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Foreign policy is a term that is often used and heard in the context of international relations, but what does it mean exactly? How is it important and relevant for our lives and the future of humanity? In this blog, we will answer these questions and more, and provide you with a brief
and clear overview of the concept and practice of foreign policy. Foreign policy is the set of goals, strategies, and actions that a state or a non-state actor pursues in its relations with other actors in the global
arena. Foreign trade policy is a subtype of foreign policy that focuses on the regulation and promotion of the exchange of goods and services between the actors in the international system. Foreign policy has a long and rich history, and it has evolved and changed over time, along with the development and transformation of the
international system and the actors in it. The history of foreign policy can be traced back to the ancient times, when the first forms of foreign policy, such as alliances, treaties, and wars, were practiced. Foreign policy also developed and diversified in the medieval
and modern times, when the rise and fall of various states and empires, the emergence and spread of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions are the discovery and colonization of various religions and ideologies, and the discovery and colonization of various religions are the discovery and colonization of various religions 
calculation, as states and other actors seek to advance their interests and protect their security in a constantly changing environment. Principles of foreign policy, such as national sovereignty, non-interference, and self-defense, have also played a significant role in shaping the conduct of international relations. Foreign policy is not monolithic or
homogeneous, but rather diverse and complex, and it can be classified and analyzed in different ways. One common way is to divide it into two broad categories: hard and soft. Hard foreign policy involves the use of force, such as military intervention, economic sanctions, and nuclear deterrence, to achieve the goals and interests of
the actor, and to coerce or compel other actors to comply or concede. Soft foreign policy involves the use of attraction or persuasion, such as cultural exchange, humanitarian aid, and public diplomacy, to achieve the goals and interests of the actor, and to influence or convince other actors to cooperate or collaborate. Foreign policy has some
distinctive features that make it different from other types of policies and practices. Some of these features are: - Dynamic: Foreign policy is not static or fixed, but rather dynamic and flexible, and it can change and adapt to the changing circumstances and conditions in the international system and the actor's environment. Complex: Foreign policy
is not simple or straightforward, but rather complex and multifaceted, and it involves various actors, issues, and factors that interact and influence each other in the global arena. Interdependent: Foreign policy is not isolated or independent, but rather interdependent and interconnected, and it affects and is affected by the foreign policies of other
actors in the international system. These are the various factors that influence the foreign policy choices of any state, such as geographical location, population, history, economic resources, ideology, efficiency of government, quality of diplomacy, crisis and immediate events, technological advancements, international law and institutions, etc.
Determinants of Indian foreign policy on the other hand, are the various factors that influence India's foreign policy choices, such as geography, economy, polity, domestic environment, etc. These are the various elements that affect the formulation and implementation of foreign policy, such
as the national interests and values of the state, the domestic politics and public opinion, the policies and behavior of other states, the international organizations with
other states and international actors. The objectives of foreign policy can vary depending on the particular interests and aspirations of the state sets for its foreign trade activities, such as exports, imports, and investments. Foreign policy is important
and relevant for our lives and the future of humanity, as it affects and is affected by the various issues and topics that we face and deal with in the global arena, such as security, trade, human rights, development, and environmental protection. Foreign policy also enables and facilitates the communication and cooperation between actors in the
international system, and helps to prevent and resolve the conflicts and disputes that arise among them. Foreign policy is the reflection and expression of its interests, values, and aspirations, and it guides its relations and
interactions with other actors in the global arena. India's foreign policy has some distinctive features that make it unique and remarkable. Some of these features are: - Non-alignment: India's foreign policy is based on the principle of non-alignment, meaning that India does not align itself with any major power bloc or alliance, and that it maintains
its autonomy and independence in its foreign policy decisions and actions. - Peaceful coexistence; India's foreign policy decisions and that it seeks to establish and maintain friendly and cordial relations with them
 - Panchsheel: India's foreign policy is based on the principle of Panchsheel, meaning that India follows the five principles of mutual non-aggression, mutual no
international relations that affects the interests, values, and aspirations of states and non-state actors in the global arena. It is a complex and dynamic field that involves various actors, issues, and factors that interact and influence each other. Understanding foreign policy is essential to comprehending the interactions and relationships between states
and non-state actors and to addressing the challenges and opportunities that arise in the globalized world. Share — copy and redistribute the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as
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applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Foreign policy depends on multiple factors, from history and geography to the domestic economy and rights may limit how you use the material.
