



The U.S. and the World:
 SS.7.CG.4.3
International Conflicts
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.4.3 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will analyze primary source documents pertaining to international incidents to determine 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, laws, political party platforms, campaign posters, and other documents.

Below are short passages from primary source documents about international events that influenced actions taken by the United States.

International Incident	World War I (1914-1918; the United States declared war on Germany in 1917)
Primary Source & 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 and Germany in 1941)
Primary Source & Date	President Franklin Roosevelt, speech to a joint session of Congress, December 8, 1941.
Passage	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 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.

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 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 & 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 and opposed North Korea because it was a communist country. President Truman, in his Commander in Chief role, is ordering the U.S. military to go to South Korea in its efforts to resist further invasion by North Korea.

International Incident	Vietnam War (1956-1975)
Primary Source & Date	Joint Resolution adopted by the U.S. Congress, August 10, 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 ships 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 in international waters near South Vietnam and to prevent future attacks.

Commander in Chief - the role of the president to lead U.S. military forces

communist - a country with communism as its form of government; a form of government in which a single ruling party owns and controls the entire economy, 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 countries; it was fought 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 Allied Powers (including Russia, France, British Empire, Italy, the U.S., Japan, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Montenegro), and the Central Powers (including Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria); that lasted from 1914 to 1918

World War II - a war that began in 1937 in Asia, in 1939 in Europe, and in 1941 in the U.S.; it lasted until 1945 and involved most of the world's countries