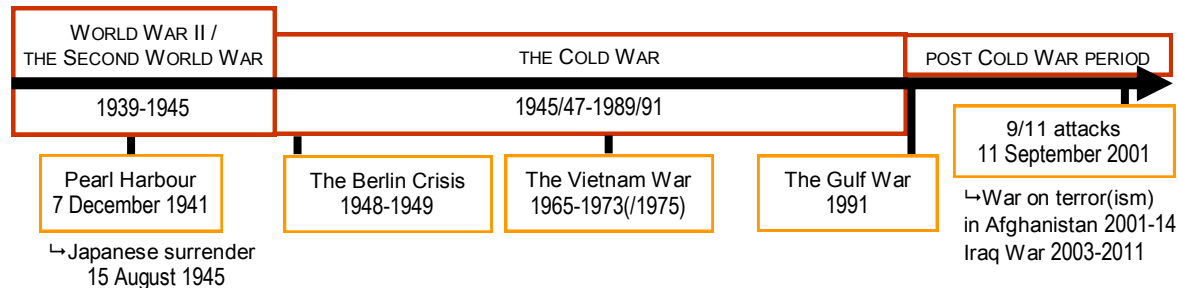


HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶ NOTIONS

Introduction ◀ America at war 1941-2011 ▶ 1h rectifier date Afghan war sur timeline online



What were the different types of conflict the USA was involved in?

The Cold War (question timeline):

(Definition) What is it ? confrontation USSR / USA by all means except direct war because they had nuclear weapons (used as a deterrent because it is a **weapon of mass destruction**-(chemical, biological, nuclear weapons) ; without face-to-face combat/fight but **proxy** or indirect war possible.

(Reason) Because 2 different models: Soviet communist dictatorship based on equality versus US market democracy based on freedom + their allies = 2 (Western & Eastern) blocks separated by the iron curtain in Europe after **the Soviet take-over** of Eastern Europe (1945-1948) i.e. communist parties seizing power by free or rigged election & other means.

(Consequence) => containment (also called **the Truman Doctrine** (1947); US foreign policy to prevent Soviet expansion, the spread of communism viewed as a threat due to the **domino theory** (if one country falls to communism, its neighbours will be contaminated and fall too) & **Marshall Plan** (1948-1952): \$13 bn of US aid to rebuild Western Europe (Eastern Europe refused under Soviet pressure).

“Hot”, “shooting” wars (images)

Starting a war

- **aggression:** offensive, surprise attack, invasion against international law
- **prevention:** attacking, striking 1st to prevent a possible, probable, potential attack
- => - **retaliation:** striking (in revenge) back after an attack
- **liberation:** to free a people, country from invasion

Waging war

- **More or less involvement**
 - **total war** : civilians on home front & armed forces on the frontline - on air, sea, land. (WW)
 - ≠ **limited war:** characterized by the restrained use of weapons and military options
 - **escalation:** progressive involvement ≠ **all-out war:** massive military operations
- **From military to civilian targets**
 - **war of annihilation:** to eradicate troops but also populations targeted on purpose
 - **dirty (≠ clean) war:** disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force, mainly on civilians,
- **Different opponents, different wars**
 - **symmetric warfare:** between two states, with similar power, resources, tactics,
 - **dissymmetric warfare:** between a weak and a strong state with same tactics,
 - **asymmetric warfare** between a state formal military using conventional means and an informal, weaker but resilient opponent fighting unconventionally (Terrorism or **guerrilla war**: small group ambushing, harassing a superior force with a hit and run tactics) => **quagmire**: a situation that is so difficult, dangerous or complicated that progress is impossible.

Knowledge

Key notions

- Cold War, proxy war; hot war, war of aggression, escalation, annihilation, retaliation, liberation, prevention, guerrilla war, clean or dirty war ; symmetric, dissymmetric, asymmetric warfare

History

- Mémoriser les noms & dates des conflits mentionnés

Vocabulary

- To wage war, weapons of mass destruction,

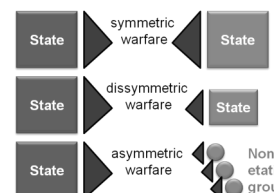
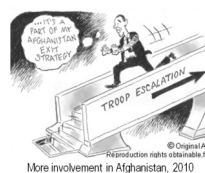
Skills

History

- Identifier les différents types de conflits et justifier

English

- Fluency in dates & period (between, for...to)



HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶ METHOD

Method ◀ Commenting on 2 documents ▶

GUIDELINE	FIGHTING AND WINNING WORLD WAR II
<p>Four years ago, the thoughts and fears of the whole civilized world were centered on another piece of American soil—Pearl Harbor. The mighty threat to civilization which began there is now laid at rest. [...] We shall not forget Pearl Harbor. [...]</p> <p>On land and sea and in the air, American men and women have given their lives so that this day of ultimate victory might come and assure the survival of a civilized world. No victory can make good their loss. [...] Our thoughts go out to the millions of American workers and businessmen, to our farmers and miners—to all those who have built up this country's fighting strength, and who have shipped to our Allies the means to resist and overcome the enemy.</p> <p>President Truman's radio address to the American people after the signing of Japan's unconditional surrender, September 1, 1945.</p>	

GUIDELINE	US FORCES, FROM DECLINE TO REVIVAL
<p>So long as our forces are restricted to advising and assisting the South Vietnamese military, the struggle will remain a civil war between North and South Vietnam in which we are not involved. Once we deploy substantial numbers of troops it will become a war between the U.S. and a large part of the population of South Vietnam, organized by North Vietnam and backed by the resources of both Moscow and Beijing.</p> <p>Mr President, the decision you face now is a crucial one. Once large numbers of U.S. troops are committed to direct combat in Vietnam, they will begin to take heavy casualties in a war they are ill-equipped to fight in a non-cooperative if not downright hostile countryside.</p> <p>Report on Vietnam to President Johnson, George Ball U.S. Undersecretary of State, 1st July 1965.</p>	



Hiroshima, The New York Times, 7 August 1945

STAGE 1: PRESENTING

SIMILARITIES:

Both docs deal with the USA waged and won the Second World War, against the Axis powers at a time when this conflict which had started in 1939 in Europe but involved the USA only on 7 December 1939, was over in Europe since 8 May 1945 but only ending in Asia.

DIFFERENCES :

ANNOUNCE STRUCTURE:



Preparing for the Gulf War, Jeff, February 1991.

STAGE 1: PRESENTING

SIMILARITIES:

These documents show some differences between the Vietnam war and the Gulf war, both fought by the USA during or just after the Cold war (dates)

DIFFERENCES :

The report whereas the cartoon

ANNOUNCE STRUCTURE:

STAGE 2: ANALYSING	DESCRIBE	STRUCTURE	INTERPRET
<p>Speech</p> <p>§1 Remember the shock of Pearl Harbour In 1941, the whole world was shocked by the attack on civilisation itself against the USA in Pearl Harbour. But this threat is over.</p> <p>§2 Remember the people who won this war - on the frontline : U.S. armed forces died to protect civilisation and ensure victory - on the home front : U.S. population worked to give them and their Allies the means to win the war</p> <p>Front page Headlines : the first atomic bomb - the fact, the novelty, a new weapon ; - its overwhelming power of devastation ; - warning more is to come meaning we can do it again we are that powerful</p> <p>Other titles : 2 domestic titles and 4 article about bombings and war destruction</p>		<p>1. Entering WWII: Speech §1</p> <p>2. Fighting WWII: Speech §2</p> <p>3. Winning WWII: Newspaper</p>	<p>1. Pearl Harbour, the USA attacked the facts war of aggression + dissymmetric war</p> <p>2. A US population fully involved war of liberation + total war</p> <p>3. Hiroshima, the ultimate weapon dissymmetric war, annihilation war, dirty war, WMD</p>

STAGE 3: CONCLUDING

ASSESS DOCS:

We can say that both docs are reliable (official, historic speech ; quality paper) but biased (US point of view).

