Teacher's Guide

iCivics

International Influence

Time Needed: One Class Period

Materials Needed: Student worksheets, an overhead transparency, and an overhead or computer projector.

Copy Instructions: Students will receive one reading packet (3 pages), a foldable (1 page), a review worksheet (double-sided), and an activity sheet (1 page).

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- identify the following key terms: sphere of influence, containment, capitalism, communism, propaganda, Truman Doctrine, Cold War, NATO, Warsaw Pact, and Marshall Plan.
- describe times that the U.S. has been influenced or has influenced other sovereign nations.
- explain the tension between western and eastern allies during the Cold War
- evaluate the effect of economic, military, and cultural influence on other nations.

Step by Step

1) **Anticipate** by asking students to think of a time when they were influenced by someone or something. Call on volunteers, or ask them to share with a partner. Based on their answers, ask them to define what it means to "influence" someone.

2) **Distribute** one reading packet to each student.

3) **Read** the reading packet with the class, pausing to explain as needed.

4) **Distribute** one foldable active response sheet to each student. Students should fold the sheet so that "Capitalist" appears on one side and "Communist" appears on the other.

5) **Display** the East/West Influence Timeline on the overhead projector Cover up everything but the first item on the timeline.

6) **Read** the first item in the timeline aloud to the class

7) **Ask** students to show you the correct side of their foldables (capitalist or communist)

8) **Proceed** through the rest of the timeline, uncovering one item at a time and asking students to show you the correct answers using their foldables. Discuss correct and incorrect answers.

9) **Distribute** the review worksheets and activity page

10) **Review** the instructions with the class

11) **Assign** the worksheets and activity page to reinforce the lesson.

This lesson plan is part of the *Foreign Affairs and National Defense* series by iCivics, Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing civic education. For more teaching resources, please visit www.icivics.org/teachers, where you can access the state standards aligned to this lesson plan.

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International Influence

Name:

What is *influence*?

Influence is how a thing or person affects another thing or person. When someone has influence over you, he or she has the power to change the decisions you make. You can think about using influence like picking teams. If someone has influence over you, you might say that you're on their team whether you want to be or not. Nations also influence each other to make certain decisions. When nations allow themselves to be influenced by a more powerful country, it is like they are joining that country's team. They begin to make decisions the way the more powerful nation wants them to. In foreign affairs we call these teams **spheres of influence**.

Who uses *influence*?

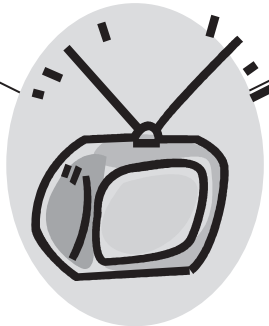
A country usually seeks to influence another country in order to gain an advantage. For example, the more powerful nation might influence a less powerful one to get something it wants. Even so, less powerful countries can gain from the relationship too. A country might also seek to influence other countries in order to become more powerful. The most powerful countries in the world have large spheres of influence, or many countries on their team.

Countries use three main types of influence to affect other countries' decisions...

Economic Influence.
Economic influence is the use of money to affect decision making. For example, someone trying to use economic influence to persuade you might offer you gifts to impact a decision you are making. In foreign affairs, nations might give or take away money, aid, or access to resources to influence decisions made by other countries.

Military Influence.
A threat of attack or a promise of protection is an example of military influence. For example, people can act like bullies or offer to protect you from bullies in order to impact your decisions. In foreign affairs, less powerful countries can be convinced to make certain decisions when they are under the military influence of a more powerful nation.

Cultural Influence.
A nation's decision process can also be affected by cultural forces like television or the internet. For example, when someone seems really "popular" you might be more likely to make decisions the way they want you to. In foreign affairs, countries with a really popular culture can use that to affect the way citizens in another country think.



All this team building can get competitive. Sometimes two countries get stuck in a race to build the biggest and strongest team! We're going to read about an example of this type of race for power.

International Influence

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Spheres of Influence and the Cold War

World War II tore apart the continent of Europe. It was won by two groups of countries known as the Western Allies and the Eastern Allies. These groups had worked together to stop Nazi Germany from taking control of Europe. After the war, Europe needed to rebuild. The Western Allies and the Eastern Allies could have worked together for this to happen. As it turns out, there would be very little working together!