international conditions. In fact, foreign and domestic policy are inextricably linked: each state defends its domestic interests abroad, but the course of domestic policy generally pursues macro-objectives common to most countries: Preserve international peace. Strengthen the security of the
State vis-à-vis other countries. Promote cooperation between different nations, economically, and culturally. Protect the culture and values of society. Develop and consolidate the rule of law, ensuring the economic ally, and culturally. Protect the culture and values of society. Develop and consolidate the rule of law, ensuring the economic ally, and culturally. Protect the culture and values of society. Develop and consolidate the rule of law, ensuring the economic and social well-being of citizens. Apply justice ensuring compliance with international legal standards. Respect human rights
and fundamental freedoms of people. Foreign policy: historical and current examples foreign policy defines the country attaches to its strategic partners and revealing its values. Spain, for example, continues to defend its interests and positions in the Gibraltar
dispute with the United Kingdom. Another important axis of Spanish foreign policy is the rapprochement with Latin America, since the deep historical and cultural ties that exist have turned the region into a main destination for the internationalisation of the Spanish economy. However, foreign policy also changes throughout history. The United
States, for example, was characterised during its first century of existence by political isolation and strict neutrality with the rest of the world. That neutrality was broken when it intervened in Cuba's war of independence from Spain and from that moment on, began to deploy a more aggressive foreign policy that would lead it to get directly involved
in different armed conflicts in the world. Foreign policy is how a country uses different global issues, relationships with other countries and international organizations. This means that foreign policy is made up of different global issues, relationships with other countries, and even domestic politics. The foreign policy of the U.S. government
may change between different presidential administrations. However, the guiding principles of U.S. foreign policy remain constant: promotion of security, democracy, prosperity, and development in the United States and around the world. In this video, learn more about how security, democracy, prosperity, and development inform U.S. foreign
policy decisions. Use the following discussion questions to guide your classroom conversations about this video. Refer to the timestamps to find the answers to these questions. How are the U.S. Constitution, president, and State Department all connected? (start - 1:00) Why do some foreign policy ideas change over time? (1:00 - 1:40) Describe the
four categories of foreign policy identified in the video. (1:35 - 3:50) Why is security an important guiding principle of foreign policy? (1:45 - 2:00) Do you agree or disagree with this statement from the video: "The United States defends human rights by holding governments accountable to their obligations under human rights standards and
agreements". Explain your reasoning. (2:00 - 3:00) Why is promoting economic prosperity around the world important for the United States? (3:15 - 3:50) How is foreign policy related to and affected by domestic policy? (3:50 - end) What are some of the country flags
represented in this video? What is one thing you learned from the video that you found interesting, or confusing? Summarize foreign policy. The following terms are referenced in this video. Foreign policy - The collection of strategies a country uses to guide its relationships with other countries. Implementation - The process of making a
decision or plan happen. Interests - What a country sees as important or valuable. Security - Being free from danger or threat; safety. Dynamics - A process of change or activity. Bedrock - The ideas that something is based or built upon. Infectious - Capable of spreading. Entrepreneur - Someone who organizes and manages a business. Tandem
Working together. Coherent - Having clarity and logic. Related Classroom Activity Continuity and Change Over Time Analyzing how people, ideas, systems, groups, events, and things change over time is a valuable skill for understanding the past, present, and future. In this... Also available in Español Activity Learn Diplomatic Terms with
the Frayer Model This activity uses the Frayer Model to provide a multi-modal approach to learning vocabulary related to diplomacy. This document includes slides for 63 terms related... Also available in Español Activity Mini Object-Based Learning Activity This 15-minute activity uses an object from the National Museum of American Diplomacy's
collection and a video to teach students concepts of diplomacy. This activity is... Also available in Español Activity Object Choice Board This activity uses an object from the National Museum of American Diplomacy's collection and a video to teach students concepts of diplomacy. This activity is... Also available in Español By the end of this section, you
will be able to: Explain what foreign policy is and how it differs from domestic policy Identify the objectives of U.S. foreign policy Describe the different types of foreign policy realm When we consider policy as our chapter focus, we are looking broadly at the actions the U.S.
