

SS.7.C.4.3

Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

SS.7.C.4.3 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will identify specific examples of international conflicts in which the United States has been involved.

The United States Constitution grants specific powers to **Congress** and the **president** when it comes to dealing with other nations, especially during conflicts.

Article I of the Constitution discusses the powers of the legislative branch (Congress) and grants the power to declare war, the power to approve spending (on the military) and the power to raise an army and navy. The U.S. Senate is given the sole power to ratify treaties in Article II.

Congress has used its power to declare war five times in United States history. Two of these wars took place during the 20th century (1900-1999).

1. **World War I** – declared war on Germany after German U-Boats sunk British submarines and merchant ships carrying U.S. citizens.
2. **World War II** – declared war on Japan after Japan bombed a naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Hawaii was a U.S. territory at the time.

Article II of the Constitution discusses the powers of the executive branch (president) and grants the president the title of Commander in Chief. This means that the president is in charge of the military and has the power to send troops overseas.

Presidents throughout history have been known to interpret their power as Commander in Chief to mean that they can send U.S. military troops into conflict or “war-like” situations without a formal declaration of war from Congress. Examples of this include U.S. involvement in the **Korean War** (1950-1953), the **Vietnam War** (1964-1975), **Gulf War I** (1990-1991) and **Gulf War II** (2003 – present).

Congress - the national legislative body of the U.S., consisting of the Senate, or upper house, and the House of Representatives, or lower house

Gulf War I - a military conflict in 1991 between Iraq and a coalition force of 34 nations mandated by the United Nations and led by the U.S., also known as the Persian Gulf War

Gulf War II - the 2003 military conflict Iraq, also called the Iraq War or "Operation Iraqi Freedom", began March 20, 2003, initiated by the U.S., the United Kingdom and other nations

Korean War - a war between North and South Korea; South Korea was aided by the U.S. and other members of the United Nations from 1950-1953

president - the head of the executive branch

Vietnam War - a military conflict (1954-1975) between the Communist forces of North Vietnam supported by China and the Soviet Union and the non-Communist forces of South Vietnam supported by the U.S.

World War I - a war between the allies (Russia, France, British Empire, Italy, U.S., Japan, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Montenegro) and the central powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria) from 1914 to 1918

World War II - a war that began on July 7, 1937 in Asia and September 1, 1939 in Europe and lasted until 1945; it involved most of the world's countries



SS.7.C.4.3

Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

SS.7.C.4.3 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will identify the reasons for the United States becoming involved in past international conflicts.

There are several reasons that can lead a nation into international conflicts. These reasons might include military conflicts, trade issues, or violated agreements. The United States has been involved in several international conflicts throughout history.

International Conflict	Reasons for Involvement
Bays of Pigs Invasion (Cuba, 1961)	<p>The Bay of Pigs is a small bay off the coast of Cuba in the Caribbean Sea. This location was the site of an attempted invasion of Cuba by a group of people who were against the dictator, Fidel Castro. This became known as the Bay of Pigs Invasion.</p> <p>The United States led this attempted invasion in hopes of putting an end to the threat of communism so close to the U.S. (Cuba is only 90 miles away from the Florida Keys)</p>
Cuban Missile Crisis (Cuba, 1962)	<p>In 1962, tensions were high between communist and non-communist nations during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The USSR (Soviet Russia) decided to put missiles in Cuba to threaten the U.S. President Kennedy threatened military action and after a 13-day political and military standoff, the tense situation ended and further conflict, including war, was avoided.</p>
Iran Hostage Crisis (Iran, 1979-1980)	<p>In 1979, a group of Iranian students supporting the Iranian Revolution took over the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran and held 66 U.S. citizen diplomats hostage for 444 days. During the Iranian Hostage Crisis President Carter said that the U.S. would “not yield to blackmail”, which meant that the U.S. was not willing to use diplomacy to secure the release of the hostages. After Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980, diplomacy was used with Iran and the hostages were released on January 20, 1981, the day of President Reagan’s inauguration.</p>
Terrorism September 11 th , 2001	<p>On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked (took by force) four airplanes in the U.S. and flew them into the World Trade Center in New York City, NY and the Pentagon in Virginia, near Washington, DC. Another plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Over 3,000 Americans lost their lives as a result of this attack.</p> <p>The World Trade Center was a business center that included two 110 story buildings. The Pentagon is the headquarters of the U.S. military leadership. Terrorists are individuals who use violence to achieve political goals such as a change of government leadership or independence.</p> <p>This attack killed several thousand innocent Americans. The terrorist group who did this was Al Qaeda (which was led by Osama bin Laden). Another</p>



International Conflict	Reasons for Involvement
	<p>group, the Taliban, who ruled most of the country of Afghanistan, allowed Al Qaeda to live in Afghanistan and train for the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.</p> <p>The U.S. military and its NATO allies responded by invading the country with the help of the Northern Alliance. Together, they took the Taliban out of power in Afghanistan (The Northern Alliance is an Afghan group that fought against the Taliban.) The battle to keep Afghanistan's new government stable was still going on as of 2014.</p>

allies - nations united with another for some common purpose such as assistance and protection

communism - a form of government in which a single ruling party owns and controls all production and distribution of goods, and in which no private ownership is allowed

diplomacy - the work of keeping up relations between the governments of different countries

embassy - the residence or office of a country's ambassador

military action - members of the U.S. military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) having a presence in another country typically involving the use of force to stop conflict

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a group of 28 countries that has agreed to protect each other in case of attack; founded in 1949

terrorism - the use of extreme fear as a means of achieving a goal



SS.7.C.4.3

Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

SS.7.C.4.3 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will analyze primary source documents pertaining to international incidents to determining the course of action taken by the United States.