As the countries that had been under Nazi control gained back their power, the Allies had the opportunity to influence the way these countries would be run. The Western Allies and Eastern Allies had very different ideas. The Western Allies, headed by the United States, supported **capitalism**. Capitalism means that people own property and can make decisions about what to do with their property. The Eastern Allies, headed by the Soviet Union, supported **communism**. In communism, the government owns property and decides how people can use it.

Western Allies		Eastern Allies
The United States	LEADER	The Soviet Union
Democracy	GOVERNMENT	Dictatorship
Capitalism the individual owns property	ECONOMICS	**Communism** the state owns property

The Allies began using their influence to convince countries to follow capitalism or communism. A race developed between the United States and the Soviet Union to see who could build the bigger sphere of influence. This race was called the **Cold War**. During this Cold War, the Soviet Union tried to expand its sphere of influence across Europe and Asia. At the same time, the United States used its power to expand its own sphere of influence.

Cold War

Hot War

Cold vs. Hot

The wars you hear about on the news today are "hot" wars because they involve fighting. "Cold" wars have little or no fighting. Instead, countries show off their military and political force to intimidate other countries and keep a constant threat.

The United States believed that increasing capitalism could stop the growth of communism. This strategy was called **containment** because it would "contain" communism and keep it from spreading. Countries could only pick one team to join, and the more countries chose capitalism, the less would choose communism.

International Influence

Name:

Both the United States and the Soviet Union used the three main forms of influence…

Economic Influence	Military Influence	Cultural Influence
During the Cold War, the Soviet Union tried to get the countries of Greece and Turkey to join the communist team. In response, the U.S. President Truman sent money to Greece and Turkey to help them improve their countries. This helped keep Greece and Turkey out of the Soviet sphere of influence and made them part of the U.S.'s sphere. After this action, they called using aid as influence the "**Truman Doctrine**."	The Cold War sometimes had flashes of hot war. One example is the Korean War. Communist countries helped northern Korea attack southern Korea. International groups joined together to help southern Korea defend itself. The fighting lasted for more than three years until a ceasefire was reached, and the country was divided into North and South Korea. This war was an attempt to use military influence to expand the communist sphere of influence.	**Propaganda** played a big role during the Cold War. Propaganda is a message designed to persuade the listener to think a certain way. The Western Allies started Radio Free Europe to spread anti-communist propaganda. The Soviet Union tried to block Radio Free Europe from being heard in communist countries. Even so, aspects of culture like rock music broke through the barrier to reach people living in communist nations.

The Cold War continued under different U.S. Presidents and different Soviet leaders. The race to grow spheres of influence kept going – even creating a race to put the first man in space! Eventually, the Soviet Union found itself in an economic crisis. The Soviet Union fell apart in 1991. The country changed its name back to Russia, rejected communism, and lost control over much of its sphere of influence.

International Influence

Name:

Vocabulary. Fill in the missing letters for each word, then match it to the correct definition.