government carries out for particular purposes. In the case of foreign policy, that purpose is to manage its relationships with other nations of the world. Another distinction is that policy results from a course of action or a pattern of actions over time, rather than from a single action or decision. For example, U.S. foreign policy with Russia has been
forged by several presidents, as well as by cabinet secretaries, House and Senate members, and foreign policy agency bureaucrats. Policy is also purposive, or intended to do something; that is, policymaking is not random. When the United States enters into an international agreement with other countries on aims such as free trade or nuclear
disarmament, it does so for specific reasons. With that general definition of policy established, we shall now dig deeper into the specific domain of U.S. foreign policy? We can think of it on several levels, as "the goals that a state's officials seek to attain abroad, the values that give rise to those objectives, and the means or
instruments used to pursue them." This definition highlights some of the key topics in U.S. foreign policy, such as national goals abroad and the manner in which the United States tries to achieve them. Note too that we distinguish foreign policy, which is externally focused, from domestic policy, which sets strategies internal to the United States,
though the two types of policies can become quite intertwined. So, for example, one might talk about Latino politics as a domestic issue when considering educational policies designed to increase the number of Hispanic Americans who attend and graduate from a U.S. college or university. However, as demonstrated in the primary debates leading up
to the 2016 election, Latino politics can quickly become a foreign policy matter when considering topics such as immigration from and foreign trade with countries in Central America and South 
shakes hands with legislators and administration officials after signing the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) Implementation Act on August 2, 2005. What are the objectives of U.S. foreign policy? While the goals of a nation's foreign policy are always open to debate and revision, there are nonetheless four main goals to which we can
attribute much of what the U.S. government does in the foreign policy realm: (1) the protection of the U.S. and its citizens, (2) the maintenance of power in the world, and (4) the protection of human rights and democracy. The first goal is the protection of the United States and
the lives of it citizens, both while they are in the United States and when they travel abroad. Related to this security goal is the aim of protecting the country's allies, or countries with which the United States and dangers can take several forms, including military threats from
other nations or terrorist groups and economic threats from boycotts and high tariffs on trade. In an economic boycott, the United States ceases trade with another country unless or until it changes a policy to which the United States ceases trade with another country unless or until it changes a policy to which the United States ceases trade with another country unless or until it changes a policy to which the United States objects.
States. For example, in recent years the United States and other countries implemented an economic boycott of Iran as it escalated the development of its nuclear development while the United States and six other countries lift economic sanctions to again
allow trade with Iran. Barriers to trade also include tariffs, or fees charged for moving goods from one country to another. Protectionist trade policies raise tariffs so that it becomes difficult for imported goods, now more expensive, to compete on price with domestic goods. Free trade agreements seek to reduce these trade barriers. The second main
goal of U.S. foreign policy is to ensure the nation maintains access to key resources, including the infusion of foreign capital investment for U.S. domestic infrastructure projects like buildings, bridges, and weapons systems. Of course, access to
the international marketplace also means access to goods that American consumers might want, such as Swiss chocolate and Australian wine. U.S. foreign policy also seeks to advance the interests of U.S. business, to both sell domestic products in the international marketplace and support general economic development around the globe (especially
in developing countries). A third main goal is the preservation of a balance of power in the world. A balance of power means no one nation or region is much more powerful militarily than are the countries of the rest of the world. The achievement of a perfect balance of power is probably not possible, but general stability, or predictability in the
operation of governments, strong institutions, and the absence of violence within and between nations may be. For much of U.S. history, leaders viewed world War II, stability was achieved by the existence of
dual superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and by the real fear of the nuclear annihilation of which both were capable. Until approximately 1989-1990, advanced industrial democracies aligned themselves behind one of these two superpowers. Today, in the post-Cold War era, many parts of Europe are politically more free than they
were during the years of the Soviet bloc, and there is less fear of nuclear war than when the United States and the Soviet Union had missiles pointed at each other for four straight decades. However, despite the mostly stabilizing presence of the European Union (EU), which now has twenty-eight member countries, several wars have been fought in
Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Moreover, the EU itself faces some challenges, including a vote in the United Kingdom to leave the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU, the ongoing controversy about how to resolve the national debt of Greece, and the crisis in Europe are the EU.
