



AP[®] US History (Operational) 2004 Sample Student Responses

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After the second world war, the united states became increasingly afraid of the spread of communism. The discovery of nuclear weapons promised a more effective ~~way~~ ^{way} to fight communism ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~provided~~ "more bang for the buck". Dulles developed the theory of massive ~~retaliation~~ ^{retaliation} to assure communists not to mess around with the united states. America's commitment to its policy of containment was unsuccessful in its fight in Asia and Latin America. However, even though Asia and Latin America were failures, ~~the~~ the United States interference showed the world that the United States would not allow communism to expand without a fight.

The Vietnam war was a failure for the United States. The US went in on the southern, ^{mostly Western} side against the northern, communist regime. Although the United States had just been ~~the~~ victorious in a world war, they could not defeat the vietcong, the communist group in Vietnam. For years, and with thousands of American deaths, the United States continued fighting in Vietnam with ~~very~~ ^{in Vietnam} very little success and ^{little} support from home. The US tried everything, destroying Vietnam ~~even~~ economically, ruining the paths for the northern Vietnamese to get supplies, and even "vietnamization", which tried to win the "hearts and mind" of the people and train the southern Vietnamese to fight for themselves.

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However, none of these worked, and the United States left without success, and ^{with} ~~the~~ huge losses in soldiers and ^{huge debts} ~~money~~ from Vietnam.

Like Vietnam, ~~the~~ the United States' attempt to ^{stop the spread of} ~~stop~~ Communism in Cuba was unsuccessful. At the beginning, when Cuba began to befriend the Soviets, the US tried to discourage this by allowing only a certain amount of exports from Cuba. This only caused ~~Cuba~~ Cuba to become closer with the Soviets, the US's enemy. Relations were further worsened when the Bay of Pigs mission ^{was discovered and} failed and during the Cuban missile crisis when the Soviets and US both realized they had nuclear missiles aimed after one another. ~~The Cuban~~ Cuba became communist and the United States completely severed their relations. The United States trying to move Cuba towards their side only pushed Cuba more towards the Soviets.

Interventions in Cuba and Vietnam were failures for the ~~the~~ United States. However, the resistance they put up to the spread of communism showed the world that they would not allow communism to expand without a fight. The Presidents ~~of~~ of the United States are still nervous about the spreading of communism and will do anything to prevent it. During the twentieth century, the United States' policy of containment was unsuccessful, but showed,

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the word that the US would not lay down and
allow such ~~to~~ can enter spread.

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The United States Cold War policy of containment from the period ~~from~~ 1945-1975 proved mostly successful in Europe and semi-successful in East and South East Asia. The U.S. halted ~~the~~ Communist expansion in Europe for the most part by doing somewhat of a reverse in Asia. In Korea, the Communists were stopped, but in Vietnam, Communism prevailed, resulting in a tragedy for Americans and a failure in the policy of containment to Communism.

Immediately following World War II, President Truman adopted the U.S. policy of containment in Europe. In 1947, he established the Marshall Plan in Europe. This plan called for pouring ~~the~~ ^{into} ~~an~~ enormous amount of money in order to rebuild the country so that the weak government would not be infiltrated by Communist rule. This plan proved successful in that the countries ~~are~~ ^{receiving} funding from the plan did not become Communist. Truman also ~~offered~~ stated that ~~under~~ if a ~~country~~ ^{country} was endangered of a Communist ~~to~~ take over, ~~they~~ Americans would help establish another form of rule. This occurred in Turkey. In Turkey, a Communist threat emerged, but the U.S. helped establish a dictatorship. This proved effective in the Cold War Containment Policy.

By the mid 1950s, ~~to~~ with Eisenhower president, Communist containment had become somewhat successful.

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At the Summit Conference in the late 1950s, Eisenhower and Russian leader Khrushchev discussed possible peaceful resolutions. Peace seemed near but was cut short when a U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia. This enraged Khrushchev. This represents a ~~failure~~ failure in Cold War containment because it could have led to extreme circumstances such as nuclear war. Much of the ~~same conflict~~ ^{same conflict} ~~until~~ ^{continued until} ~~in 1961 when~~ 1975 and some of the focus of Cold War containment shifted to Asia.