SUM-UP IDEAS:

To recap, these documents show US determination to win the war at all cost and erase the PH trauma

OPEN (BONUS)
atomic bomb to become a deterrent in the forthcoming Cold War as 1st WMD too devastating to be used

STAGE 2: ANALYSING	DESCRIBE	STRUCTURE	INTERPRET
<p>Report</p> <p>§1 The impact of US involvement in Vietnam from a civil war to a cold war conflict</p> <p>§2 Intervention, a major decis° because this war will be terrible for the USA</p> <p>Cartoon Foreground : the weapons 5 huge dangerous missiles Background : the character Appearance : military instructor wearing camouflage fatigues, cap & sunglasses Expression : hard, shouting Action : pointing at a board with a civilian in suit and tie, slouching and unhappy whereas the other shows a determined soldier fully dressed and armed</p>		<p>1. The Vietnam war</p> <p>2. As opposed to the Gulf war</p>	<p>1. Vietnam war : - escalation - containment - cold war, proxy war - asymmetric, guerilla war</p> <p>2. Gulf war - clean / dirty war - dissymmetric war</p>

STAGE 3: CONCLUDING

ASSESS DOCS:

The report is reliable (official) and unbiased/biased (realistic/doesn't want the US to get involved) whereas the cartoon is unreliable (no source) and biased (mocks the US military)

SUM-UP IDEAS:

To recap, in fact these documents show how the Gulf War was everything Vietnam was not : from trauma to triumph

OPEN (BONUS)

Last month riots were not race riots. Behind the frustration, young people in Hackney told of their frustration over being able to afford to study and find work. They justified the riots as protests against social exclusion, continuing deprivation, growing unemployment and a feeling of lack of opportunity.

Dogus Simsek, *The Guardian*, 8 September 2011.

HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶

CS1 ◀ PEARL HARBOUR, 7 DECEMBER 1941, AND THE ANNIHILATION OF JAPAN ▶
How did the USA react to the Pearl Harbour attack?

1. Entering WWII

• **A war of aggression:**
On 7 December 1941, surprise attack by Japanese naval & air force on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, a US military base in the Pacific.

• **A symmetric war:**
Between states US vs Japan, Germany & Italy with similar power, resources, tactics (air, sea and land battles)

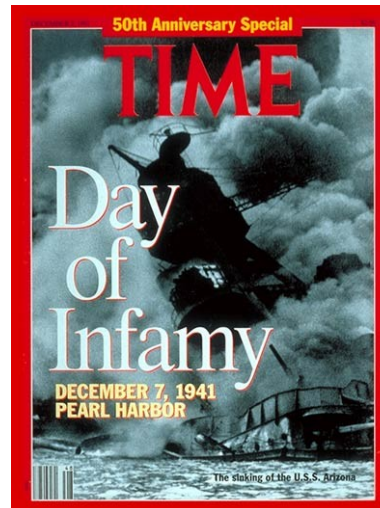
• **A total war:**
- On the home front: women producing war material and government financing the war
- On the frontline: men soldiers in the armed forces (air force, navy & army) worldwide

Key notions

- Offensive, surprise attack, invasion against international law: war of aggression
- War between two states, with similar power, resources, tactics: symmetric war
- War involving civilians on home front & armed forces on the frontline: total war

Vocabulary

- Attaque surprise: surprise attack
- Le front: frontline
- L'arrière: home front
- Air force + navy + army: armed forces



The explosion of USS *Arizona*, TIME anniversary issue, 2 December 1991

Yesterday, December 7th, 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. [...] The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. [...]

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

President Roosevelt, Address to the Nation, 8 Dec. 1941

It will not only be a long war, it will be a hard war. That is the basis on which we now lay all our plans. That is the yardstick by which we measure what we shall need and demand; money, materials, doubled and quadrupled production - ever-increasing. The production must be not only for our own Army and Navy and air forces. It must reinforce the other armies and navies and air forces fighting the Nazis and the war lords of Japan throughout the Americas and throughout the world.

President F.D. Roosevelt, Fireside Chat "On the War with Japan" broadcast, Dec. 9, 1941.



"Let's Go, everybody - Keep'em Firing," US war poster



US declaration of war to the Axis powers, *The New York Times*, 12 December 1941, US National Archives



German Tiger tank captured intact beside a US comparatively small Sherman tank, 13 August 1944, US National Archives

HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶

CS1 ◀ PEARL HARBOUR, 7 DECEMBER 1941, AND THE ANNIHILATION OF JAPAN

How did the USA react to the Pearl Harbour attack?

2. Victory at all cost

• A war of annihilation:

- Targeting the military: US forces annihilated Japanese forces on Iwo Jima (19 February - 26 March 1945) in a bloody air, sea and land battle.

- Targeting civilians:

On 6 and 9 August 1945, the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were totally destroyed by 2 atomic bombs (WMDs) which changed the fight into dissymmetric warfare

• A total war:

- On the home front: government financing scientific research and women producing the atomic bomb

- On the frontline: victorious soldiers in the armed forces (air force, navy & army) worldwide

=> Japanese surrender 15 August 1945 = end of WWII



Key notions

- War to eradicate troops but also civilians targeted on purpose: war of annihilation
- War between a weak and a strong state with same tactics: dissymmetric war
- War involving civilians on home front & armed forces on the frontline: total war

Vocabulary

- Armes de destruction massive : WMDs
- Attaque surprise: surprise attack
- Le front: frontline
- L'arrière: home front
- Air force + navy + army: armed forces

JAPANESE OVERRUN

Marines Smash Through Maze of Defenses in Bloody Iwo Battle

REACH PLATEAU'S TOP

Drive to Strip's Center, Widen Beachhead, Mop Up on Volcano

By WARREN MOSCOW
40 miles to sea and sea front, ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 26—Islands-type weapons and new 1,500-pound rocket bombs used by fiercely fighting Marines in a maze of general interlocking defenses, the marines on Iwo Jima pushed northwest 300 to 500 yards to overrun half of the fighter airstrip in the center of the island on Saturday.



The raising of the flag on Iwo Jima, Joe Rosenthal, New York Times, 25 February 1945

With this bomb we have now added a new and revolutionary increase in destruction to supplement the growing power of our armed forces. [...] The United States had available the large number of scientists of distinction in the many needed areas of knowledge. It had the tremendous industrial and financial resources necessary for the project and they could be devoted to it without undue impairment of other vital war work. [...] We have spent two billion dollars on the greatest scientific gamble in history -- and won.

Official statement, President Harry Truman, August 6, 1945.



