



The U.S. & The World: SS.7.CG.4.3
International Conflicts
VIDEO #5 SCRIPT



Espionage and Sanctions (Cold War and War on Terror)

1. Sometimes conflicts arise between the United States and other nations that have to be dealt with, and there are many different ways we can approach these conflicts.
2. For example, we can use peacekeeping operations, humanitarian action, military action, sanctions, espionage, declaring war, or using diplomacy, and in this video, we're going to look at espionage and sanctions.
3. After watching the video, you will be able to:
 - Identify specific examples of international conflicts in which the United States has been involved
 - Understand different methods used by the United States to deal with international conflicts
4. It's pretty important for you to be sure to view the other videos in this module to really get a sense of how the United States has approached international conflict. But for this video, we're going to look at two particular conflicts, the Cold War and the War on Terror and the idea of using sanctions and espionage as ways to approach international conflict.
5. The Cold War was a time period between 1947 and 1991 that had the free market and democratic United States opposing the actions of the Communist and totalitarian Soviet Union. It was called a 'cold war' because the US and the Soviets never actually fought against each other; instead, they sought to influence other countries, and would support their allies in those countries with money and weapons.
6. For example, the US supported the mujahideen in Afghanistan, who fought against the Soviet influence on their government. The Soviets, meanwhile, supported communist revolutionaries in Latin America and Africa who fought against US influence in their countries.
7. Espionage is generally defined as using spies or other secret tactics to get information or take actions that benefit your country at the expense of another country. For example, during the Cold War, Soviet spies sought to get access to American nuclear secrets and weaken democracies, while spies from the United States would often seek to find ways to overthrow governments not friendly to the United States or gain economic information that could help our nation and industry. The Central Intelligence Agency is the main espionage agency for the United States, under the control of a director nominated by the president and approved by the Senate.

8. Another important tool the United States uses in international conflicts is sanctions. Sanctions against other countries include forbidding travel, freezing their wealth, not allowing them to purchase weapons, reducing foreign aid, and banning economic trade. This can have a huge impact on countries under sanction, devastating their economies. The US hopes to use sanctions to force governments to change their behavior.

9. Sanctions played a large part in the Cold War. For example, the United States still has sanctions on Cuba, our communist neighbor to the south, and it has destroyed its economy, as has communism.

10. Sanctions also play a role in the ongoing War on Terror. The War on Terror, which began after the attacks of September 11, 2001, involves the United States and other nations opposing terrorist organizations like Al Qaeda, ISIS, and others through military, diplomatic, and economic means.

11. Iran, for example, is a country that has supported terror organizations in the past, and it is a country that does not like the United States. In fact, the US once used espionage to help overthrow a government in Iran and replace it with one that supported the US. That government was eventually overthrown by a revolution and the new government continues to dislike the United States. Because Iran has sponsored terror attacks on the United States and its ally Israel, the United States has ongoing sanctions against them. We also used sanctions against countries like Iraq and Afghanistan for supporting terror.

12. For example, when Iran took US hostages in 1979, the US used multiple sanctions: banned trade, froze Iranian Bank assets, and stopped buying oil.

13. Let's check in. Try to answer each of the following questions in your own words.

14. What is the War on Terror?

ANSWER TO QUESTION

15. What was the Cold War?

ANSWER TO QUESTION

16. How does the United States use espionage and sanctions to try and influence other countries?

ANSWER TO QUESTION

17. In this video, we learned about two ways the US has dealt with international conflict: espionage and sanctions. But remember, that's not the only way. If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out the other approaches to international conflict covered in this module. Video One: World War One and World War Two; Video Two (military action against communism): Korea, Vietnam, and the Bay of Pigs. Video Three (military action in the Middle East): Gulf War One and Gulf War Two. And Video Four (diplomatic action): Cuban Missile Crisis and the Iran Hostage Crisis.