States broke off relations with Cuba. When John Kennedy became President in early 1961, he inherited an ill-conceived invasion plan from the Eisenhower administration. The Bay of Pigs failed for several reasons, not the least of which was that Castro had more Cuban support than the US realized.
- Flying at 90,000 feet and taking photos that resolved images down to six inches, U-2 spy planes discovered missile placements in Cuba. Kennedy was very clear he had to confront the Soviets. At the time both Khrushchev and Kennedy knew that the US had a huge advantage in inter-continental ballistic missiles. The placement of medium-range and intermediate-range Soviet missiles in Cuba greatly enhanced Soviet nuclear striking power. Kennedy feared it would also embolden revolutionaries throughout Latin America and cause wobbly pro-US governments to lose heart.
- The tension of the 13 days in October was palpable both in the White House and in the Kremlin. For the only time during the entire Cold War, United States went on DEFCON-2, a readiness state just short of war. An off-course U-2 plane over Siberia and an exhausted Soviet submarine captain in the Caribbean almost triggered nuclear exchanges. Nerves were raw. Leaders and advisors were sleep-deprived. Now that the Kremlin archives are open, historians know even more clearly how close we came to war.

Teaching Tips:

- Review the Document Analysis questions with students.
 1. What was the date of Fidel Castro's communist takeover in Cuba?
January 1, 1959
 2. What is a quarantine? (Note: The Soviets had to look the word up.)
A quarantine is a blockade.

3. Using only information from the map, tell the Cuban Missile Crisis story.

After the Cuban communist revolution in 1959 the United States was unhappy. The US supported an attempt to remove Castro in 1961. This was called the Bay of Pigs invasion and it failed. Because of the invasion attempt, the Soviets may have felt that they had to support the Cubans if the Cuban revolution was going to survive. In May of 1962 the Soviets began to send 40,000 troops and material for setting up medium range missiles that could strike American cities. These missiles carried nuclear warheads. The Kennedy administration learned about the missile installation on October 15th and on October 23rd announced a quarantine (blockade) of Soviet ships carrying offensive weapons. The Soviet ships did not try to run the blockade. The Soviets began pulling out their missiles a couple of days later. The crisis was over. About six months later, the US pulled its missiles from Turkey indicating there had been some kind of a deal.

4. How does the United States action in Cuba demonstrate the policy of containment?

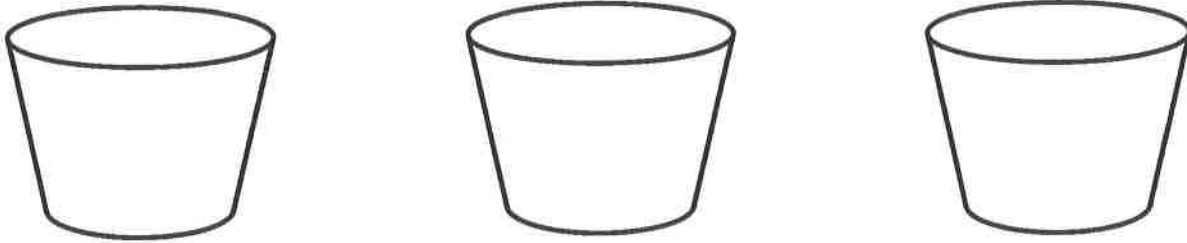
A quarantine is a blockade, and a blockade is a direct form of containment. It would appear that the United States was continuing to follow its Cold War policy of not allowing Soviet power to spread, especially so close to the US. The US had kept the Soviets out of western Berlin, out of South Korea, and now the Soviets were pressed to remove their missiles from Cuba.

- In early 2008 Fidel Castro's brother Raul officially replaced Fidel as president of Cuba. Castro, despite illness, remained an important influence. Question for students: Does the fact that Fidel Castro and communism continued even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, mean that America's containment policy was a failure? (A jury of historians would probably say, partial failure. However, in the big picture Soviet communism was contained. Even where communism exists today, in China, for example, its embrace of capitalism gives it a Western face. North Korea is simply its own animal.)