A shift change at Oak Ridge, 'Oak Ridge in the 1940s', Knoxville News Sentinel. The plant produced the first enriched uranium fuel for the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

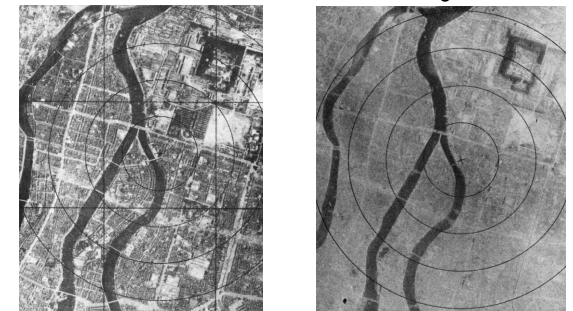
Iwo Jima (19 February-26 March 1945), one of the bloodiest battle of the war.

	US forces	Japanese forces
Troops	70,000 U.S. soldiers (Marines, Navy corpsmen & airmen)	18,000 - 22,000 Japanese soldiers (figures are subject to debate)
Casualties & losses	19,217 wounded 6,821 killed	17,845 - 21,570 killed in action or by suicide
PoWs	2 captured but recovered	212 taken prisoners

The USA needed to secure this heavily fortified Japanese island as American fighters and bombers would be within striking range of Tokyo for the first time.
PoW: prisoner of war



Hiroshima, The New York Times, 7 Aug. 1945



Hiroshima before & after the bombing, U.S. National Archives

CS2 ◀ THE FIRST BERLIN CRISIS (23 JUNE 1948 - 12 MAY 1949), A COLD WAR STALEMATE ▶

*How was Berlin typical
of Cold War confronta-
tions?*

1. The run-up to crisis, 1945-1948

• Europe threatened:

Confrontation between
the American model
respecting the rule of
law and Soviet totalitar-
ian model
But communism ex-
panding with the Soviet
take over of Eastern
Europe 1945-1948

• US reaction:

New US foreign policy
called containment
- first stated by the
Truman Doctrine (12
March 1947) political
stand
- and implemented by
the Marshall Plan (5
June 1947) economic
help

• A Cold War context:

US nuclear monopoly
=> USSR couldn't risk
direct military interven-
tion. But neither could
the USA as the atomic
bomb too dangerous =>
only used it as a deter-
rent.

Key notions

- Democracy, capital-
ism, freedom:
American model
- Dictatorship, state
economy, oppres-
sion: Soviet model
- US policy to prevent
the expansion of
communism: con-
tainment
- US-Soviet conflict
using all means
except direct war:
Cold War

Vocabulary

- Endiguement: con-
tainment
- Force de dissuasion:
deterrent

At the present moment in world
history every nation must
choose between alternative
ways of life. The choice is too
often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon
the will of the majority, and is
distinguished by free institu-
tions, representative govern-
ment, free elections, guarantees
of individual liberty, freedom
of speech and religion, and free-
dom from political oppression.

The second way of life is
based on the will of a minority
forcibly imposed upon the ma-
jority. It relies on terror and op-
pression, a controlled press and
radio ; fixed elections, and sup-
pression of personal freedom.

President Harry Truman, address
before Congress, 12 March 1947.

The Soviet take over of Eastern Europe
1945-1948.



Fighting with matchsticks,
Berlin crisis, by Leslie Illingworth, *Daily Mail*, 5 April 1948
On the right, US President Truman ; on the left, Soviet leader
Joseph Stalin

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation
must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is
too often not a free one. [...]

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

I believe 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 process.

President Harry Truman, address before Congress, 12 March 1947.



The Marshall plan, Leslie Illingworth, *Daily Mail*, 29 September 1947.
The US 13 billion dollar aid launched by Secretary of State George Mar-
shall was accepted by Western Europe and lasted until 1952.

In the first two decades of the Cold War, there were a number of
occasions during which a form of atomic diplomacy was em-
ployed by either side of the conflict.

During the Berlin Blockade of 1948-49, President Truman trans-
ferred several B-29 bombers capable of delivering nuclear bombs
to the region to signal to the Soviet Union that the United States
was both capable of implementing a nuclear attack and willing to
execute it if it became necessary. During the Korean War, Presi-
dent Truman once again deployed the B-29s to signal U.S. re-
solve. [...] In an about face, in 1962, the Soviet deployment of
nuclear missiles to Cuba in order to try to force U.S. concessions
on Europe became another example of atomic diplomacy.

Atomic Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State, last updated: November 1, 2013

CS2 ◀ THE FIRST BERLIN CRISIS (23 JUNE 1948 - 12 MAY 1949), A COLD WAR STALEMATE ▶

How was Berlin typical of Cold War confrontations?

2. The Berlin crisis

• The Berlin blockade:

USSR cut all communications to isolate western Berlin and force the US, UK and France out. Stalin couldn't invade because it would start a 'hot' shooting war as it was the Cold War.

• The Berlin airlift:

US planes supplied fuel, food -everything the western Berliner needed. President Truman could neither fight back militarily nor use the atomic bomb as it was the Cold War

• A stalemate:

Containment succeeded as Soviet expansion stopped but:
- Germany divided in 2 states following the occupation zones.
- Berlin divided too and a wall was built in 1961.
- Europe divided in 2 blocks separated by the iron curtain: Western block // US model and protected by NATO & Eastern bloc // Soviet model and controlled by Warsaw Pact.

Key notions

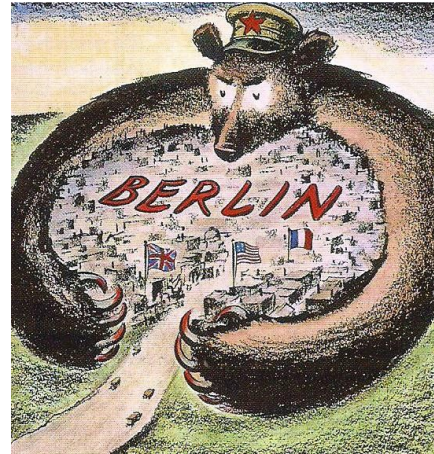
- US-Soviet conflict using all means except direct war: Cold War
- US policy to prevent the expansion of communism: containment

Vocabulary

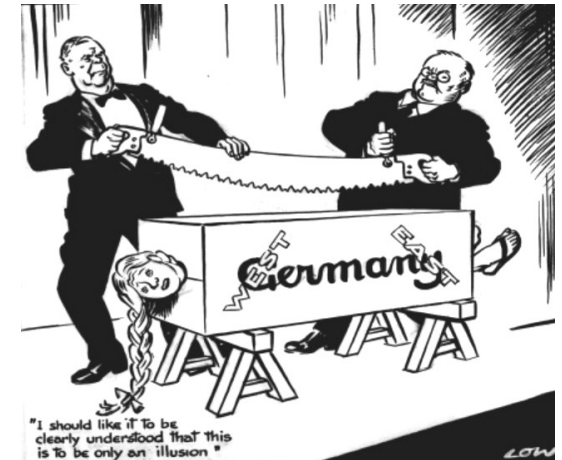
- Ravitailler: to supply
- Blocus: blockade
- Pont aérien: airlift
- Une impasse: stalemate

On June 23, the Soviet authorities suspended all railroad passenger and freight traffic into Berlin, because of alleged 'technical difficulties'. They also stopped barge traffic on the similar grounds. Shortly before midnight on June 23, the Soviet administration issued orders to the Berlin central electric station to disrupt delivery of power from Soviet sector plants to the Western sectors; shortage of coal was given as a reason. On June 25, Soviets stop supplying food to the civilian population in the non-Soviet sectors.

