

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

