

1.

**DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION***Directions:*

Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least *four* documents in the body of the essay.

**Historical Context:**

Throughout its history, the United States has followed different foreign policies to promote its interests. These policies have included neutrality, imperialism, containment, and internationalism. Specific actions have been taken and specific programs have been established to carry out these policies.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you:

- Describe *two* different United States foreign policies
- Discuss *one* specific action or program the United States has used to carry out *each* foreign policy
- Evaluate the extent to which the action or program used was successful in carrying out *each* foreign policy

**Guidelines:****In your essay, be sure to:**

- Address all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least *four* documents
- Incorporate information from the documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduce the theme by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Context* and conclude with a summation of the theme

2. . . . The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop. . . .

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. . . .

Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice [whim]?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world. . . .

– George Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

According to this document, what United States foreign policy did President George Washington favor?

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3. . . . the American continents . . . are . . . not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers. . . .

In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor does it comport [fit] with our policy so to do. . . . We owe it, therefore, . . . to the amicable [friendly] relations existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we . . . shall not interfere. . . .

– James Monroe's message to Congress, 1823

a According to this document, what foreign policy did President James Monroe support?

b What did President Monroe say about wars in Europe?

4. "On Our Way to Rio Grande"  
The Mexicans are on our soil  
In war they wish us to embroil  
They've tried their best and worst to vex [worry] us  
By murdering our brave men in Texas  
We're on our way to Rio Grande  
On our way to Rio Grande  
On our way to Rio Grande  
And with arms [guns] they'll find us handy. . . .

Source: George Washington Dixon, 1846 song about the Mexican War; Erik Bruun and Jay Crosby, eds. Our Nation's Archive, Black Dog Leventhal Publishers, 1999

Prior to the Mexican War, President Polk sent John Slidell, a United States negotiator, to Mexico to offer to settle the disputes between the two nations

. . . . And yet again, in his [President Polk's] message of December 7, 1847, that "the Mexican Government refused even to hear the terms of adjustment which he (our minister of peace) was authorized to propose, and finally, under wholly unjustifiable pretexts [reasons], involved the two countries in war, by invading the territory of the State of Texas, striking the first blow, and shedding the blood of our citizens on our own soil:" And whereas this House [of Representatives] is desirous to obtain a full knowledge of all the facts which go to establish whether the particular spot on which the blood of our citizens was so shed was or was not at that time our own soil: . . . .

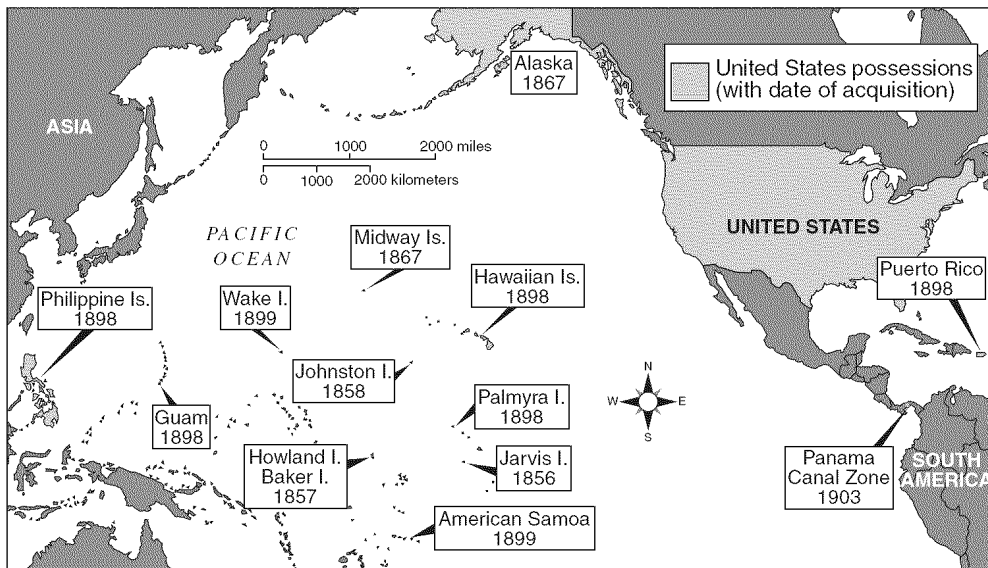
Source: Abraham Lincoln, "Spot" Resolutions in the House of Representatives, December 22, 1847; Congressional Globe, 30th Congress, 1st Session

According to these documents, what role did the Rio Grande play in the Mexican War?

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5.

### United States Expansion, 1857–1903



Source: Briggs and Fish-Petersen, *Brief Review in United States History and Government*, Prentice Hall, 2001 (adapted)

According to this map, how did the location of these possessions promote or protect United States interests?

