

Document-Based Question

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer. Write your responses on the lined pages that follow the questions.

1. Use the following documents and your knowledge of United States history to answer the previous question.

Evaluate the effectiveness of American foreign policy in achieving and maintaining the safety and security of the United States in the period after 1972.

DOCUMENT 1

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics . . .

Conscious that nuclear war would have devastating consequences for all mankind,

Proceeding from the Basic Principles of Relations . . . of May 29, 1972,

Attaching particular significance to the limitation of strategic arms and determined to continue their efforts begun with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems and the Interim Agreement on Certain Measures with Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, of May 26, 1972,

Convinced that the additional measures limiting strategic offensive arms . . . will contribute to the improvement of relations between the Parties, help to reduce the risk of outbreak of nuclear war and strengthen international peace and security, . . .

Reaffirming their desire to take measures for the further limitation and for the further reduction of strategic arms, having in mind the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament,

Declaring their intention to undertake in the near future negotiations further to limit and further to reduce strategic offensive arms,

Have agreed as follows . . . ”

Treaty between the USA and the USSR signed in Vienna, June 18, 1979

DOCUMENT 2

“The 1980s have been born in turmoil, strife, and change. This is a time of challenge to our interests and our values and it’s a time that tests our wisdom and our skills. . . .

Three basic developments have helped to shape our challenges: the steady growth and increased projection of Soviet military power beyond its own borders; the overwhelming dependence of the Western democracies on oil supplies from the Middle East; and the press of social and religious and economic and political change in the many nations of the developing world, exemplified by the revolution in Iran”

President Jimmy Carter, State of the Union Address, January 23, 1980

Source: <http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/documents/speeches/su80jec.phtml>

DOCUMENT 3

“The truth is that a freeze now would be a very dangerous fraud, for that is merely the illusion of peace. The reality is that we must find peace through strength.

Yes, let us pray for the salvation of all of those who live in that totalitarian darkness—pray they will discover the joy of knowing God. But until they do . . . they are the focus of evil in the modern world . . .

. . . But if history teaches anything, it teaches that simple-minded appeasement or wishful thinking about our adversaries is folly. It means the betrayal of our past, the squandering of our freedom.

So, I urge you to speak out against those who would place the United States in a position of military and moral inferiority . . . beware the temptation . . . to ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire, to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding and thereby remove yourself from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil . . .”

President Ronald Reagan, speech to National Association of Evangelicals meeting in Orlando, Florida, March 8, 1983

DOCUMENT 4

“We last met in an hour of shock and suffering . . .

Our nation will continue . . . First, we will shut down . . . , disrupt . . . , and bring terrorists to justice. And, second, we must prevent . . . chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the United States and the world.

My hope is that all nations will heed our call, and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own. Many nations are acting forcefully . . .

But some governments will be timid in the face of terror. And make no mistake about it: If they do not act, America will.

States like [Iraq and North Korea], and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, . . . the price of indifference would be catastrophic.

We will work closely with our coalition to deny terrorists and their state sponsors the materials, technology, and expertise to make and deliver weapons of mass destruction. We will develop and deploy effective missile defenses to protect America and our allies from sudden attack. And all nations should know: America will do what is necessary to ensure our nation’s security.”

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

DOCUMENT 5

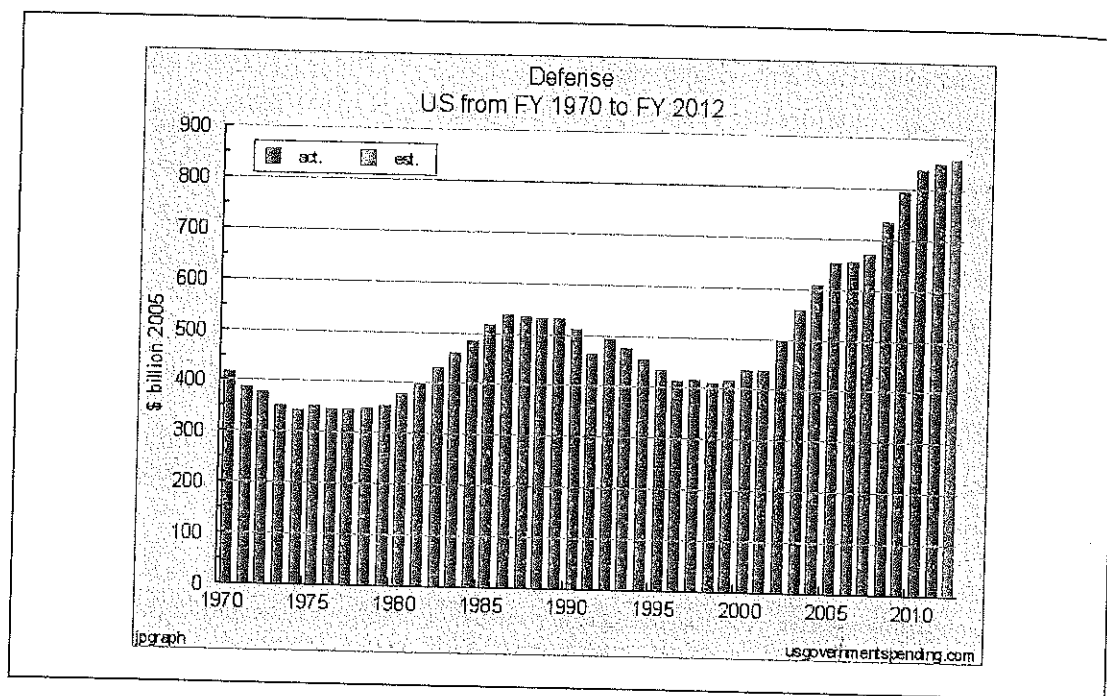
“Responding to . . . [an] observation that a transatlantic rift has deepened since the 1970s, Kissinger said, “There’s an enormous difference between the environment of the present situation and the environment then.

“The period we’re talking about was dominated by our consciousness of the Soviet Union as a superpower. Every crisis had to be conducted against a background of the possibility of escalating into nuclear war. Every ally realized there was a limit beyond which breaking with the United States was too risky,” Kissinger said.

“The challenge of the ’70s was how to construct a creative foreign policy in the midst of an undisputed permanent tension. The challenge of the present period is how to build a creative foreign policy in which there is no agreement on what the danger is, and therefore, the definition of positive objectives is much more difficult,” [Kissinger] said.”

Henry Kissinger, June 2003, remarks made at roundtable “Reevaluating the Nixon/Ford/Kissinger Era: Transatlantic Relations and U.S. Foreign Policy in the 1970s and Beyond”

DOCUMENT 6



DOCUMENT 7



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with members of the national security team, receive an update on the mission against Osama bin Laden, May 1, 2011