_____ 1. S __ H E __ E __ F
I __ F __ U __ __ C E

_____ 2. C __ __ M __ N __ __ M

_____ 3. C __ N T __ __ N M __ N __

_____ 4. __ R O __ A __ A N __ A

_____ 5. __ A P __ __ A L __ __ __

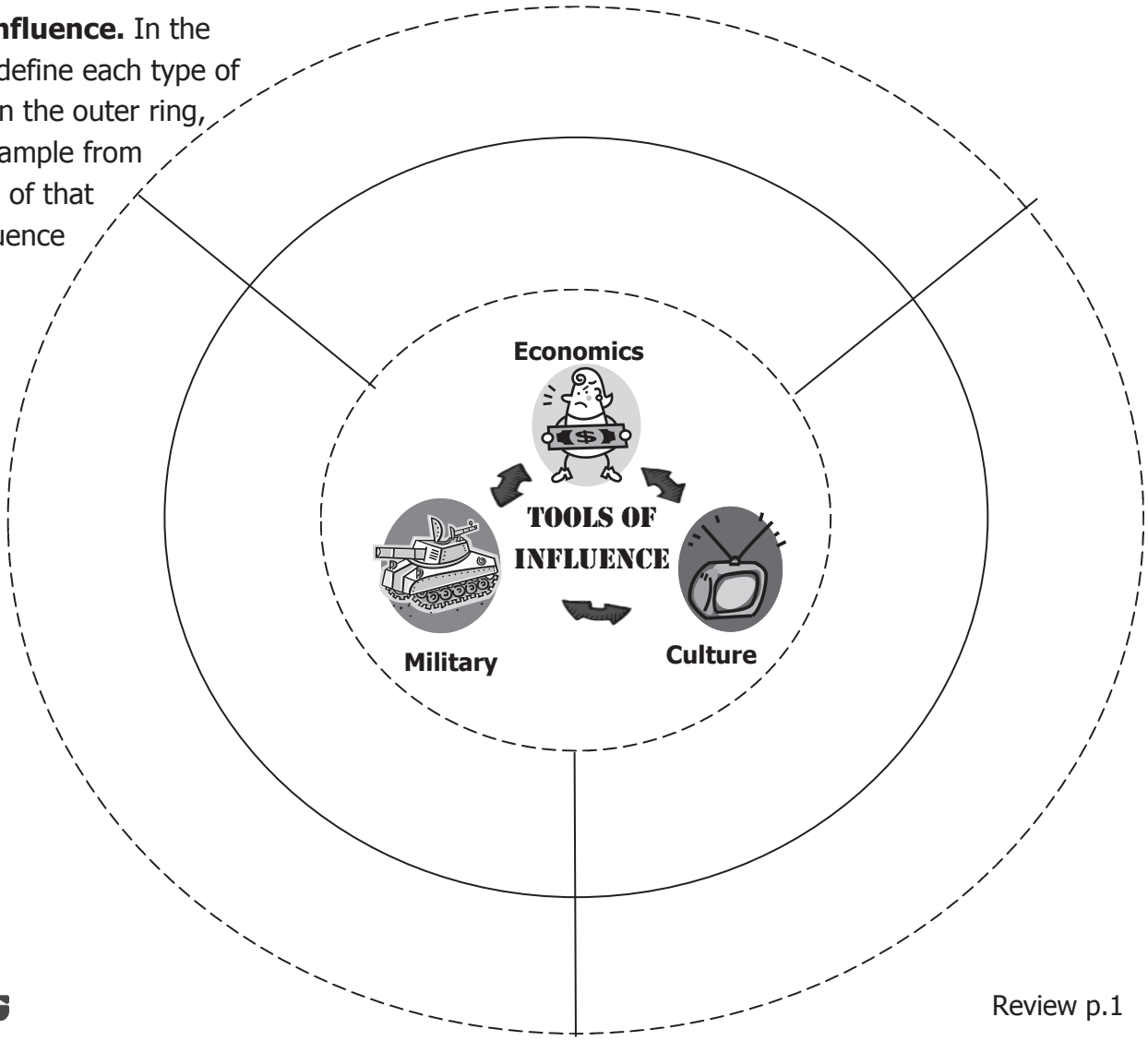
_____ 6. C __ L __ __ A __

_____ 7. __ O __ __ A __

_____ 8. S __ V __ __ T __ N __ __ N

A. An economic system in which the state or government owns most property
B. A message spread by media that is designed to sway the listener
C. A war that involves mostly fighting
D. The leader of the Eastern Allies
E. the nations that a country has persuaded to follow its policy
F. A war that has little to no fighting, but involves countries threatening each other
G. the foreign policy that tries to keep another type of policy in check
H. An economic strategy in which the individual owns most property

Tools of Influence. In the inner ring, define each type of influence. In the outer ring, write an example from the reading of that kind of influence at work.



International Influence

Name:

Identify. Label each example by circling the E (economics), C (culture), or M (military).

E C M 1. A wealthy nation sends food and supplies to a poor nation.

E C M 2. A country takes sides with people fighting in a civil war in another country

E C M 3. One country decides to build schools in a poor neighboring country.

E C M 4. A nation lines up its troops on its border with a neighboring country.

E C M 5. A radio station is established to spread a political message.

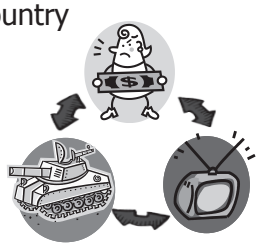
E C M 6. A nation cuts off food supplies to a nation that relies on them.

E C M 7. A super power and several weaker nations promise to defend each other militarily.

E C M 8. A play is written with propaganda, and a theater group tours neighboring countries.

E C M 9. A larger nation decides to lend money to a small country to influence their policies.