The Berlin Crisis: A Report, US Department of State, 1948.



The Berlin blockade, 'Closing the gap', Dick Spencer, *Saint Louis Post Dispatch*, June 1948.



Germany after the crisis: Sawing through a woman, David Low, *Evening Standard*, 13 April 1949.

On the right George Marshall, US Secretary of State; on the left Molotov, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs. The German Federal Republic came into being on 23 May 1949 and the German Democratic Republic on 7 October 1949.



The Berlin airlift 25 June 1948-30 September 1949



Germany and Europe after the crisis.

CS3 ◀ THE VIETNAM WAR (1965-1973), A COLD WAR TRAUMA

▶ How did US intervention and strategy lead to defeat?

1. A necessary intervention?

• An unjustified involvement:

Containment doctrine & domino theory don't apply because it is a civil war of liberation by NV against SV dictatorship (no rule of law)

• A necessary intervention:

containment + domino theory => proxy war between Communist China + USSR helping North Vietnam to supply the Vietcong (= South Vietnam communist guerrilla) & the USA supporting anti-communist South Vietnam

2. The wrong strategy

• To win the war

Asymmetric war between US military and the Vietcong guerrilla.

=> A dirty war: using napalm bombings used against innocent South Vietnamese civilians.

=> a quagmire

Key notions

- US policy to prevent Soviet expansion and more generally the spread of communism: containment
- Increasing involvement, from financial aid to troops, without any formal declaration of war: escalation
- Indirect war without face-to-face combat/fight: proxy war

Vocabulary

- South Vietnam communist guerrilla: the Vietcong
- Approvisionnement : to supply

In our opinion and from our experience, there is nothing in South Vietnam which could happen that realistically threatens the United States of America. And to attempt to justify the loss of one American life in Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos by linking such loss to the preservation of freedom [...] is to us the height of criminal hypocrisy [...].

We found that [...] it was a civil war, an effort by a people who had for years been seeking their liberation from any colonial influence whatsoever [...].

John Kerry, a Vietnam veteran, statement to the Senate Committee of Foreign Relations, April 23, 1971.

"I'm Looking After The Little Tyke All The Time"



Vietnamese Democracy, Herb Lubner, *The Washington Post*, September 26, 1967



It is generally acknowledged that if Indochina were to fail, ...Burma and Thailand would follow suit almost immediately. [...]

South Vietnam is fighting for its life against a brutal campaign of terror and armed attack directed by the Communist regime in Hanoi. [...] The people of South Vietnam have chosen to resist this threat. [...] The United States will not abandon friends who want to remain free. It will do what must be done to help them.

US State Department, Johnson administration, February 1965.



Ambushing the enemy, Viet Cong poster, 1965.

"We huddled them up. We made them squat down...I poured about four clips [several hundred bullets] into the group... the mothers were hugging their children... well we kept right on firing. They was waving their arms and begging..."

Q Again - Men, women, children?

A. Men women and children

Q. And babies?

A. And babies.

Q. Did you ever dream about this?

A. I still dream about it. About the women and children in my sleep. Some days, some nights, I can't even sleep."

CBS News interview with Private Paul Meadlo who participated in the My Lai Massacre on 16 March 1968 in South Vietnam.

CS3 ◀ THE VIETNAM WAR (1965-1973), A COLD WAR TRAUMA

▶ How did US intervention and strategy lead to defeat?

• To end the war

all-out war: massive military action to stop proxy & guerrilla war and win the war but unrealistic goal
=> escalation: more realistic exit strategy to force North Vietnam to negotiate & end the quagmire

3. A shocking defeat

• US humiliation:

US troops withdrew, pulled out in 1973 => North Vietnam victory over the South 1975
=> a united communist Vietnam = failure of containment
+ Laos & Cambodia became communists = domino theory became real because of US intervention

• Nixon's justificat°:

Vietnam = a quagmire + war lost in the USA, on the Home front: as the media was biased, reporters showed Americans it was a dirty war => public opinion turned against the war & organised antiwar protests

Key notions

- US policy to prevent Soviet expansion and more generally the spread of communism: containment
- Increasing involvement, from financial aid to troops, without any formal declaration of war: escalation
- Indirect war without face-to-face combat/ fight: proxy war

Vocabulary

- South Vietnam communist guerrilla: the Vietcong
- Approvisionnement : to supply

Onward And Upward And Onward And—



Escalation,
Herblock, *The Washington Post*, March 24, 1967

The Vietnam war was complicated by factors that had never occurred before in America's conduct of a war. [...]

Another unusual aspect of this war was that the American news media had come to dominate domestic opinion about its purpose and conduct and also about the nature of the enemy. The North Vietnamese were a particularly ruthless and cruel enemy, but the American media concentrated primarily on the failings and frailties of the South Vietnamese or of our own forces.

Richard Nixon, *Memoirs*, 1978.

Reiterating points made during the war by senior U.S. military officers, veterans like Harry Summers argued that the war could have been won had the United States taken more aggressive military actions, such as severing the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and bombing North Vietnam massively from the start instead of escalating the bombing gradually. A different group, led by Andrew F. Krepinevich Jr, a military officer with a Ph.D., concluded that the war could have been won had the United States been focused on securing the populous areas rather than fighting a conventional war in the countryside.

Mark Moyar, 'Vietnam: Historians at war', *US Army Research*, Paper 33, January 1st, 2008.



Peace marchers, *Time*, 27 October 1967



It's evidently impossible for a president of the United States to come clean about Viet Nam; there is too much shame and failure in the American record there to be even hinted at.

Thus President Nixon kept proclaiming the achievement of "peace with honor" last night, when all he can really promise is that the Americans are going to pull out of that wretched war in fairly good order, with their prisoners returned, instead of fleeing in abject humiliation.

The Toronto Star, 1973.

CS4 ◀ THE GULF WAR (1991), A POST COLD WAR TRIUMPH ▶

What were the reasons for war and US triumph?

1. The reasons for war: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (1990)

• Iraq in Kuwait (1990): a war of aggression

In August 1990 Iraq led by President Saddam Hussein invaded and annexed Kuwait in a surprise invasion.

• Iraq's invasion of Kuwait: dissymmetric warfare

In one day, the Iraqi military (the 4th largest in the world) occupied Kuwait territory causing the fall of the Kuwaiti regime.

• A new international context

New US-Soviet collaboration: both condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and decided on sanctions.

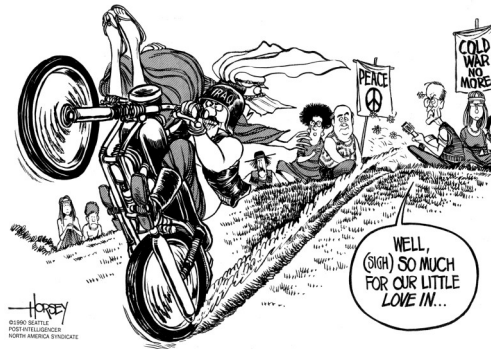
=> shows the Cold War is really over

Key notions

- Offensive, surprise attack, invasion against international law: war of aggression
- War between a weak and a strong state with same tactics: dissymmetric warfare
- Confrontation between the USSR and the USA by all means except direct war: Cold War

Vocabulary

- Envahir: to invade
- L'armée: the military



David Horsey, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 1990

Less than a week ago, in the early morning hours of August 2d, Iraqi Armed Forces, without provocation or warning, invaded a peaceful Kuwait. Facing negligible resistance from its much smaller neighbor, Iraq's tanks stormed in blitzkrieg fashion through Kuwait in a few hours. [...] Iraq now occupies Kuwait. [...] There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression.