Bucketing – Getting Ready to Write

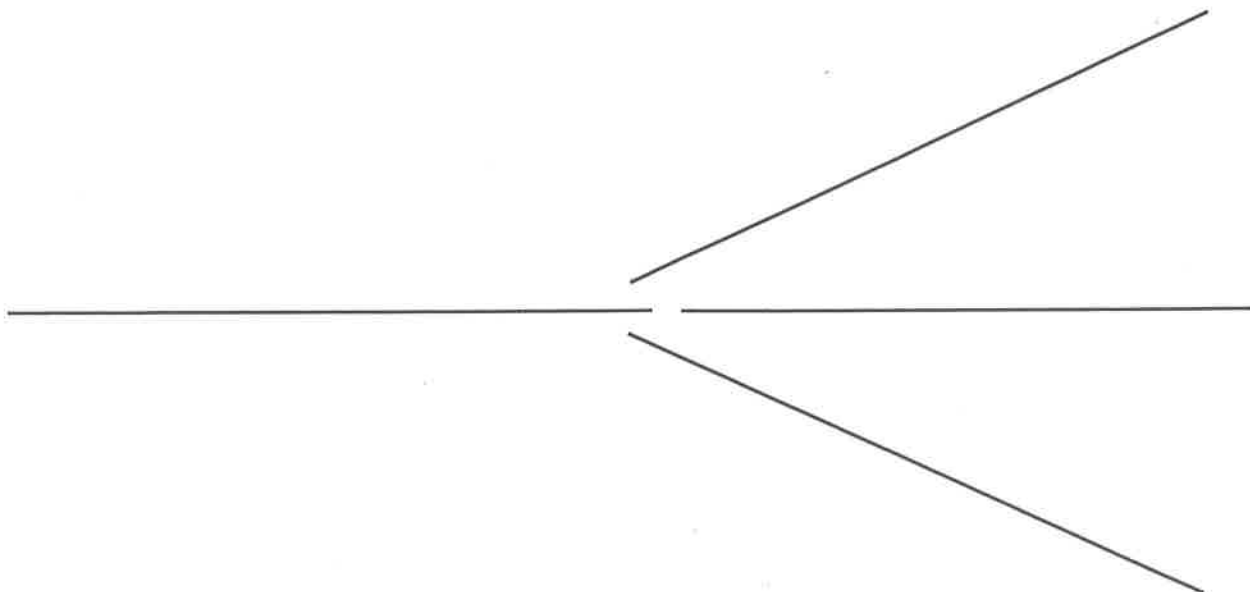
Bucketing

Look over all the documents and organize them into your final buckets. Write final bucket labels under each bucket and place the letters of the documents in the buckets where they belong. It is okay to put a document in more than one bucket. Remember, your buckets are going to become your body paragraphs.



Thesis Development and Roadmap

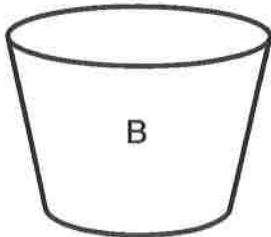
On the chickenfoot below, write your thesis and your roadmap. Your thesis is always an opinion and answers the Mini-Q question. The roadmap is created from your bucket labels and lists the topic areas you will examine in order to prove your thesis.



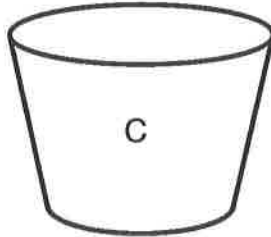
Step Five: Bucketing – Getting Ready to Write

Task One: Bucketing

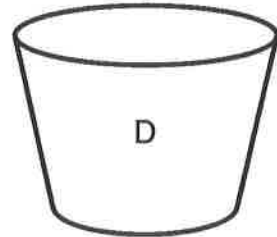
Look over all the documents and organize them into your final buckets. Write final bucket labels under each bucket and place the letters of the documents in the buckets where they belong. It is okay to put a document in more than one bucket. Remember, your buckets are going to become your body paragraphs.