E C M 10. After a natural disaster in a poor country, a wealthier country provides aid workers.



Influential or Not? Read each scenario in the left hand column and decide if it is a useful or useless international influence tool. In the right hand column, explain *why* it is useful or useless.

1. Sending economic aid to a country that is struggling	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
2. Creating propaganda against a particular country and distributing it in its neighboring countries	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
3. Declaring a holiday on the President's birthday	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
4. Sending medical supplies and staff to a country recovering from a natural disaster	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
5. Offering the opportunity for a college education to the citizens of a poorer nation	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
6. Developing a really cool television station and website for youth in your country	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
7. Providing military defense for a weak country against attack from a stronger country	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...
8. Sending aid and money to a wealthier country that doesn't need it	❑ Useful ❑ Useless	Because...

Fold on the dotted line so that your answer is showing…

Capitalist

Sphere of

Influence

Communist

Sphere of

Influence

International Influence

Name:

Influence Timeline. Read each description of the action, program, or treaty on the timeline and decide which direction it pushed, toward Western Capitalism or Eastern Communism. **Shade** in the correct arrow (Capitalism or Communism).

Capitalist | **1947** Movie makers in Hollywood were encouraged to make movies that spread American patriotism and anti-Communist messages. | Communist

Capitalist | **1948** The Marshall Plan was signed into effect by the United States, promising money to struggling countries in Europe. | Communist

Capitalist | **1949** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed and included many countries who wanted to resist the spread of Soviet influence. They agreed to defend each other in case of attack. | Communist

Capitalist | **1950** The Soviet Union and China signed an agreement. It said that they will defend each other in case of attack. In June, China backed North Korea in their invasion of South Korea. | Communist

Capitalist | **1951** The Mutual Security Act went into affect. It stated that the U.S. would provide military aid for "free peoples" around the world. | Communist

Capitalist | **1954** The South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO) was founded by Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Founded as a defense pact, SEATO funded many educational and cultural programs. | Communist

Capitalist | **1955** The Non-Aligned Movement was started by several key countries including India, Yugoslavia, Indonesia, Egypt, and Ghana. They were actively resisting falling into the U.S. or Soviet sphere of influence. | Communist

Capitalist | **1955** The Warsaw Pact was founded, forming the Eastern Bloc. It included East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union. Like NATO, it was a defense agreement. | Communist

Capitalist | **1960s** As rock 'n roll music spread throughout the world, the Soviet Union did its best to jam radio stations and block the music. The Soviet Union saw rock 'n roll as a Western influence. | Communist

Capitalist | **1961** A wall was built by the Soviets in Berlin, Germany's capital city. It divided Eastern Berlin from Western Berlin in order to show that the Soviets were not willing to give up their control over Eastern Germany. | Communist

International Influence

Name:

A Map of Cold War Europe

** Keep in mind that this is not a current map of Europe. Borders have changed since the end of the Cold War.**

1. The Iron Curtain started in the northernmost parts of Europe, on the border between Finland and the Soviet Union. **Darken** that border.
2. The Soviet sphere of influence included Poland and East Germany. West Germany was held by the Western Allies. **Darken** the border between East and West Germany.
3. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria were also all countries that fell under the Soviet sphere of influence. **Darken** the western border of Czechoslovakia around Austria toward Hungary, and down the border of Yugoslavia and Romania/Bulgaria. Make sure *not* to include Greece!
4. **Circle** the names of the original North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations: Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, West Germany, Italy, Norway, Iceland, and the United Kingdom.
5. Two countries were influenced toward the West by the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan and later joined NATO. **Circle** the names of Greece and Turkey.
6. Some countries tried to stay neutral in the Cold War. **Shade in** Austria and Switzerland to show that they stayed neutral.
7. Yugoslavia originally joined with the Soviet Union, but split in 1948 becoming a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement (a group of nations who opposed too much control on either side). Put a **star** on Yugoslavia.

International Influence

Name: ** TEACHERS GUIDE**

Vocabulary. Fill in the missing letters for each word, then match it to the correct definition.

