

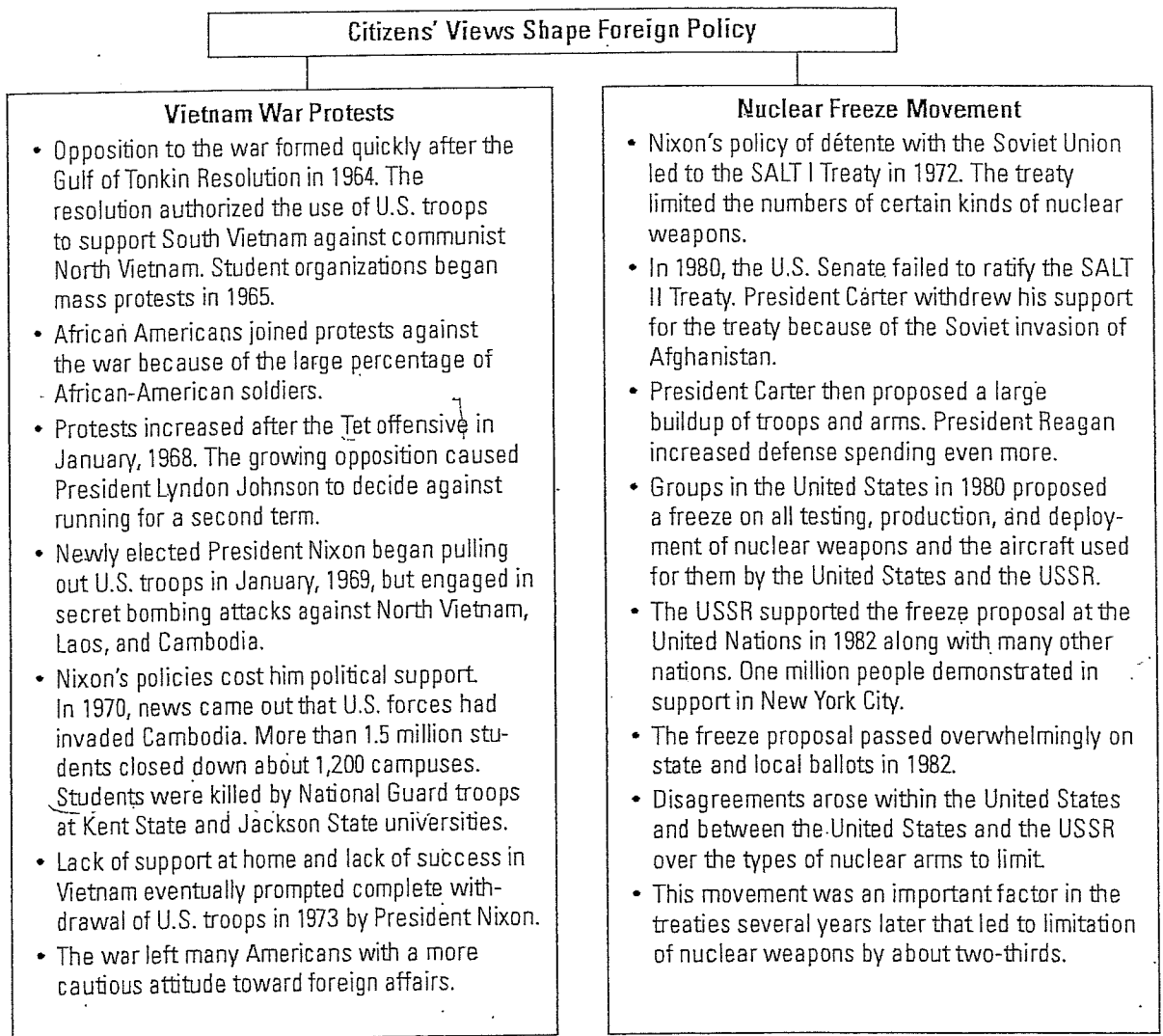


**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 11.9.4**

*Relationship of Foreign  
and Domestic Policy*

**Specific Objective:** List the effects of foreign policy on domestic policies and vice versa.

Read the diagram to answer the questions on the next page.



