|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key** | | | | | |
| Reason 1: |  | Reason 3: |  | Reason 5: |  |
| Reason 2: |  | Reason 4: |  | Reason 6: |  |

**Task 1:** Colour code the statements to show how they link together. Name each category to show the six key reasons why the US entered the Korean War.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Americans feared that their security would be compromised if more countries became communist. | Senator Joseph McCarthy was convinced that there were communists in the State Department. This created hysteria within the USA. | Truman commissioned the National Security Council (NSC) to write a report summarising how the USA should act in relation to Communism. |
| The USA’s relationship with Japan was beginning to change after WW2, into a friendlier one. | Truman had seen that the League of Nations and the policy of appeasement had failed to prevent WWII. He thought that decisive action in Korea could prevent further global conflicts. | Other Cold War events like the Berlin Blockade created even more tension between the USA and USSR. |
| Truman needed to be seen to be being tough on Communism, especially in the light of McCarthyism. Involvement in Korea would show that he was dealing with the issue. | In October 1949 China became communist. This made the USA worry about the balance of world power. | NSC-68 recommended that the USA develop a hydrogen bomb, build up an army, raise taxes, forge alliances and fight some wars abroad in order to defeat Communism. |
| By 1950 all of Eastern Europe and half of Germany was Communist. This created an ‘Iron Curtain’ and a communist power bloc. | Japan was only 100 miles away from South Korea. If it fell to Communism then trading with Japan would be in jeopardy. | Americans were worried that communist countries would not trade with them and that their economy would suffer. |
| In August 1949 the Soviet Union tested their first atomic bomb. This shocked the USA as they no longer had the upper hand in the arms race. | Americans were worried that if communists became too powerful that they would force their ideology on other countries that were close to them. | The 68th paper written by the NSC (hence NSC-68) described a polarised world where communists wanted to dominate Europe and Asia. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key** | | | | | |
| Anti- Communism |  | McCarthyism |  | Fears for Japan |  |
| The balance of word power |  | NSC-68 |  | Lessons from the past |  |

**Task 1:** Colour code the statements to show which ones support the six key reasons why the US entered the Korean War.

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| --- | --- | --- |
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**Task 2:** Give each of the six key reasons a score out of five to show how important it was in making the US enter the Korean War (5 being the most important, 1 being the least important). Mark the score on the diagram and join the dots to form a causation chart.

**Lessons from history**

**Anti-communism**

**NSC-68**

**McCarthyism**

**Balance of world power**

**Fears for Japan**

1

2

3

4

5

**Task 3:** Write a short paragraph explaining the shape of the diagram and justifying your ideas.

# Teaching notes

There are two versions of this resource so that it can be tailored to suit the needs of a range of students.

**Further development:** Arrows could be drawn around the causation diagram to show the links between factors and to stimulate a class discussion.

A similar diagram could be drawn when US entry into the Vietnam War has been studied later in the course so that reasons can be compared and contrasted.