~~In 1950~~, the U.S. proved ~~was~~ successful in containing communism in East Asia, but failed in ~~containing~~ containing communism in Southeast Asia. In Korea in 1950 when North Korea attacked South Korea, the U.S. was very successful in pushing the Communist North Korea well into North Korea. ~~They almost halted~~ ^{the} ~~prev~~ ^{the} U.S. prevented further expansion of communism to South Korea quite effectively. On the contrary, in ~~South~~ Southeastern Asia, primarily in Vietnam, the containment of communism failed. With Dien established as a Democratic leader in South Vietnam, the leader of North Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, successfully attacked and invaded South Vietnam. The Viet Cong also ~~helped~~ ^{helped} spread communism throughout South Vietnam. With the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, President Johnson sent a large amount of U.S. troops into

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Vietnam. Prior to Johnson's presidency, Eisenhower and Kennedy had both increased U.S. soldiers and weapons sent to Vietnam. Johnson now sent in countless numbers of ~~more~~ men and supplies. The guerrilla warfare proved treacherous and because of the invincibility of the Viet Cong to U.S. soldiers, the task of containment was ~~virtually~~ extremely difficult. In 1968, the Tet Offensive saw over twenty cities in South Vietnam become involved ^{by} ~~in~~ ^{the} communists. This began the large downfall in the Vietnam War. By 1973, Nixon had ended the war with agreement that the North Vietnamese could keep soldiers in Saigon. President Ford pulled out the ~~rest~~ remaining soldiers in Vietnam and Vietnam fell to communist rule.

Clearly, Cold War containment from 1945 to 1975 proved ~~quite successful~~ ^{also} quite successful in Europe while ^{also} successful in Korea, but a failure in Vietnam.

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After World War II, the United States was highly distrustful of the Soviet Union. American policymakers viewed the Soviet Union as the mastermind of revolution that wanted to blanket the world in a monolithic force of Communism. Sincerely, the United States feared that the Soviet Union ~~was~~ was trying to take over the world, so ^{the U.S.} imposed ~~its own~~ a policy to contain communism's spread. This containment policy was practiced all over the world, including Europe and ^{East and Southeast} Asia, and while it did not completely prevent the spread of communism, it was largely successful in keeping ~~it~~ communism contained.

In Europe, the containment policy was met with the most success. President Truman took a series of measures that insured ~~democracy~~ a democratic western Europe and halted the spread of communism. He announced the Truman Doctrine when ~~not~~ communist revolutionaries were fighting in Greece and Turkey. He pledged American support to anti-communist factions and secured large amounts of financial aid for the two countries through Congress. Greece and Turkey ~~was~~ later became democracies and U.S. allies. ^{The U.S.} He gave vast amounts of economic assistance to all European nations ~~to~~ that did not favor communism. This was known as the Marshall Plan and was offered mostly to western European democracies. It ~~stop~~ insured stability and stopped the spread of communism west. ^{The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)} ~~NATO~~ was also ~~formed~~ to ~~formed~~ as an alliance between America

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and ~~not~~ ~~the~~ the democracies of Europe. This military alliance helped insure the solidarity of the democracies and showed their determination to stop the spread of communism. Thanks ^{in large parts} to these efforts, ~~in large parts~~ communism did not spread in Europe beyond those countries occupied by the Soviet Union after World War II.

In ^{East and Southeast} Asia, the American containment policy was less successful, but ultimately it prevailed and did stop the spread of communism. American policymakers were driven by the ~~domino theory~~, Domino Theory, or the belief that if one country falls to communism, so would others around it. After the nationalists of Chiang Kai-shek were driven to Taiwan and ~~the~~ the communists led by Mao announced a communism regime in China, President Truman was blamed for ~~losing~~ losing China. The U.S. applied itself with more zeal to Asian containment in Asia. The ^{United Nations} ~~UN~~ forces led by the U.S. successfully stopped a North Korean communist invasion of South Korea. In Vietnam, U.S. forces engaged the Vietcong in a brutal war lasting until 1974. Despite massive U.S. troop involvement since the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and U.S. ~~military~~ technological ~~super~~ superiority, popular support for the war ~~dropped~~ ^{dropped} and the U.S. was forced to withdraw. While Vietnam fell to communism, the rest of Southeast Asia did not. The Domino Theory did not ~~substantiate~~ substantiate itself.

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Despite ~~the fact that~~ ^{the fact that} China, North Korea, and Vietnam became Communist in Asia, ~~the~~ ^{the} rest of Asia did not fall to communism. The containment policy stopped the spread of communism to South Korea, and the costly struggle in Vietnam probably bought time for ~~the U.S. forces~~ ^{the U.S. forces} in ~~the~~ ^{the} capitalist economies in Southeast Asia to take root, ~~and~~ ^{and} stopping the spread of communism there.

The U.S. containment policy designed to stop the spread of communism succeeded very well in Europe and while it was not completely effective in ~~the~~ ^{the} East and Southeast Asia, ~~it~~ ^{it} did ~~not~~ ^{not} prevent the majority of countries there from becoming communist. The containment policy in Europe was hugely successful because of the stability and prosperity brought on by the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, and NATO. In ~~the~~ ^{the} Asia, American involvement in costly wars helped buy time for fledging capitalist economies. While China, North Korea, and Vietnam became communist, ~~South Korea~~ ^{South Korea} countries such as South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~stayed~~ ^{remained} capitalist democracies.