

Reasons for Foreign Involvement		
Basis of comparison	Spanish Civil War	Chinese Civil War
Timeframe	1936-1939	1946-1949
Ideological	<p><b>Topic Sentence</b> Ideological ties between the Nationalists and fascist dictators, as well as the Republicans and the USSR, drew them into the conflict.</p> <p><b>Nationalists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two most involved countries during the Spanish Civil War, Germany and Italy, intervened on the side of the Nationalists due to similar fascist ideologies</li> <li>Especially for Mussolini, the Italian dictator who considered himself the founder of Fascism</li> <li>In Spain, the Falange and CEDA parties modelled themselves after the Fascist and Nazi movements in Italy and Germany respectively</li> <li>The Germans and Italians were thus flattered that Franco turned to them for aid and felt a responsibility to support the Nationalists</li> <li>Moreover, both countries were highly anti-communist and saw the Spanish Civil War as an opportunity to stop the spread of communism in Europe</li> </ul> <p><b>Republicans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The USSR felt obliged to support the Republicans, which consisted of anarchist, socialist and communist groups, as it had proclaimed itself as the leader of the world communist movement</li> <li>While initially hesitant, Italy and Germany's massive support for the Nationalists meant that Stalin had little choice but to intervene</li> <li>The emergence of another fascist state would strengthen Hitler's sphere of influence in Europe, which would pose a threat to the USSR's goal of spreading communism</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thus for all countries, having a Spain with similar ideology as themselves was highly desired</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideology alone does not explain the lack of involvement of Britain and France, which had clear ideological stances</li> <li>Britain was in favour of the Nationalists as it greatly feared the threat of communism more than anything else</li> </ul>	<p><b>Topic Sentence</b> Ideological ties between the CCP and the USSR, as well as the GMD and the USA, drew them into the conflict.</p> <p><b>CCP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The post-WWII era saw a struggle of dominance between the capitalist West and the communist East</li> <li>The CCP and the USSR had a long history</li> <li>For much of its early history, CCP leaders like Li Dazhao, Chen Duxiu and the 28 Bolsheviks were pro-Soviet and had received much Soviet assistance</li> <li>The USSR felt it had a responsibility to aid the CCP in an attempt to strengthen the international communist bloc</li> </ul> <p><b>GMD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Cold War tensions were growing in 1946, there was increasing support in the USA for containment to prevent the expansion of communism worldwide</li> <li>There was a fear of a full-blown Communist China taking power</li> <li>Thus, preventing the CCP from taking over China was of paramount importance</li> <li>The GMD was pro-capitalist and democratic to some extent, and supporting it seemed only logical</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The USA was not necessarily opposed to the CCP; the Dixie Mission in 1943 had proved that the CCP rule in Yanan was competent and Edgar Snow was particularly affirmative of Mao's rule</li> <li>Withdrew support for the GMD in 1948</li> <li>Stalin's support for the CCP was ambivalent</li> <li>Provided delayed and limited aid for the CCP</li> <li>Did not believe in the CCP's ability to win the civil war until the later stages in 1949</li> <li>At different times in the civil war Stalin supported both the CCP and GMD</li> <li>Continued to recognise Jiang's government through the Sino-Soviet Treaty</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, it did not come to their aid and instead proposed the Non-Intervention Committee</li> <li>• France was inclined to support the Left Republic as it had a leftist Popular Front government similar to Spain</li> <li>• Was afraid of the emergence of another Fascist power on its border, which would have left it encircled by Fascist countries</li> <li>• Britain and France's failure to intervene meant that geopolitical reasons were more important than ideology</li> <li>• The USSR's lack of commitment to intervention also showed that ideology was not the main reason for foreign involvement</li> <li>• Provided minimal aid and withdrew support completely in 1939</li> <li>• Hitler and Mussolini provide a disproportionate amount of aid to secure Nationalist victory</li> <li>• Hence, other factors clearly played a role in attracting foreign involvement</li> </ul>	<p>of Friendship and Alliance in 1945</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordered the PLA to withdraw from all major cities in November 1945</li> <li>• Hence, other factors clearly played a role in attracting foreign support</li> </ul>
Compare and Contrast	<p><b>Similarities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fear of communism was common to both wars</li> <li>• One reason for foreign involvement was thus to contain the spread of communism</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fascism had collapsed as an ideology after WWII and thus was not applicable to the Chinese Civil War</li> <li>• Foreign involvement in the Spanish Civil War took place as more of a European conflict whereas the Chinese Civil War was more of a global struggle between the two superpowers due to the Cold War</li> </ul>