United States, Asia, and Europe have introduced a new type of enemy into the balance of power equation—nonstate or nongovernmental organizations, such as al-Qaeda and ISIS (or ISIL), consisting of various terrorist cells located in many different countries and across all continents. Figure 2. President Barack Obama, along with French president
François Hollande and Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, place roses on the makeshift memorial in front of the Bataclan concert hall, one of the sites targeted in the Paris terrorist attacks of November 13, 2015. The fourth main goal of U.S. foreign policy is the protection of human rights and democracy. The payoff of stability that comes from other U.S.
foreign policy goals is peace and tranquility. While certainly looking out for its own strategic interests in considering foreign policy, such as foreign policy, such as foreign policy, such as foreign policy, such as foreign aid, and through its support of and participation in international organizations
such as the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the World today. The main institutional bodies of the UN are the General Assembly and the Security Council. The General Assembly includes all member
which makes all decisions related to international peace and security. Two other important units of the UN are the International Court of Justice in The Hague (Netherlands) and the UN Secretariat, which includes the Secretary-General of the UN are the International Court of Justice in The Hague (Netherlands) and the UN Secretariat, which includes the Secretary-General of the UN and the UN staff directors and employees. Figure 3. On June 26, 2015, then-House minority leader Nancy
Pelosi (D-CA) joined UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, California governor Jerry Brown, and other dignitaries to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Charter in San Francisco. (credit: modification of work by "Nancy Pelosi"/Flickr) One of the unique and challenging aspects of global affairs is the fact that no world-level
authority exists to mandate when and how the world's nations interact. After the failed attempt by President Woodrow Wilson and others to formalize a "League of Nations" in the wake of World War I, history's deadliest military conflict. Now, in the early
decades of the twenty-first century, it is common to think of the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 as the big game-changer. Yet while 9/11 was hugely significant in the United States and abroad, World War II was even more so. The December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) was a comparable surprise-style attack that plunged
member nations pay dues based on the size of their economy. The UN's main purposes are to maintain peace and security, promote human rights and social progress, and develop friendly relationships among nations. Follow-up activity: In addition to facilitating collective decision-making on world matters, the UN carries out many different programs
Go to the UN website to find information about three different UN programs that are carried out around the world. An ongoing question for the United States in waging the war against terrorism initiatives around the world in a multilateral manner, rather than
pursuing a "go it alone" strategy of unilateralism. The fact that the U.S. government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggests the voluntary nature of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such a choice suggest of the United States (or another country) accepting world-level government has such as a choice suggest of the United States (or another country) accepting the United States (or another coun
would approach the UN Security Council for approval. Another cross-national organization to which the United States is tied, and that exists to forcefully represent Western allies and in turn forge the peace, is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO was formed after World War II as the Cold War between East and West started to
emerge. While more militaristic in approach than the United Nations, NATO has the goal of protecting the interests of Europe and the west and the assurance of support and defense from partner nations. However, while it is a strong military coalition, it has not sought to expand and take over other countries. Rather, the peace and stability of Europe
are its main goals. NATO initially included only Western European nations and the United States also distributes hundreds of millions of dollars each year in
foreign aid to improve the quality of life of citizens in developing countries. The United States may also forgive the foreign debts of these countries are not modernized in terms of infrastructure and social services and thus suffer from instability. Helping them modernize and develop stable governments is intended
as a benefit to them and a prop to the stability of the world. An alternative view of U.S. assistance is that there are more nefarious goals at work, that perhaps it is intended to buy influence in developing countries, secure a position in the region, obtain access to resources, or foster dependence on the United States. The United States pursues its four
main foreign policy goals through several different foreign policy types, or distinct substantive areas of foreign policy in which the United States in teracts with other countries to
ease the flow of commerce and goods and services between countries. A country is said to be engaging in protectionism when it charges them very high tariffs (or import taxes) to do so. At the other end of the spectrum is a free trade approach, in which a country
and other transaction costs levied on goods moving between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Critics see a free trade approach as problematic and instead advocate for protectionist policies that shield U.S. companies and their products against cheaper foreign products that might be imported here. One of the more prominent recent examples
of protectionist policies occurred in the steel industry, as U.S. companies in the international steel marketplace struggled with competition from Chinese factories in particular. The balance of trade is the relationship between a country's inflow and outflow of goods. The United States sells many goods and services around the world, but overall it
maintains a trade deficit, in which more goods and services are coming in from other countries than are going out to be sold overseas. The current U.S. trade deficit is $37.4 billion, which means the value of what it exports to other countries. This trade deficit has led
some to advocate for protectionist trade policies. For many, foreign policy is synonymous with diplomacy is the establishment and maintenance of a formal relationship between countries that governs their interactions on matters as diverse as tourism, the taxation of goods they trade, and the landing of planes on each other's runways.