E 1. S P H E R E O F I N F L U E N C E

A 2. C O M M U N I S M

G 3. C O N T A I N M E N T

B 4. P R O P A G A N D A

H 5. C A P I T A L I S M

F 6. C O L D W A R

C 7. H O T W A R

D 8. S O V I E T U N I O N

A. An economic system in which the state or government owns most property
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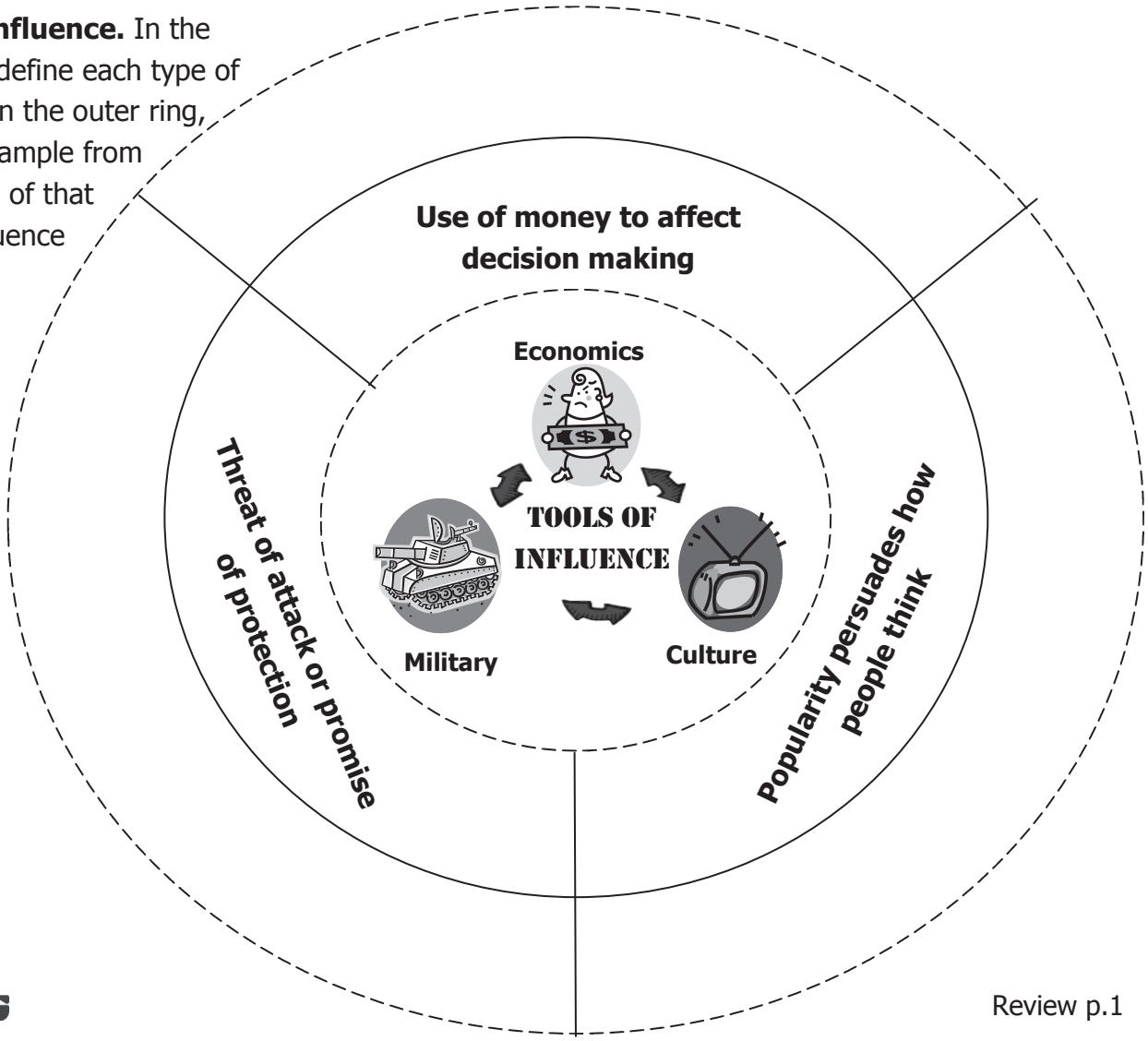

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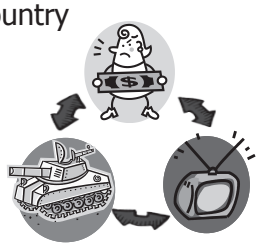

E C (M) 7. A super power and several weaker nations promise to defend each other militarily.

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