Geopolitical	<p><b>Topic Sentence</b> In the climate of increasing tensions in Europe and the possibility of another European or World War, the foreign powers saw the Spanish Civil War as an opportunity to further their foreign policies and attain individual gains.</p> <p><b>Nationalists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitler's real reason for assisting Franco were strategic</li> <li>• Germany's desire to remilitarise and overturn the Versailles treaty encouraged Germany to enter the Civil War</li> <li>• The outbreak and the involvement of Germany in the war would keep the Western democracies distracted while he rearmed</li> <li>• Provided a crucial testing ground for new weapons and military doctrines would be key in preparation for what was seen as an inevitable war</li> <li>• Moreover, gaining a key fascist ally would put pressure on France's rear and to the British route in the Suez Canal</li> <li>• A Nationalist victory would remove the danger of a liberal-left Franco-Spanish bloc that would obstruct Hitler's expansionist goals</li> <li>• Mussolini wanted to cement relations with Germany due to its alienation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Topic Sentence</b> With the rise of Cold War tensions in 1946, the foreign powers saw the Chinese Civil War as an opportunity to further their foreign policies and attain individual gains.</p> <p><b>CCP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At different times during the civil war, the USSR supported both the GMD and CCP</li> <li>• While the USSR recognised its ideological links with the CCP, it feared the threat posed by a strong communist China that might rival its leadership in the communist world</li> <li>• For Stalin, control of Eastern Europe was central to post-WWII Soviet national security; did not want a major power on his eastern borders</li> <li>• By prolonging the conflict, Stalin could delay the emergence of a strong, unified China that would pose a threat to him</li> <li>• Stalin initially supported the GMD through the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance in 1945 in exchange for Jiang to officially recognize Outer Mongolia's independence, which was situated at the USSR's border</li> </ul>

	<p>from Britain and France after the Abyssinian Crisis in 1935-1936, allowing him to allay his security concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furthermore, Mussolini's policy was always dominated by the restless desire to redress the perceived injustices of the Versailles peace settlement</li> <li>• Italy was an aspiring power which felt since WWI that its economic ambitions had not been rewarded, which were to rival British naval power and challenge the French in North Africa</li> <li>• The Spanish war proved to be a prime opportunity to shore up the glory of Mussolini's 2<sup>nd</sup> Roman Empire and challenge British control over the Western Mediterranean</li> </ul> <p><b>Republicans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stalin had initially remained ambivalent about intervening as his greatest fear was of an expansionist Nazi Germany</li> <li>• Had no desire to alienate the Western democracies by supporting the Republicans</li> <li>• However, once it was clear that non-intervention was a failure and that the Republicans were buckling under massive German aid, Stalin decided to risk intervention</li> <li>• The collapse of the Republicans would free up Nazi firepower for aggression eastwards against the USSR</li> <li>• By intervening, Stalin hoped that Germany and Italy to be bogged down by a prolonged war so that they would not threaten Russia</li> <li>• Provided minimal support for the Republicans, as Stalin did not want to provoke an alliance between Britain, France and Germany to contain communism</li> <li>• However, the USSR cut off support for the Republicans once its security was ensured through the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939</li> <li>• Thus geopolitical reasons were crucial for foreign involvement</li> </ul> <p><b>Britain and France</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Britain and France ultimately avoided intervention due to self-interest</li> <li>• Were in the process of remilitarization due to the growing German threat</li> <li>• Feared getting bogged down by intervening, which Germany might take advantage of</li> <li>• Since Britain and France supported opposing sides, both countries were wary of being pitted against each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stalin's short-term support for the GMD was thus purely for security reasons</li> <li>• Once the territorial integrity of Outer Mongolia was secured in 1946, Stalin turned to provide aid to the CCP</li> <li>• Even then it was limited, as Stalin was anxious to avoid a confrontation with the USA</li> <li>• Hence for Stalin, national security was of greater importance than supporting the CCP</li> </ul> <p><b>GMD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Besides ideological ties, the USA had historic links with the GMD, Sun Yixian and Jiang</li> <li>• Felt necessary to maintain such obligations to prevent other allies from losing confidence in US support, which would have resulted in the USSR gaining greater international clout</li> <li>• However, only provided limited support</li> <li>• While fearful of a communist China, the USA wanted China to be a strong ally and a stabilising force in post-WWII East Asia</li> <li>• Tried to encourage the GMD and CCP to settle their differences politically</li> <li>• The Marshall Mission sought to unify both parties in hope that a strong, united government would act as a barrier against Soviet encroachment and communist expansion</li> <li>• Withdrew aid in 1948 when support for the GMD was deemed a liability rather than an asset</li> <li>• Thus geopolitical reasons were crucial for foreign involvement</li> </ul>
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign intervention in both wars due to self-interest rather than similar ideologies</li> <li>• While the foreign powers were undeniably keen on supporting the faction that aligned itself with their respective ideologies, geopolitical reasons ultimately drew them into the conflict and determined the nature and extent of their involvement</li> </ul>	

