

8.8 The Vietnam War

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS vietnam war 越南战争 • containment 遏制 • cold war 冷战

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Vietnam War** 越南战争.

You must be able to:

- state what the war was a measure of
- state what decolonization in Asia produced
- state what Americans debated about the executive
- explain why containment produced a war in Vietnam

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ A measure of containment

Concerned by expansionist Communist ideology and Soviet repression, the United States sought to contain communism through a variety of measures, including major military engagements in Vietnam. The CED classes the war as an instrument of the policy in 8.2.

■ Asia

Postwar decolonization and the emergence of powerful nationalist movements in Asia led both sides in the Cold War to seek allies among new nations, many of which remained nonaligned.

■ Executive power

Americans debated the appropriate power of the executive branch in conducting foreign and military policy. A constitutional question raised by a war.

■ Why Vietnam

A nationalist movement in a decolonising country could be read as national self-determination or as communist expansion. Containment required a judgment about which it was, and the war followed from the judgment made.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the CED classes the Vietnam War as. [2]

2.2 State what decolonization in Asia produced. [2]

2.3 The war raised a constitutional question.

(a) State it. [2]

(b) Explain why containment produced a war in a decolonising country. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED classes the Vietnam War among measures to [1]

- **A** contain communism
- **B** expand trade
- **C** end decolonization
- **D** enforce détente

3.2 The constitutional debate concerned the power of [1]

- **A** the executive branch in foreign and military policy
- **B** the judiciary
- **C** state governments
- **D** the Senate alone

3.3 A nationalist movement can be read two ways.

(a) State them. [1]

(b) Explain why the reading determines the policy. [2]

Solutions

2.1 a major military engagement among the measures by which the United States sought to contain communism.

2.2 both sides sought allies among new nations, many of which remained nonaligned.

2.3 (a) the appropriate power of the executive branch in conducting foreign and military policy. (b) a nationalist movement could be read as self-determination or as communist expansion, and containment required a judgment.

3.1 A. contain communism.

3.2 A. the executive branch.

3.3 (a) as national self-determination or as communist expansion. (b) the first calls for support or neutrality while the second calls for containment, so the same facts produce opposite policies.