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## **History 226**

America has always been careful when it comes to engaging in wars. There were always specific reasons for its participation in particular wars. The country engaged in numerous wars such as the World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The decision of the United States to enter these wars was due to various reasons. America kept its distance from entering World War I until the then president Woodrow Wilson decided to convene a meeting with members of the Congress in order to declare war against Germans. Wilson decided that he had had enough of Germans violating their pledge on unrestricted submarine warfare in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. In addition, Germany was trying to entice America's rival, Mexico, into forming an alliance, which made the president Wilson feel that the country's safety was at threat.

Similar to the World War I, activities of the Germans were some of the reasons why

America got involved in World War II. Following this trend, the United States had decided to
keep a neutral stance in the war, but it did not last long after Germany attacked its supply ships.

Although the USA was neutral during the early days of the war, it traded with the United

Kingdom, and Germans considered it a hostile act. America would supply the United Kingdom

with fuel, bombs, and guns. Another reason the US got involved in the war was to help free

China from Japan's invasion. America did not like the idea that Japan was brutal and reckless in its plan to take over different Chinese cities, as many people were dying. In retaliation for America's decision to support China, Japan decided to attack Pearl Harbor, a naval base situated in Hawaii. This unexpectedly cruel action made the US levy war against Japan. After seeing that America was fighting with Japan, Germany and Italy decided to take action and sided with Japan.

The underlying reason why America entered the Korean War was a continuation of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Many people were made to believe that the Korean War was between North and South Korea, but the warfare was between the USA and the USSR. One of the major causes why America got involved in the Korean War was to help reduce the rapid spread of communism. America realized that if Russia managed to spread its communist ideas over Korea, the ideology would affect other neighboring countries that USA traded with.

The United States also became involved in the Vietnam War to help reduce the spread of communism. America and Russia were struggling to make the world embrace their different ideologies. The triumph of America in the Korean War made it think that it was easy to stop this system of common values in any country it tried to take over. With this in mind, America decided to enter the Vietnam War.

The presidents in power played a huge role in different wars that America participated in.

Truman, Roosevelt, Johnson and Wilson mobilized politicians to support the country in its mission. Truman, for instance, developed various ideologies that had to guide the country when considering engagement in wars. The Truman Doctrine directed the country, determining a situation when it had to engage in military operations. However, mobilizing the nation for war

was not easy as the presidents faced opposition from their rivals. It was also difficult to convince all politicians about the merits of entering into these wars. It was important that all officials were on the same page with the presidents in order to help approve funding.

To conclude, the entry of the USA into World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War was stipulated by many reasons, some of which were either similar or different. For instance, the entry into both World War I and World War II was triggered by German invasion into America's territory. The then president sensed that the country's peace and stability was under threat, which impelled to fight against Germans. The main motive that made America join both the Korean and Vietnam wars was to impede the spread of communism.