A puppet regime imposed from the outside is unacceptable. The acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable. No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace; and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression.

Address on Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait, George H. W. Bush, August 8, 1990.

Superpowers unite on Iraq

Overwhelmed Kuwaiti forces continue to fight invaders

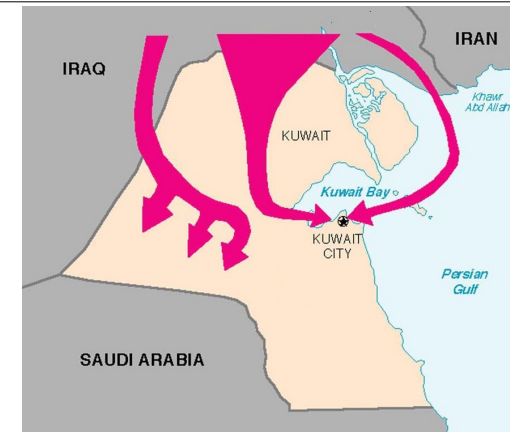
The United States and the Soviet Union, acting together for the first time in a major international crisis, moved simultaneously to isolate Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait yesterday. Washington imposed an oil and trade ban and moved a carrier group to the Gulf while Moscow, Iraq's main arms supplier, suspended all deliveries.

Scattered resistance continued last night in the capital, Kuwait City, as the US Secretary of State, James Baker, prepared to fly to Moscow from Mongolia. The American and Soviet governments are expected to issue a joint statement today condemning Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein. [...]

Simon Tisdall and David Hirst, *The Guardian*, Friday 3 August 1990

In the early hours of August 2, 1990, more than 100,000 Iraqi troops moved tanks, helicopters and trucks across the border into Kuwait. Iraq maintained the world's fourth-largest military and had mobilized an overwhelming invading force. Within an hour, they reached Kuwait City, and by daybreak, Iraqi tanks were attacking Dasman Palace, the royal residence. The emir had already fled into the Saudi desert, but his private guard and his younger half-brother Sheik Faud had stayed behind to defend their home. The sheik was shot and killed.

1990 The invasion of Kuwait, Dave Johns, PBS, January 24, 2006



The Gulf Summit, Jeff, *The Herald Sun*, 11 September 1990.
Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR and US President George H. Bush

CS4 ◀ THE GULF WAR (1991), A POST COLD WAR TRIUMPH ▶

What were the reasons for war and US triumph?

2. The reasons for triumph: the nature of the Gulf War (1991)

• The Gulf War: a war of liberation

The USA and its allies as world's policemen determined to stop Iraq to protect political principles: freedom against aggression and despotism (and economic interests: oil reserves)

• The US liberation of Kuwait: dissymmetric warfare

US-led coalition with an overwhelming air and ground superiority => quickly defeated Iraqi forces (January-February 1991).

• A clean war?

Apparently no casualties whether US or Iraqi because high-tech war with smart weapons
TV war live so should be reliable but in fact censored, controlled by the military to keep the support of public opinion

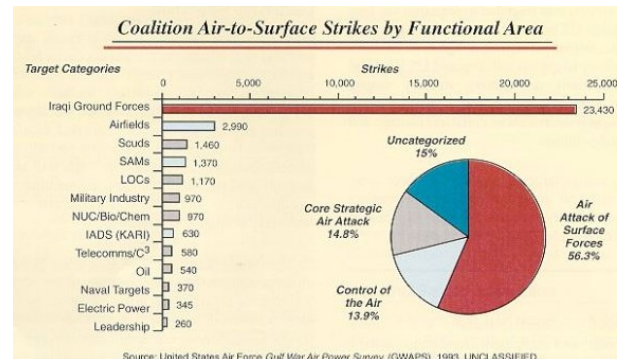
=> Everything Vietnam was not

Key notions

- War to free a people from invasion : war of liberation
- War between a weak and a strong state with same tactics : dissymmetric warfare
- Precise, surgical strikes to avoid collateral damage (to hit military and not civilian targets) : clean war

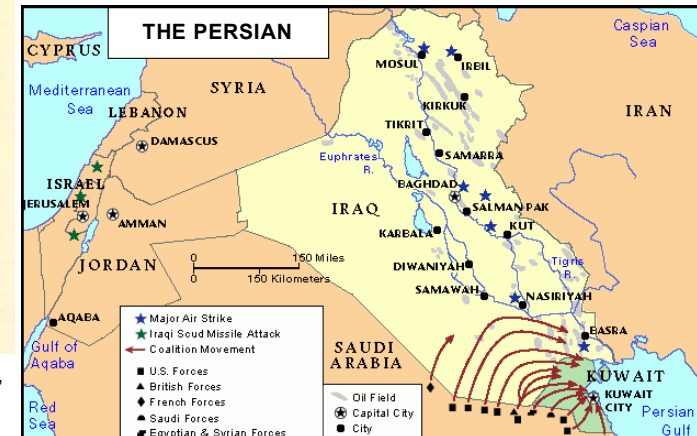
Vocabulary

- Les gendarmes du monde: the world's policemen
- alliance: coalition
- Victimes: casualties
- Censuré: censored



The US-led coalition air strikes, 17 January - 23 February 1991, Department of Defense Report to Congress, 1993.

Note: Scuds, SAMs are missiles and LOC means line of communication



We have seen, with our own eyes, many fascinating things during the first five days of war. We have seen the night sky over Baghdad 'lit up like the Fourth of July.' We have seen the Iraqi defence ministry implode, cruise missiles launching to ringing cheers into the blue of the Gulf. But we have not, on any television screen, yet seen a single dead body.

We know, because we have seen the pictures, how accurate hi-tech missiles can be. We do not know, because there have been no pictures, if they can be inaccurate too. We have much calm, human footage from the pilots in the air. We have damned little footage from the people on the ground.

The Guardian, Monday January 21, 1991



March 18, 1991



Censorship, *International Herald Tribune*, 27 Feb 1991.

HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶

CS5 ◀ 11 SEPTEMBER 2001: AN ACT OF TERRORISM, AND THE SUBSEQUENT WAR ON TERROR ▶

How did the USA react to the 9/11 attacks?

1. G.W. Bush war in Afghanistan (2001-2014)

• From aggression to retaliation:

Surprise attacks by hijacked US planes on US territory targeted US political, economic & military power
=> war in Afghanistan which harboured Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda camps.

• From dissymmetric to asymmetric warfare:

US forces invaded Afghanistan and rapidly defeated the Taliban Islamist regime which fell (Oct.-Dec. 2001). However, the Taliban resisted US pacification and organized a guerrilla which prevented the US from leaving the country.

