

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