



Gulf of Tonkin (11.9.3)

Background:

On August 2, 1964 the American Destroyer USS Maddox found itself in battle with North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. Two days later there were reports of another such incident in the same area. These reports bolstered support in Congress for US intervention in the region and led to the passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that gave the president the authority to deploy conventional forces and widen the conflict into North Vietnam.

Prompt:

Was the U.S. planning to go to war with North Vietnam before the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution?

Task:

In a well thought out essay:

- Write a claim in response to the prompt.
- Support your claim by using at least five pieces of evidence from the documents, background reading, and additional research US Cold War policies in regards to preventing the spread of communism.
- Be sure to explain how the evidence you have chosen supports your claim
- Incorporate at least two additional pieces of evidence from the documents and/or your research that argues against your claim and use your evidence to counter that opposing claim.