

Lesson One: Korean History Focus

Lesson: US Involvement in International Conflicts

Focal: Korean and Chinese Conflicts

Class: United States History 1865- Present

Context: Sophomores take US History. The school district is small and rural. There is a total of about 300 students in the high school. Classes are mixed ability (utilizing inclusion). Inclusion students are typically grouped in one class. Average class size is about 25 consisting of three sections of students. Prior to this lesson, students will have learned about World War One and the reasons why the US entered the war. That lesson will prepare students to address other conflicts (some in the present day) to come to conclusions about why or when the US needs to get involved.

Purpose: Students will study five conflicts of the United States in the past 70 years and make arguments regarding when the United States should intervene in foreign affairs.

Ohio Social Studies Standards: 10th Grade Standards US History

- Trace the development of the United States as a world power with emphasis on: The decision to enter into World War I
- Explain how the Cold War and related conflicts influenced U.S. foreign policy after 1945 with emphasis on: The Korean War
- *Communicating Information:* Analyze one or more issues and present a persuasive argument to defend a position.

Overarching Question: What are the top three reasons the United States should intervene in international conflicts?

Subordinate Questions: Should the US “police” the world? Should the US be isolationist? What role should the US play in international affairs? To what extent are we “American” and to what extent are we “humans”?

Connection to Asian History: The conflicts we study in class will be related to Asian history. As this is an American history class, the focal question will be around US involvement overseas, but students will deeply explore the Asia.

Resources: Each group will be provided materials about their conflict. Students will also be given two research days in the computer lab. They may research on their own, but I will also provide links to some of the best and most reliable sites for each conflict.

Conflicts:

- 1) Korean War (1950s and current situation)

- 2) China and Tibetan Conflict (present day)
- 3) Sierra Leonean Civil War (1990s)
- 4) Japanese invasion of China (1930s)
- 5) Balkan Wars; former Yugoslavia (1990s)

Activities

- 1) Students will be assigned groups and given one conflict to research in detail. Depending on the class, students may be grouped randomly or selectively. Each group will have 5 people. Though students are in groups, they are also working individually to research their topic. They will be able to discuss their topic with other group members. Students need to address the following questions: **What are the major characteristics of the conflict?** Who is fighting? What is the desired goal? How many people have been affected? **What is the world (particularly US response)?**
- 2) After three days of researching students will get into conflict groups and discuss the most important features of their conflicts and what to share with other groups. I will be walking around to each group to discuss their conflict and ensure they understand the details, major players, outcome, etc.
- 3) On Day 4 students will “jig-saw” their conflicts. Students will be grouped with other students studying different conflicts. Each student is responsible for informing the students about the conflict they researched. Students will be given handout on which to take notes.
- 4) Students will join back up in their conflict groups to discuss what they learned. I will walk around to each group asking them about which conflict they feel least confident. We will discuss that conflict in more detail. The goal is for students to have enough information to make comparisons—not to be experts on every conflict.
- 5) Individual Work: Students make a list of similarities and differences amongst and between the conflicts. What trends do they notice about international and US involvement? When does the US decide to intervene? When does the US “ignore” the conflict?
- 6) Class Discussion Questions:
 - a. Under what circumstances does the world respond to conflicts? What pattern or trend do you notice in the 5 case studies (or other conflicts that you know about)?
 - b. Why doesn’t the world respond (or US respond) to certain conflicts? What reasons can you give for why the world does not intervene in civil wars or genocides?
 - c. How successful has the US or UN been in monitoring global conflicts? (think about other ones too-Korea, Vietnam, etc)
 - d. What obstacles do foreign peace keepers face in regulating disputes like those we studied in class?
 - e. How can the US choose when to enter a conflict?
- 7) Final Assessment: Below is a list of conflicts currently brewing across the globe. Looking at the list it seems unrealistic that the US could intervene in ALL foreign conflicts. With that said, *what should the US policy be regarding involvement in foreign conflicts?*

In an IN-CLASS essay answer the following: what **three characteristics** of a conflict should the United States consider **most** when determining whether to intervene? You must reference at least one conflict we discussed in class.

Start of Conflict	War/Conflict	Location	Cumulative fatalities
1967	Naxalite-Maoist insurgency	India	6,000+ (1,100 in 2009) ^[5]
1978	Civil War in Afghanistan (5th Phase)	Afghanistan	600,000-2,000,000
1991	Somali Civil War (6th Phase)	Somalia	300,000^[6] –400,000^[7]
2003	Iraq War	Iraq	100,000–1,366,350 (see: Casualties of the Iraq War)
2004	War in North-West Pakistan	Pakistan	30,452 ^[8]
2006	Mexican Drug War	Mexico	19,000+ ^[9]
2009	Sudanese nomadic conflicts	Sudan	~2,500

Start of Conflict	War/Conflict	Location	Cumulative fatalities
1918	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Israel and Palestinian Territories	20,000+
1948	Internal conflict in Myanmar	Myanmar	~ 7,000
1948	Balochistan conflict	Pakistan , Iran	7,000+
1953	Nigerian sectarian violence	Nigeria	10,000+
1964	Colombian Armed Conflict	Colombia	50,000 – 200,000 ^[10]
1964	Internal conflict in Peru	Peru	~ 70,000
1964	Insurgency in Northeast India	India	10,000+
1969	Papua Conflict	Indonesia	75,000 - 100,000

1969	Communist & Islamic Insurgency ^[11]	Philippines	~120,000 ^[12]
1978	Turkey–Kurdistan Workers' Party conflict	Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan	~44,000
1989	Insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir	India	~60,000
1995	Insurgency in Ogaden	Ethiopia	~3,000
2002	Insurgency in the Maghreb	Algeria , Mali , Mauritania , Morocco , Niger and Tunisia	6000+
2004	Conflict in the Niger Delta	Nigeria	unknown
2004	South Thailand insurgency	Thailand	~3,000
2005	Fourth Civil War of Chad	Chad	1,140+
2008	Third Eritrean Civil War	Eritrea	~100
2009	Insurgency in the North Caucasus	Russia	~700
2009	South Yemen Insurgency	Yemen	70+
2010	Yemeni al-Qaeda crackdown	Yemen	~90

Resource Packets for Conflict Studies: In addition to this information, students will have some packets with printed material from their textbook or other classroom resources.

Beneficial for Everyone: Discussion of “Ethnicity”

Think about what “ethnicity” means. This is an important concept when discussing many of these conflicts.

<http://www.knowledgerush.com/kr/encyclopedia/Ethnicity/>

Sierra Leone Civil War

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/05/africa_sierra_leone_amputee/html/1.stm

<http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/warstat4.htm>

<http://www.theperspective.org/fugitivebockarie.html>

<http://www.raffaeleciriello.com/site/pw/56children1.html>

<http://www.alongwaygone.com/index.html>

<http://www.cryfreetown.org/>

Book: *Long Way Gone*

Balkan Crisis

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/00117.pdf>

http://www.dmoz.org/Society/History/By_Time_Period/Twentieth_Century/Wars_and_Conflicts/Yugoslavia_Wars//

<http://www.odu.edu/ao/instdv/quest/FocusOnBalkans.html>

Korean War

<http://www.koreanwar.org/>

http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/korea/large/index.htm

Tibet and China

<http://eng.tibet.cn/>

Japanese Invasion of China 1930s

Book: *The Rape of Nanking*

Book: *The Diary of John Rabe*

http://www.nanking-massacre.com/RAPE_OF_NANKING_OR_NANJING_MASSACRE_1937.html

<http://library.thinkquest.org/26469/history/1945.html>