The Berlin Airlift



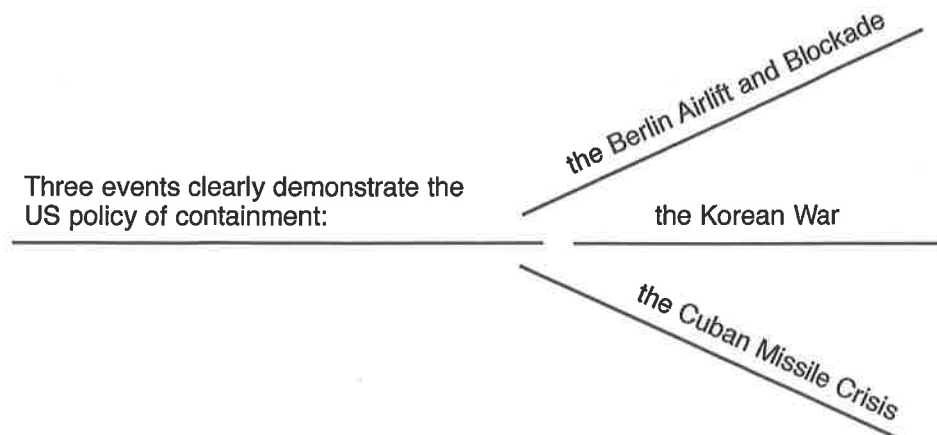
The Korean War



The Cuban Missile Crisis

Task Two: Thesis Development and Roadmap

On the chickenfoot below, write your thesis and your roadmap. Your thesis is always an opinion and answers the Mini-Q question. The roadmap is created from your bucket labels and lists the topic areas you will examine in order to prove your thesis.



Step Six: From Thesis to Essay Writing

Mini-Q Essay Outline Guide

Working Title Geography of the Cold War: What Was Containment?

Paragraph #1

Grabber: "Amen. And I hope the Russians don't attack."

Background: After World War II, the US and Soviet Union stood face to face. Capitalism, democracy, and freedom of expression versus communism, dictatorship, and limited freedoms. Soviets wanted to expand. What should US do? George Kennan, a US foreign service agent in Moscow, suggested containment.

Stating the question with key terms defined: What was containment? What did it look like in action?

Thesis and roadmap: Three examples help explain what containment was: the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis

Paragraph #2

Baby Thesis for bucket one: One example of containment was the Berlin airlift.

Evidence: supporting detail from documents with document citation

June 1948 to May 1949 Stalin blockaded all land routes in and out of western Berlin.

(Doc B, map) US, England and France broke the blockade by carrying out an airlift for almost a year. Flew in 270,000 planeloads of supplies from food to coal. (Doc B)

Argument: connecting evidence to the thesis

Airlift was a good example of containment. It kept western Berlin free and kept communism and Soviet power from spreading.

Paragraph #3

Baby Thesis for bucket two: A second example of containment was the Korean War.

Evidence: In 1950 communist North Korea invaded South Korea, an American ally. US joined in to drive North Korea back. North Korea had support of both China and Soviet Union. (See maps and notes, Doc C) Ended where it had begun at 38th parallel.

Argument: Korea was a good example of containment. US with big help from South Korea and United Nations kept Communism and Soviet influence from spreading into South Korea.

Paragraph #4

Baby Thesis for bucket three: A third example of containment was the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Evidence: In 1959, revolution in Cuba under Fidel Castro. In 1962 Soviets begin secret installation of missile in Cuba. US spy planes discover missiles and US announces blockade of island. Lots of tension. Several days later Soviets agree to withdraw missiles. (Doc D)

Argument: Good example of containment. Blockade keeps Soviet power from spreading into Western Hemisphere.

