



Old fears and new threats: Western European defence negotiations

How revealing are the negotiations over European defence 1948-1954 about the hopes and fears of the people involved?

Teacher Material

Activity Plan.

PPT slides of context and decisions

Contextual notes

Student Material

Context cards

Character cards (simpler and more complex versions)

Decision making cards

PPT slides of context and decisions

Worksheet

This activity involves students' role playing the decisions and dilemmas relating to European defence in the early 1950s. It can be done in more or less depth. There are versions with less and more text. It is also possible to add in more student group and whole class discussion at each stage. Which option is chosen will depend on the aptitude, age and interest of the students, and on the time available.



Learning outcomes

 14-18 years

Students will

 1-6 hours (with variants and extensions)

- Learn about the background and national governments they interest groups that motivations of the key leaders and the represented. They will also learn about the
- Identify the balance and interplay of national government) and external factors, and identify the compromises that internal interests (of the leader and the factors, and identify the compromises that
- Discuss these compromises, with the how complex international decision-decisions. aim of developing their understanding of making presents dilemmas and requires
- Reflect to what extent their and what it was that made him or her effective. character was effective in the negotiations her effective.
- learn some of the historical context to a contemporary European issue
- Discuss what the defence negotiations reveal about the factors that have to be taken into account when negotiating at a European level in their own time.
- Take the perspective of one of the leaders and their advisers, they will learn how they responded in the negotiations and the factors that influenced their decisions.

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More information about the sources is included in the material for teachers.