

Focusing Your Thoughts

Instructions: You have had an opportunity to consider four options for U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union in the fall of 1946. Now it is your turn to look at each of the options from your own perspective. Try each one on for size. Think about how the options address your concerns and hopes. You will find that each has its own risks and trade-offs, advantages and disadvantages. After you complete this worksheet, you will be asked to develop your own option on U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union.

Ranking the Four Options

Which of the four options do you prefer? Rank the options from "1" to "4," with "1" being your first choice.

- ___ Option 1: Impose a Pax Americana (American Peace)
- ___ Option 2: Contain Soviet Communism
- ___ Option 3: Co-Exist and Compromise
- ___ Option 4: Avoid Foreign Entanglements

Beliefs

You have been asked by President Truman to recommend a strategy for the United States to adopt toward the Soviet Union. You may borrow heavily from one of the options, combine ideas from two or three options, or take a new approach altogether. There is no right or wrong answer. You should strive to craft an option that is logical and persuasive. To help you clarify the values and assumptions upon which you will base your recommendations, consider each of the following value statements and assumptions. Rate each according to your personal beliefs and values.

1 = strongly support
2 = support

3 = oppose
4 = strongly oppose

5 = undecided

- ___ The United States should not interfere in the affairs of other countries.
- ___ Large nations will always dominate their smaller neighbors.
- ___ The United States should use its power to promote political and economic freedom abroad.
- ___ Countries should be forced to live up to their agreements.
- ___ The United States should take all steps necessary to prevent another world war.
- ___ Every nation has the right to self-determination.
- ___ Free, open trade with a prosperous Europe is vital to the health of the American economy.
- ___ Lending money to foreign countries creates resentment and problems in repayment.
- ___ The advent of atomic weapons means nations should no longer threaten or go to war.