Paragraph #5

Conclusion: Restatement of main idea along with possible insight or wrinkle

Cold War was filled with tension. Nuclear war always a possibility. Containment policy was about holding the line against Soviets and communism but being patient and waiting for Soviets to fall apart by itself. That is what happened.

Mini-Q Sample Essay

Geography of the Cold War: What Was Containment?

When my grandfather was a small boy growing up in Milwaukee in the late 1940s he always ended his bedtime prayers with "Amen. And I hope the Russians don't attack."

For a young boy, and for most Americans, these were scary times. After World II ended, the Soviet Union and the United States found themselves facing off in a new conflict called the Cold War. On the one side was dictatorship, communism, and limited freedoms. On the other side was democracy, capitalism, and freedom of expression. The Soviets were committed to expanding communist ideas and Soviet power. But what should the United States do? One answer came from an American Foreign Service officer working in Moscow named George Kennan. Kennan wrote that the best response to the Russians was "a long-term, patient but vigilant containment." (Doc A) But what exactly did that mean? What would containment look like in action? Three examples of containment help tell the story: the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Berlin airlift began in June 27, 1948, and lasted until May 12, 1949. The Soviets under their leader Joseph Stalin had decided to shut off all land routes connecting western Berlin with the democratic countries to the west. (Doc B, map) Stalin seemed to be scaring England, France, and the United States so that they would abandon western Berlin and leave that part of the city to the communists. It appeared to be an act of expansion. So, following George Kennan's advice in his famous telegram, the West responded by patiently airlifting all food, clothing, coal and other goods to keep the western Berliners alive and well for nearly one year. They flew in about 270,000 planeloads of supplies. (Doc B) It was an excellent example of containment because the airlift kept communism from spreading into western Berlin.

Unfortunately, a second example of containment was a lot more violent. After World War II, Korea was divided into two parts, a communist North assisted by the Soviet Union, and a non-communist South assisted by the United States. In the summer of 1950, communist North Korea attacked South Korea. (Doc C) The United States decided to enter the war. It was not easy, and hundreds of thousands of people, mostly Koreans, died. The maps tell the story of how the South Koreans were almost pushed off the peninsula, then how the Americans under General MacArthur helped push the North Koreans back to the Chinese border, then how the Chinese communist army joined the North Koreans and pushed the Americans and the South Koreans back to the 38th parallel. In the end it looked like a draw, but in fact it was a successful case of containment. The United States and South Korea along with United Nations soldiers had held the original line at the 38th parallel. Communism was again contained.

A third example of containment was the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1959, Cuba under Fidel Castro carried out a successful revolution and set up a communist government. Three years later the Soviet Union began to secretly install medium range missiles on the island which were capable of striking the east coast of the United States. US spy planes discovered the missile sites and eight days later the US announced a blockade of the island. (Doc D) It was a very tense time. At the last minute the Russian leaders decided not to send their ships through the quarantine line and war was avoided. Five days later on October 28, 1962 the Russians began to remove their missiles from Cuba. Like Berlin and Korea, this was another case where the United States stood firm against the expansion of Soviet power and kept it contained.

The years of the Cold War were filled with tension. Each side knew the other had nuclear bombs. A mistake by either side could bring a nuclear disaster. Containment was a smart policy for America to follow. The idea was not to go after the Soviets with guns blazing, but patiently to hold back the Soviet Union and wait for the day when it might fall apart all by itself. In fact, this is what happened.

From Thesis to Essay Writing

Mini-Q Essay Outline Guide

Working Title

Paragraph #1

Grabber

Background

Stating the question with key terms defined

Thesis and roadmap

Paragraph #2

Baby Thesis for bucket one

Evidence: supporting detail from documents with document citation

Argument: connecting evidence to the thesis

Paragraph #3

Baby Thesis for bucket two

Evidence

Argument

Paragraph #4

Baby Thesis for bucket three

Evidence

Argument

Paragraph #5

Conclusion: Restatement of main idea along with possible insight or wrinkle

EV