2. G.W. Bush war in Iraq (2003-2011)

• A war of prevention against a rogue state:

against Iraq, a rogue state led by President Saddam Hussein whose WMDs could threaten the USA
=> dissymmetric invasion of Iraq, April 2003: fast US invasion and victory with the fall of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi regime.



Key notions

- Offensive, surprise attack, invasion against international law: war of aggression
- Représailles: retaliation
- Guerre dissymétrique: dissymmetric warfare
- Guerre asymétrique: asymmetric warfare
- War on a world scale inside and outside the country by all means not just military : total war

Vocabulary

- Avion détourné: hijacked plane
- Viser, cibler: to target
- Envahir: to invade



Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking, "Who attacked our country?" The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as al Qaeda. [...] Its goal is re-making the world and imposing its radical [Islamic] beliefs on people everywhere. [...] The leadership of al Qaeda [a person named Osama bin Laden] has great influence in Afghanistan and supports the Taliban regime in controlling most of that country. [...] The Taliban must act and act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists or they will share in their fate.

Address to Congress, G.W. Bush, Sept. 21, 2001.

[Now] we must prevent the terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the United States and the world. Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since September the 11th. But we know their true nature. And make no mistake about it: If they do not act, America will. (Applause) [...] States like these [North Korea, Iran & Iraq], and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. [...] The price of indifference would be catastrophic.

State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush, Jan. 29, 2002.



Operation Iraqi Freedom, Chris Britt, Springfield, 16-11-2002



US offensive, Time, 29-10-2001.
The Taliban government fell in December.



Taliban guerrilla, Time, 08-03-2010

CS5 ◀ 11 SEPTEMBER 2001: AN ACT OF TERRORISM, AND THE SUBSEQUENT WAR ON TERROR ▶

How did the USA react to the 9/11 attacks?

• **The US occupation: asymmetric warfare**

difficult pacification: US forces facing a weaker but determined Iraqi guerrilla opposed to US occupation => Iraq more & more like Vietnam: a quagmire without a clear military exit strategy and a growing opposition at home.

3. President Obama's new strategy

• **Obama's cleaning up**
- less military involvement (withdrawing from Iraq in 2011 and Afghanistan in 2014)
+ 2011 execution of Al Qaeda leader, Osama bin Laden, hidden in Pakistan

• **A limited war against a new opponent**

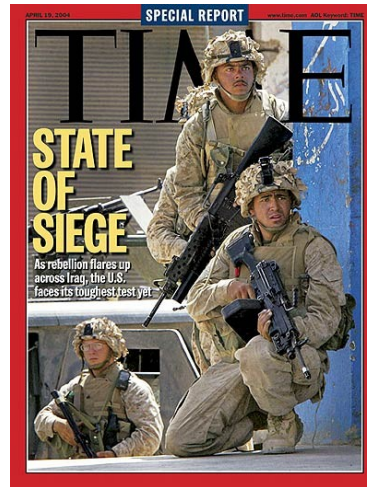
- fighting limited war: intervention of special operations troops & air-strikes in Iraq & Syria since 2014 against new opponent
- ISIS/ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq & Syria/in the Levant): new terrorist network with new dissymmetric (in Iraq & Syria) and asymmetric (elsewhere in the world) attacks.

Key notions

- Striking 1st to prevent a possible, probable, potential attack: war of prevention
- Guerre dissymétrique: dissymmetric warfare
- Guerre asymétrique: asymmetric warfare

Vocabulary

- Etat voyou: rogue state
- Armes de destruction massive: weapons of mass destruction
- Small group ambushing, harassing a superior force with a hit and run tactics: guerrilla



Putting down the insurgency (2004-2011, *Time*, 19 April 2004)

We stand united with people around the world who have been targeted by terrorists -- from a school in Pakistan to the streets of Paris. (Applause.) [...]

For more than a year, America has led a coalition of more than 60 countries to cut off ISIL's financing, disrupt their plots, stop the flow of terrorist fighters, and stamp out their vicious ideology. With nearly 10,000 air strikes, we're taking out their leadership, their oil, their training camps, their weapons. We're training, arming and supporting forces who are steadily reclaiming territory in Iraq and Syria. [...]

If you doubt America's commitment - or mine - to see that justice is done, just ask Osama bin Laden.

President Obama, last State of the Union to Congress, 21 January 2016.

THERE ARE all sorts of dangers in comparing wars. The United States is no longer engaged in a struggle with the Soviet Union. But how far is Iraq reviving "the Vietnam Syndrome"?

In the aftermath of September 11th it looked as if the conservatives had restored America's military machine to its former glory. American soldiers trampled their way across Afghanistan (where the Taliban government folded in short order) and then Iraq (where they reached Baghdad in just three weeks). Today the picture looks decidedly murkier.

First, the Iraq war is dividing the country in much the same profound way that Vietnam once did. [...] Second, the possibility that Iraq is indeed a quagmire grows ever larger.

"The Vietnam Syndrome: still there," *The Economist*, 2004



Adam Zyglis, *Buffalo News*, January 9, 2010.
President Obama announced US troops would be leaving Iraq at the end of 2011 but would go back to Afghanistan.

We are 15 years into this new century. Fifteen years that dawned with terror touching our shores; that unfolded with a new generation fighting two long and costly wars [...]. It has been, and still is, a hard time for many.

But tonight, we turn the page. [...] Tonight, for the first time since 9/11, our combat mission in Afghanistan is over. (Applause.) Six years ago, nearly 180,000 American troops served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 15,000 remain. And we salute the courage and sacrifice of every man and woman in this 9/11 Generation who has served to keep us safe. (Applause.) We are humbled and grateful for your service.

President Obama, State of the Union speech to Congress, 21 January 2015.



Dead, Mike Keefe, *Denver Post*, 03-05-2011.
A covert US operation executed Osama bin Laden who had been hiding in Pakistan.

Classe						
Groupe (nom et prénom par ordre de passage)						
STRUCTURE DU CS						
DIAPORAMA /1.5						
Diaporama avec plan détaillé apparaissant diapo par diapo /0.5 Diaporama structuré en parties et sous-parties répondant à la pb /1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1
À L'ORAL /2.5						
Introduction: titre reformulé, problématique, annonce du plan /1.5 Conclusion: partielle ou complète /1	0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 0 / 0.5 / 1
/4	/4	/4	/4	/4	/4	/4
ANALYSE DE DEUX DOCUMENTS						
PRÉSENTATION /2.5						
Présentation après question ou spontanée /0.5 Points communs : sujet, contexte /1 Différences : références des 2 docs /1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1
STRUCTURE /1.5						
Structure donnée (fin de présentation ou début de chaque partie) /0.5 Structure pertinente (évite répétitions, relie docs) /1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1
DESCRIPTION /2.5						
Description après question ou spontanée /0.5 Description des 2 docs superficielle, globale ou détaillée, structurée /2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 + 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 + 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 + 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 + 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 + 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 + 0 / 0.5 / 1
INTERPRÉTATION /2.5						
Interprétation après question ou spontanée /0.5 Interprétation utilisant notion(s) vue(s) en intro du thème, ± maîtrisée(s) /2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 / 2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 / 2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 / 2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 / 2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 / 2	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5 / 2
CONCLUSION /2						
Conclusion après question ou spontanée /0.5 Critique des documents (fiable, neutre) et résumé des idées /1.5	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5	0 / 0.5 0 / 0.5 / 1 / 1.5
/11	/11	/11	/11	/11	/11	/11
EXPRESSION ORALE						
Expression forte & bien articulée /1 Anglais incompréhensible / compréhensible / de qualité /1 Expression avec hésitation ou aisance /1 Hésitation ou bonne réactivité aux questions /1 Expression dynamique, volonté de communiquer /1	0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1	0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1 0 / 0.5 / 1
/5	/5	/5	/5	/5	/5	/5
► Note	/20	/20	/20	/20	/20	/20