## • An Antiwar Movement Emerges (page 788)

As more Americans died in Vietnam, many people, especially college students, began to protest against the war. In March 1965, a group of college teachers and students at the University of Michigan joined together in a **teach-in**. This was an informal discussion about the issues surrounding the war and their reasons for opposing it. Soon teach-ins were being held in other college campuses.

People opposed the war for different reasons. Some believed that it was a civil war that did not have anything to do with the United States. Others believed South Vietnam was a corrupt democracy, and supporting it was immoral. Some protesters believed the United States had an unfair draft system. At the beginning of the war, college students were able to postpone military service until after they graduated. A young person from a low-income family was more likely to serve in the war because he could not afford college. As a result, minorities made up a disproportionately large percentage of the soldiers in Vietnam. The high number of African Americans and poor Americans dying in Vietnam angered African American leaders. In April 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr., publicly condemned the war.

As the war continued, more people were drafted. Many draftees refused to go. Some fled the country, moving to Canada or other nations. Others stayed and went to prison rather than fight in a war they opposed. In 1969 the government issued a lottery system for the draft. Only those who had low lottery numbers were drafted.

Demonstrators against the war were not only college students. In October 1967, a rally at the Lincoln Memorial drew tens of thousands of protesters. Although the antiwar protesters were a vocal group, a majority of people in early 1968 supported President Johnson's determination to keep fighting. The nation seemed to be divided into two groups. Those who wanted the United States to withdraw from Vietnam were known as **doves**. Those who wanted the United States to stay and fight became known as **hawks**.

## • 1968: The Pivotal Year (page 789)

On January 30, 1968, the Vietcong and North Vietnamese launched a huge surprise attack during the Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. It was called the Tet offensive. The guerrilla fighters attacked all American airbases in South Vietnam and most of the nation's major cities. After about a month of fighting, the American and South Vietnamese soldiers fended off the enemy troops, who suffered heavy losses.

However, the North Vietnamese scored a major political victory. Americans were shocked that the North Vietnamese, who were supposedly near defeat, could launch such a huge attack. General Westmoreland called for additional troops. This seemed to indicate to Americans that the United States could not win the war. In addition, the media criticized the military effort. The media also indicated that the United States could not win the war.

After the Tet offensive, President Johnson's approval rating fell drastically. As a result, in March 1968, Johnson announced that he would not run for re-election in 1968.

## • Turmoil at Home Continues (page 793)

Protests and violence continued in the United States after Richard Nixon became president. In November 1969, the American media reported that in the spring of 1968, an American platoon under the command of Lieutenant William Calley had massacred more than 200 unarmed South Vietnamese civilians in My Lai. Most of the victims were old men, women, and children. Calley went to prison for his role. The My Lai massacre increased the feelings among many Americans that the war was brutal and senseless. These feelings were strongest among the younger generation.

In April 1970, Nixon announced that American troops had invaded Cambodia to destroy Vietcong military bases there. Many Americans viewed this action as enlarging the war. More protests occurred. At Kent State University in May 1970, Ohio National Guard soldiers fired on students without an order to do so. They killed four students. Two African American students were killed ten days later at a demonstration at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

Members of Congress were upset with the president for not notifying them of his plan to invade Cambodia. In December 1970, Congress repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Then in 1971, Daniel Ellsberg, a former Defense Department worker, leaked the Pentagon Papers to the *New York Times*. The documents showed that many government officials during the Johnson administration had privately questioned the war while publicly defending it. The documents also showed how various administrations deceived Congress, the media, and the public about the situation in Vietnam. They showed that the government had not been honest with the American people.

## The Antiwar Movement and Turmoil at Home

1. What was a teach-in?
2. What were three reasons that people opposed the Vietnam War?
3. What are doves and hawks?
4. Why was the Tet Offensive a major political victory for the communists in North Vietnam?
5. What impact did the My Lai Massacre have on support for the Vietnam War at home?
6. What events led to student deaths at Kent State University and Jackson State College?
7. How did the release of the Pentagon Papers in the *New York Times* further weaken support for the war?