6. . . . No people came to believe more emphatically than the Americans that the Great War [World War I] was an unalloyed [absolute] tragedy, an unpardonably costly mistake never to be repeated. More than fifty thousand American doughboys [soldiers] had perished fighting on the western front, and to what avail? So far from being redeemed by American intervention, Europe swiftly slid back into its historic vices of authoritarianism and armed rivalry, while America slid back into its historic attitude of isolationism. Isolationism may have been most pronounced in the land locked Midwest, but Americans of both sexes, of all ages, religions, and political persuasions, from all ethnic groups and all regions, shared in the postwar years a feeling of apathy toward Europe, not to mention the rest of the wretchedly quarrelsome world, that bordered on disgust. "Let us turn our eyes inward," declared Pennsylvania's liberal Democratic governor George Earle in 1935. "If the world is to become a wilderness of waste, hatred, and bitterness, let us all the more earnestly protect and preserve our own oasis of liberty." . . .

Source: David M. Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, Oxford University Press, 1999

Based on this document, state *one* reason many Americans wanted to return to a policy of isolationism after World War I.

7. . . . The lend-lease-give program is the New Deal's triple A foreign policy; it will plow under every fourth American boy. Never before have the American people been asked or compelled to give so bounteously [much] and so completely of their tax dollars to any foreign nation. Never before has the Congress of the United States been asked by any President to violate international law. Never before has this Nation resorted to duplicity [deception] in the conduct of its foreign affairs. Never before has the United States given to one man the power to strip this Nation of its defenses. Never before has a Congress coldly and flatly been asked to abdicate. If the American people want a dictatorship—if they want a totalitarian form of government and if they want war—this bill should be steam-rolled through Congress, as is the wont [desire] of President Roosevelt. Approval of this legislation [Lend-Lease bill] means war, open and complete warfare. I, therefore, ask the American people before they supinely [passively] accept it, Was the last World War worth while? . . .

Source: Senator Burton K. Wheeler, speech in Congress, January 21, 1941

Based on this document, state *one* reason Senator Wheeler was opposed to the Lend-Lease bill.

8.



**"STEP ON IT, DOC!"**

What United States foreign policy is illustrated by this cartoon?

9. . . . I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted [control] by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.

I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes. . . .

– Harry Truman's request for funds to support

Greece and Turkey against communism, Message to Congress, 1947

a According to this document, what foreign policy did President Harry Truman support?

b What type of assistance did President Truman think the United States should provide to free peoples?

**President John F. Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev**



Source: Herbblock, *Washington Post*, November 1, 1962 (adapted)

... I speak of peace because of the new face of war. Total war makes no sense in an age when great powers can maintain large and relatively invulnerable nuclear forces and refuse to surrender without resort to those forces. It makes no sense in an age when a single nuclear weapon contains almost ten times the explosive force delivered by all the allied air forces in the Second World War. It makes no sense in an age when the deadly poisons produced by a nuclear exchange would be carried by wind and water and soil and seed to the far corners of the globe and to generations yet unborn....

In short, both the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its allies, have a mutually deep interest in a just and genuine peace and in halting the arms race. Agreements to this end are in the interests of the Soviet Union as well as ours — and even the most hostile nations can be relied upon to accept and keep those treaty obligations, and only those treaty obligations, which are in their own interest....

Source: President John F. Kennedy, Commencement Address at American University, Washington, D.C., June 10, 1963

10. Based on these documents, what are *two* reasons the United States and the Soviet Union needed to address the issue of nuclear war?

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11. Why are we in South Vietnam? We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Vietnam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Vietnam defend its independence. And I intend to keep our promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemy, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong . . . .

– Lyndon B. Johnson, April 26, 1965

According to this document, what are *two* reasons President Lyndon B. Johnson sent troops to Vietnam?

12. ... You have to give both [President Richard] Nixon and [National Security Advisor Henry] Kissinger the credit—Nixon because he is the president. It was his clear feeling that we ought to move toward China. I think that he also understood that because of his anti-communist credentials, it would be easier for him than, say, for [Senator] Hubert Humphrey. More importantly, he knew that China would become an important country; our approach to China would give the Soviet Union an incentive to have better relations with us, in that they might get a bit nervous about our dealings with the Chinese. Indeed, within months after the announcement of Kissinger's secret trip, we had an agreement on a summit meeting with the Soviets, as well as a breakthrough on SALT [Strategic Arms Limitation Talks], and on the Berlin negotiations. Kissinger had, independently, come to the same conclusions, for the same reasons....

Source: Winston Lord in Gerald S. and Deborah H. Strober, *Nixon: An Oral History of His Presidency*, HarperCollins, 1994

According to Winston Lord, what are *two* ways the new United States policy toward China improved United States–Soviet relations?

13. . . . Our action in the [Persian] Gulf is about fighting aggression and preserving the sovereignty of nations. It is about keeping our word . . . and standing by old friends. It is about our own national security interests and ensuring the peace and stability of the entire world. We are also talking about maintaining access to energy resources that are key, not just to the functioning of this country but to the entire world. Our jobs, our way of life, our own freedom [and that] of friendly countries around the world would all suffer if control of the world's great oil reserves fell into the hands of that one man, Saddam Hussein.

So, we've made our stand not simply to protect resources or real estate but to protect the freedom of nations. We're making good on long-standing assurances to protect and defend our friends. . . . We are striking a blow for the principle that might does not make right. Kuwait is small. But one conquered nation is one too many.

– George Bush, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, 1990s

According to this document, what *two* reasons did President George Bush give for the United States protecting Kuwait?

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