The Berlin Blockade and Cuban Missile Crisis were the direct result of the Soviet Union’s reckless aggression. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Korea and Cuba were merely pawns in a larger ideological struggle between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

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| **Criteria** | **Excellent**  **10-9** | **Very Good** **8-7** | **Progressing****6-5** | **Needs** **Improvement****4-0** | **Score**  |
| **Structure & Organization**  | Effectively introduces topic **Thesis statement clearly and effectively identifies your argument & the main points you will discuss** Well written paragraphs: effective topic and concluding sentences (clear links to thesis), logical and clear connections between ideas, very good use of transition words, smooth flow and excellent clarity Strong conclusion leaves the reader solidly understanding your thesis and with something to think about  | Topic is introduced Thesis statementidentifies your argument & outlines main points to be discussed Paragraph development present but not perfected Conclusion restates your thesis and main points  | Somewhat of an introduction .Your position is stated, but main points to be discussed are not clear Main points areoutlined but position is not clear Topic and concluding sentences need to be more consistently and directly linked to the thesis Paragraphs structure and organization needs improvement Conclusion attempts to restate the thesis and summarize supporting arguments but somewhat unclear or incomplete  | No clearposition taken Supporting arguments not clear nor outlined Choppy flow – a bit confusing Much more work needed with respect to answering the question |   |
| **Content**Evidence (facts & examples) Depth & Analysis | **I**nsightful, clearly focused, and well balanced arguments in support of your thesis are included throughout**A variety of in depth and persuasive historical evidence & terminology** is used consistently and convincingly to support the thesis**Highly effective explanations clearly show how the evidence supports the thesis – consistent throughout** Synthesis is well developed with evidence and explanations fully and effectively integratedIn depth and insightful understanding of topic demonstrated | Relevant and focused arguments in support of your thesis are included Relevant and mostly detailed historical evidence is present in support of the thesis Explanations show how the evidence supports the thesis, however they need to be clearer and/or more convincing and/or more consistentSynthesis is present, but not always effectively or consistently integrated Good understanding demonstrated   | An attempt was made to include arguments in support of your thesis, however they need to be more relevant and/or focused and/or more convincingThere is some relevant, accurate historical evidence, but detail is insufficient Explanations need to better explain how facts and examples support the thesisFacts may appear to be “listed”Synthesis is attempted, but underdeveloped | Essay is too narrative or descriptive, you need to present clear arguments in support of your thesisMore accurate and/or specific historical evidence to avoid unsupported generalizationsExplanations and connections to thesis are not clear or not included  |  **X4=** |