While diplomatic relations are not always rosy, when they are operating it does suggest that things are going well between the country. Just as exchanging
ambassadors formalizes the bilateral relationship between countries, calling them home signifies the end of the relationship. Diplomacy tends to be the U.S. government's first step when it tries to resolve a conflict with another country. To illustrate how international relations play out when countries come into conflict, consider what has become
known as the Hainan Island incident. In 2001, a U.S. spy plane collided with a Chinese jet fighter crashed and the pilot died. The U.S. planes were not authorized to be. The Chinese jet fighter crashed and the pilot died. The U.S. planes were not authorized to be. The Chinese jet fighter crashed and the pilot died. The U.S. planes were not authorized to be. The Chinese jet fighter crashed and the pilot died. The U.S. plane made an emergency landing on the island of Hainan. China retrieved the aircraft and captured the U.S. pilots. U.S.
ambassadors then attempted to negotiate for their return. These negotiations were slow and ended up involving officials of the president's cabinet, but they ultimately worked. Had they not succeeded, an escalating set of options likely would have included diplomatic sanctions (removal of ambassadors), economic sanctions (such as an embargo on
trade and the flow of money between the countries), minor military options (such as establishment of a no-fly zone just outside Chinese airspace), or more significant military options (such as a focused campaign to enter China and get the pilots back). Nonmilitary tools to influence another country, like economic sanctions, are referred to as soft
power, while the use of military power is termed hard power. At the more serious end of the foreign policy decision-making spectrum, and usually as a last resort when diplomacy fails, the U.S. military and defense establishment exists to provide the United States the ability to wage war against other state and nonstate actors. Such war can be
offensive, as were the Iraq War in 2003 and the 1989 removal of Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega. Or it can be defensive, as a means to respond to aggression from others, such as the Persian Gulf War in 1991, also known as Operation Desert Storm. The potential for military engagement, and indeed the scattering about the globe of hundreds or
U.S. military installations, can also be a potential source of foreign policy strength for the United States. On the other world nations. Figure 4. resident George H. W. Bush greets U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia on Thanksgiving Day in 1990. The first troops
were deployed there in August 1990, as part of Operation Desert Shield, which was intended to build U.S. military strength in the area in preparation for an eventual military operation. Intelligence policy is related to defense and includes the overt and covert gathering of information from foreign sources that might be of strategic interest to the
United States. The intelligence world, perhaps more than any other area of foreign policy, captures the imagination of the general public. Many books, television shows, and movies entertain us (with varying degrees of accuracy) through stories about U.S. intelligence operations and people. Foreign aid and global environmental policy are the final
two foreign policy types. With both, as with the other types, the United States operates as a strategic actor with its own interests in mind, but here it also acts as an international steward trying to serve the common good. With foreign aid, the United States provides material and economic aid to other countries, especially developing countries, in
order to improve their stability and their citizens' quality of life. This type of aid is sometimes called humanitarian aid; in 2013 the U.S. contribution totaled $8 billion in 2013 was sizeable, thought for 2013 was sizeable with the 2013 was sizeable was 
it represented less than 1 percent of the entire federal budget. Global environmental policy addresses world-level environmental matters such as climate change and global warming, the thinning of the ozone layer, rainforest depletion in areas along the Equator, and ocean pollution and species extinction. The United States' commitment to such issues
has varied considerably over the years. For example, the United States was the largest country not to sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions. However, few would argue that the U.S. government has not been a leader on global environmental matters. U.S. foreign policy is a massive and complex enterprise. What are its unique
challenges for the country? First, there exists no true world-level authority dictating how the nation and international coordination an ongoing bargain as
group of member nations takes action in some manner (which is ultimately voluntary). The European Union is the single supranational entity with some real and significant authority over its member nations. Adoption of its common currency, the euro, brings with it concessions from countries on a variety of matters, and the EU's economic and
environmental regulations are the strictest in the world. Yet even the EU has enforcement issues, as evidenced by the battle within its ranks to force member Greece to reduce its national debt or the recurring problem of Spain overfishing in the North Atlantic Ocean. The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (commonly