Primary source documents are original materials. Original materials may include speeches by elected officials such as presidents, appointed officials such as Cabinet members, U.S. Supreme Court opinions, legislation, party platforms, campaign posters and other documents.

Below are short passages from primary source documents pertaining to international incidents that influenced the course of action taken by the United States.

International Incident	World War I (1914-1918; the United States declared war on Germany in 1917)
Primary Source and Date	President Woodrow Wilson, speech to a joint session of Congress, April 2, 1917.
Passage	Gentlemen of the Congress: I have called the Congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made, and made immediately, which it was neither right nor constitutionally permissible that I should assume the responsibility of making.
Meaning of Passage	Congress has the sole power to declare war. President Wilson is asking Congress to declare war on Germany immediately. President Wilson is stating that the U.S. Constitution does not give him the power to declare war.
International Incident	World War II (1939-1945; the United States declared war on Japan in 1941)
Primary Source and Date	President Franklin Roosevelt, speech to a joint session of Congress, December 8, 1941.
Passages	<i>Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.</i> <i>.....I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.</i>
Meaning of Passage	Congress has the sole power to declare war. President Roosevelt is asking Congress to declare war on Japan because of Japan's naval and air attack on the U.S. military base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Hawaii was a U.S. territory at the time of the attack.



International Incident	Korean War (1950-1953)
Primary Source and Date	President Harry Truman, "Statement by the President on the Situation in Korea", June 27, 1950
Passage	In Korea the Government forces...were attacked by invading forces from North Korea...I have ordered United States air and sea forces to give the Korean Government troops cover and support.
Meaning of Passage	North Korea invaded South Korea (called "Korea" in this passage). The U.S. government supported South Korea because it was a democratic country while it opposed North Korea because it was a communist country. President Truman, in his Commander in Chief role, is ordering that the United States military support South Korea in its efforts to resist further invasion by North Korea.

International Incident	Vietnam War (1956-1975)
Primary Source and Date	Joint Resolution adopted by the U.S. Congress, August 24, 1964, "Tonkin Gulf Resolution"
Passage	To promote the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia. Whereas naval units of the communist regime in Vietnam, in violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, have deliberately and repeatedly attacked United States naval vessels lawfully present in international waters, and have thereby created a serious threat to international peace;... <i>Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.</i>
Meaning of Passage	North Vietnamese navy units attacked U.S. navy ships. The U.S. Congress stated that it supported President Lyndon Johnson as Commander in Chief to defend the U.S. military's presence in international waters near South Vietnam and to prevent future attacks.

Commander in Chief - one role of the president is to lead the U.S. military forces

communist - a form of government in which a single ruling party owns and controls all production and distribution of goods, and in which no private ownership is allowed

Korean War - a war between North and South Korea; South Korea was aided by the U.S. and other members of the United Nations from 1950-1953

Vietnam War - a military conflict (1954-1975) between the Communist forces of North Vietnam supported by China and the Soviet Union and the non-Communist forces of South Vietnam supported by the U.S.

World War I - a war between the allies (Russia, France, British Empire, Italy, U.S., Japan, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Montenegro) and the central powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria) from 1914 to 1918

World War II - a war that began on July 7, 1937 in Asia and September 1, 1939 in Europe and lasted until 1945; it involved most of the world's countries



SS.7.C.4.3

Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

SS.7.C.4.3 Benchmark Clarification 4: Students will identify the different methods used by the United States to deal with international conflicts.

There several different methods that have been used by the United States in order to deal with international conflicts. These methods include: declaring war, **diplomacy**, military invasions, developing **alliances** with other nations, joining international organizations such as **NATO** or the **UN**, increasing tariffs (taxes levied on imported or exported goods) and trade barriers (limitations on trading certain goods or with certain nations), isolation (not getting involved in other nations' conflicts) or **treaties**. Each nation's government has to be dealt with differently and the United States has demonstrated throughout history that it will do just that to protect U.S. borders and American citizens.

alliance - a union between nations for assistance and protection

diplomacy - the work of keeping up relations between the governments of different countries

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a group of 28 countries that has agreed to protect each other in case of attack; founded in 1949

treaty - an agreement or arrangement between two or more countries

UN - United Nations, an organization founded in 1943 to keep the peace, develop friendly relationships among countries, and improve the quality of life for the world's poor people; consists of 193 member countries



The Florida Joint
Center for Citizenship
A Partnership for Florida's Civic Health
<http://floridacitizen.org>