◀ Defining key notions ▶ /4

1. What is a dissymmetric war ? /2 **between a weak and a strong state with same tactics**
2. How do you call a war /1 - if you strike first to prevent a potential attack? **prevention /0.5**
- with all means everywhere: **global /0.5**

◀ Knowing the vocabulary ▶ /1.5


Translate the following expressions or words into English or French: - proxy war: **guerre par procuration** /0.5

- faire la guerre: to wage war /0.5
- envahir: to invade /0.5

◀ **Knowing the dates** ▶ /1.5

Give the exact date of - Hiroshima or Nagasaki nuclear bombing 6/9 August 1945 - Pearl Harbour attack 7 Dec. 1941

◀ **Commenting on 2 documents** ▶ /13

GUIDELINE	USA-USSR FROM TENSIONS TO CRISIS
 <p>Refusing the Marshall Plan', Leslie Illingworth, <i>Daily Mail</i>, 3 March 1948.</p>	<p>I asked General Clay if there were any indication that the Russians would go to war. What they seemed to be aiming at was to score a major victory by forcing us out of Berlin.</p> <p>Clay said the abandonment of Berlin would have a disastrous effect on Western Germany and Europe. He refused to evacuate the family members of our diplomatic and military personnel to avoid destroying local confidence by any indication of departure from Berlin.</p> <p>We should go to any length to find a peaceful solution to the situation, but we had to stay in Berlin. He reported that the airlift was more than enough to meet food requirements but was inadequate for coal, the supply of which should increase to plan for the oncoming winter.</p> <p>President Truman's meeting with Gen Clay, military governor of the US occupation</p>

STAGE 1: PRESENTING

SIMILARITIES: Both docs deal with US-USSR confrontations at start of CW (1945/47-1989/91)


DIFFERENCES : Cartoon by ... published in the ... on ... shows Eastern Europe refusing the Marshall Plan while the meeting which took place on ... between President Truman and General Clay describes Soviet action/US reaction in Berlin.

STAGE 2: ANALYSING	DESCRIBE	STRUCTURE	INTERPRET
Cartoon Foreground: The customers from Eastern Europe marching in behind USSR trying not to look at the window all dressed the same Background: The shop window with business name Truman & co & MP sign + both inside + model, stylish, fashionable dress with \$ Meeting \$1 Soviet threat USSR doesn't plan war but trying to evict USA from Berlin \$2 US reaction Leaving (or giving the impression of) Berlin = a mistake \$3 Peaceful solution: so the US must stay without starting a war. Airlift successful for food but not coal		1. Tensions Cartoon 2. Crisis : Berlin meeting	1. - TD containment - Marshall Plan - US / Soviet models 2. - Berlin blockade, - cold war - Berlin airlift

STAGE 3: CONCLUDING

ASSESS DOCS: Both sources are reliable (quality paper and official report) but biased (from a US -not Soviet, point of view).

SUM-UP IDEAS: To recap, these docs show perfect examples of CW confrontations between US & USSR. stalemate with 2 Germanies 2 Berlins.

GUIDELINE	THE USA FROM SHOCK TO REACTION
<p data-bbox="1335 549 1420 560"><i>An Act of War</i></p>  <p data-bbox="1187 804 1572 825">Gary Varvel, <i>The New York Times</i>, Sept. 12, 2001</p>	<p data-bbox="1594 552 2228 649">As Commander-in-Chief, I have no greater responsibility than keeping this country safe. I've made it clear that I will never hesitate to deploy our military swiftly and decisively when necessary to defend our people, our homeland, our allies and our core interests.</p> <p data-bbox="1594 655 2228 818">That's why we're going after al Qaeda wherever they seek a foothold. That is why we continue to fight in Afghanistan, even as we have ended our combat mission in Iraq and removed more than 100,000 troops from that country. As we speak, our troops are leaving Iraq to its people, stopping the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan, and going after al Qaeda all across the globe. As Commander-in-Chief, I'm grateful to them and to their families.</p> <p data-bbox="1711 825 2228 842">President Obama, Address to the Nation on Libya, March 28 2011.</p>

STAGE 1: PRESENTING

SIMILARITIES: These documents show the impact of 9/11, after the 2001 terrorist attacks on the USA in the post Cold War period.

DIFFERENCES : The cartoon published Gary Varvel in *The NYT* on Sept. 12, 2001 labels the attack as 'An Act of War' whereas President Obama's speech's to the Nation on March 28, 2011, show its impact ten years later.

STAGE 2: ANALYSING	DESCRIBING	STRUCTURING	INTERPRETING
<p>Cartoon: 9/11</p> <p>Foreground: Uncle Sam (Look) striped trousers, stars on sleeves (Express°) determined, hard (Act°) stars & stripes top hat -> soldier's helmet</p> <p>Background: Manhattan, NYC skyscrapers with smoke</p> <p>=> Speech</p> <p>§1 Obama's duty: My responsibility is to protect the USA : I will send troops when necessary</p> <p>§2 => fight against terror our troops relentlessly pursue Al Qaeda & still fight in Afghanistan although we left Iraq, & I thank them.</p>		<p>1. Shock : America attacked Cartoon</p> <p>2. Reaction : America protected Speech</p>	<p>1. - 9/11: planes crashed on WTC NYC and Pentagon DC</p> <p>- war of aggression:</p> <p>2. - Al Qaeda: ObL's global terrorist network</p> <p>- Afghanistan : retaliation</p> <p>- Iraq : prevention</p> <p>Obama's limited war</p>

STAGE 3: CONCLUDING

ASSESS DOCS: Both sources are reliable (quality paper, official speech) but biased (from a US -not terrorist, point of view).

SUM-UP IDEAS: To recap, these docs show the USA reacted to terrorism but as recent events showed difficult to prevent terrorist attacks on home ground.

INTRODUCE	2	DESCRIBE	5	PARTS	1.5	INTERPRET	3	CONCLUDE	1.5
<p>Questions: 1</p> <p>10.5</p>		<p>Cartoon: 2</p> <p>Background: Customers 1.5</p>		2 parts		<p>1. Tensions</p> <p>Containment 10.5</p>		<p>Assess docs 1</p> <p>Cartoon reliability</p>	

INTRODUCE /2	DESCRIBE /5	PARTS /1.5	INTERPRET /3	CONCLUDE
Similarities: /1 - Topic /0.5	Cartoon: /2 • Foreground: Uncle Sam /1.5	2 parts	1. Shock : 9/11 2001 Events /0.5	Assess doc Cartoon

HISTORY TEST ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶

◀ Defining key notions ▶ /4

1. What is a dissymmetric war ? /2
2. How do you call a war:
 - if you strike first to prevent a potential attack? /1
 - with all possible means everywhere /1

◀ Knowing the vocabulary ▶ /1.5


Translate the following expressions or words into English or French : "envahir", "faire la guerre" ; "proxy war".

