

### SS.7.C.4.3

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

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**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