◀ Knowing the dates ▶ /1.5

Give the exact date of the Hiroshima or Nagasaki nuclear bombing

◀ Commenting on 2 documents ▶ /13

THE USA AND CONFLICT 1941-2011 Comment on the following sources

GUIDELINE	USA-USSR FROM TENSIONS TO CRISIS
<p>'Refusing the Marshall Plan', Leslie Illingworth, <i>Daily Mail</i>, 3 March 1948.</p>	

I asked General Clay if there were any indication that the Russians would go to war. What they seemed to be aiming at was to score a major victory by forcing us out of Berlin.

Clay said the abandonment of Berlin would have a disastrous effect on Western Germany and Europe. He refused to evacuate the family members of our diplomatic and military personnel to avoid destroying local confidence by any indication of departure from Berlin.

We should go to any length to find a peaceful solution to the situation, but we had to stay in Berlin. He reported that the airlift was more than enough to meet food requirements but was inadequate for coal, the supply of which should increase to plan for the oncoming winter.

President Truman's meeting with Gen. Clay, military governor of the US occupation zone in Germany, 22 July 1948

HISTORY TEST ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶

◀ Defining key notions ▶ /4

1. What is a symmetric war ? /2
2. How do you call a war:
 - if you strike back after an attack /1
 - mobilizing a whole society /1

◀ Knowing the vocabulary ▶ /1.5


Translate the following expressions or words into English or French : "armes de destruction massive" ; "proxy war", "deterrent".

◀ Knowing the dates ▶ /1.5

Give the exact date of the Pearl Harbour attack

◀ Commenting on 2 documents ▶ /13

THE USA AND CONFLICT 1941-2011 Comment on the following sources

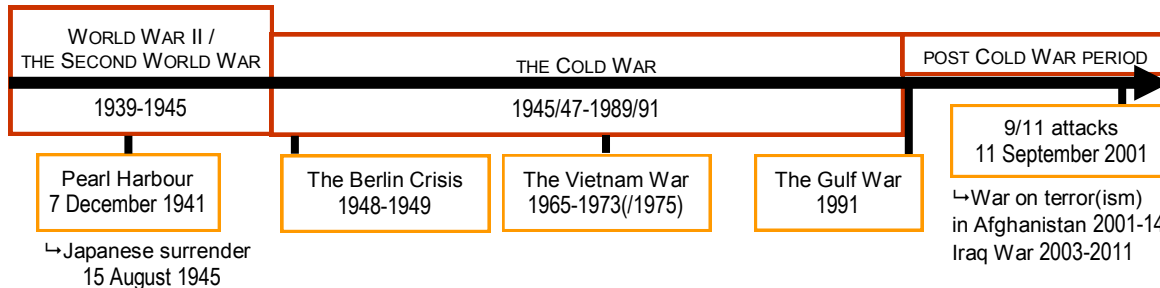
GUIDELINE	THE USA FROM SHOCK TO REACTION
<p>'An Act of War', Gary Varvel, <i>The New York Times</i>, Sept. 12, 2001</p>	<p>An Act of War</p> 

As Commander-in-Chief, I have no greater responsibility than keeping this country safe. I've made it clear that I will never hesitate to deploy our military swiftly and decisively when necessary to defend our people, our homeland, our allies and our core interests.

That's why we're going after al Qaeda wherever they seek a foothold. That is why we continue to fight in Afghanistan, even as we have ended our combat mission in Iraq and removed more than 100,000 troops from that country. As we speak, our troops are leaving Iraq to its people, stopping the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan, and going after al Qaeda all across the globe. As Commander-in-Chief, I'm grateful to them and to their families.

President Obama, Address to the Nation on Libya, March 28 2011.

HISTORY ◀ THE USA & CONFLICT 1941-2011 ▶



Online resources - Ressources en ligne

- Documents disponibles sur le site EuroVoltaireHistGéo @ <http://www.evoltairehg.fr>
Signalez tout problème à euro@evoltairehg.fr
- Dictionnaire en ligne pour trouver la traduction, la définition ou les synonymes d'un mot avec sa prononciation en anglais @ <http://www.wordreference.com/enfr/>

Oral presentations ◀ Case studies ▶

CS1 ◀ PEARL HARBOUR, 7 DEC. 1941, & THE ANNIHILATION OF JAPAN ▶

How did the USA react to the Pearl Harbour attack?

- Entering WWII
- Victory at all cost

CS2 ◀ THE FIRST BERLIN CRISIS, A COLD WAR STALEMATE ▶

How was Berlin typical of Cold War confrontations?

- The run-up to crisis, 1945-1948
- The Berlin crisis (23 June 1948-12 May 1949)

CS3 ◀ THE VIETNAM WAR (1965-1973/75), A COLD WAR QUAGMIRE ▶

How did US intervention and strategy lead to defeat?

- A necessary intervention?
- The wrong strategy
- A terrible humiliation

CS4 ◀ THE GULF WAR (1991), A POST COLD WAR TRIUMPH ▶

What were the reasons for war and US triumph?

- The reasons for war: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (1990)
- The reasons for triumph: the nature of the Gulf War (1991)

CS5 ◀ 11 SEPTEMBER 2001 AND WAR ON TERROR ▶

How did the USA react to the 9/11 attacks?

- G.W. Bush war in Afghanistan (2001-2014)
- G.W. Bush war in Iraq (2003-2011)
- President Obama's new strategy (2011-2016)

Method ◀ Commenting on 2 documents ▶

THE USA AND CONFLICT 1941-2011 Comment on the following sources

GUIDELINE	FIGHTING AND WINNING WORLD WAR II
-----------	-----------------------------------

Four years ago, the thoughts and fears of the whole civilized world were centered on another piece of American soil—Pearl Harbor. The mighty threat to civilization which began there is now laid at rest. [...] We shall not forget Pearl Harbor. [...]

On land and sea and in the air, American men and women have given their lives so that this day of ultimate victory might come and assure the survival of a civilized world. No victory can make good their loss. [...] Our thoughts go out to the millions of American workers and businessmen, to our farmers and miners—to all those who have built up this country's fighting strength, and who have shipped to our Allies the means to resist and overcome the enemy.

President Truman's radio address to the American people after the signing of Japan's unconditional surrender, September 1, 1945.



Hiroshima,
The New York
Times,
7 August 1945

THE USA AND CONFLICT 1941-2011 Comment on the following sources

GUIDELINE	US FORCES, FROM DECLINE TO REVIVAL
-----------	------------------------------------

So long as our forces are restricted to advising and assisting the South Vietnamese military, the struggle will remain a civil war between North and South Vietnam in which we are not involved. Once we deploy substantial numbers of troops it will become a war between the U.S. and a large part of the population of South Vietnam, organized by North Vietnam and backed by the resources of both Moscow and Beijing. Mr President, the decision you face now is a crucial one. Once large numbers of U.S. troops are committed to direct combat in Vietnam, they will begin to take heavy casualties in a war they are ill-equipped to fight in a non-cooperative if not downright hostile countryside.

Report on Vietnam to President Johnson,
George Ball U.S. Undersecretary of State, 1st July 1965.



Preparing for the Gulf War, Jeff, February 1991.