it make sense to sign a multinational pact and when doesn't it? Is a particular bilateral economic agreement truly as beneficial to the United States as to the other party, or are we giving away too much in the deal? These are open and complicated questions, which the various schools of thought discussed later in the chapter will help us answer. A
second challenge for the United States is the widely differing views among countries about the role of government in people's lives every day. At the other end of the spectrum are countries with little government activity at all, such as parts of the island of
New Guinea. In between is a vast array of diverse approaches to governance. Countries like Sweden provides many services rather than the government. The United States relishes its tradition
of freedom and the principle of limited government, but practice and reality can be somewhat different. In the end, it falls somewhere in the middle of this continuum because of its focus on law and order, educational and training services, and old-age pensions and health care in the form of Social Security and Medicare. The challenge of pinpointing
the appropriate role of government may sound more like a domestic than a foreign policy matter, and to some degree it is an internal (or domestic) relationship between a government and its people can often become intertwined with foreign policy. For example, the narrow
stance on personal liberty that Iran has taken in recent decades led other countries to impose economic sanctions that crippled the country internally. Some of these sanctions have eased in light of the new nuclear deal with Iran. So the domestic and foreign policy realms are intertwined in terms of what we view as national priorities—whether they
consist of nation building abroad or infrastructure building here at home, for example. This latter choice is often described as the "guns versus butter" debate. Figure 5. President Joe Biden (far left), Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (second from right), Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (far
right), and other national security advisers in the Situation Room of the White House, watching the successful raid on Osama bin Laden's compound on May 1, 2011. A third, and related, unique challenge for the United States in the foreign policy realm is other countries' varying ideas about the appropriate form of government. These forms range
from democracies on one side to various authoritarian (or nondemocratic) forms of government on the other. Relations between the United States and democratic states and democratic states and other nondemocratic forms of
government do not share this assumption, which can complicate foreign policy discussions immensely. People in the United States often assume that people who live in a nondemocratic country would prefer to live in a democratic one. However, in some regions of the world, such as the Middle East, this does not seem to be the case—people often
prefer having stability within a nondemocratic system over changing to a less predictable democratic form of government. Or they may believe in a theocratic form of government, such as Saudi Arabia, when it is in U.S. interests to do so.
fourth challenge is that many new foreign policy issues transcend borders. That is, there are no longer simply friendly states and enemy states and elimate change, originate with groups and issues that are not country-specific. They are
transnational. So, for example, while we can readily name the enemies of the Allied forces in World War II (Germany, Italy, and Japan), the U.S. war against terrorism has been aimed at terrorism that do not fit neatly within the borders of any one country with which the United States could quickly interact to solve the problem. Intelligence-
campaign that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden, the founder of al-Qaeda. The fifth and final unique challenge is the varying conditions of the countries in the world and their effect on what is possible in terms of foreign policy and diplomatic relations. Relations between the United States and a stable industrial democracy are going to be
easier than between the United States and an unstable developing country being run by a military junta (a group that has taken control of the government by force). Moreover, an unstable country will be more focused on establishing internal stability than on broader world concerns like environmental policy. In fact, developing countries are
temporarily exempt from the requirements of certain treaties while they seek to develop stable industrial and governmental frameworks. As the president, Congress, and others carry out U.S. foreign policy in the areas of trade, diplomacy, defense, intelligence, foreign aid, and global environmental policy, they pursue a variety of objectives and face a
multitude of challenges. The four main objectives of U.S. foreign policy are the protection of the United States and allies, the assurance of continuing access to international resources and markets, the preservation of a balance of power in the world, and the protection of human rights and democracy. The challenges of the massive and
complex enterprise of U.S. foreign policy are many. First, there exists no true world-level authority dictating how the nations of the world should relate to one another. A second challenge is the widely differing views among countries about the appropriate form of
government. A fourth challenge is that many new foreign policy issues transcend borders. Finally, the varying conditions of the countries in the world affect what is possible in foreign policymaking? Balance of Power a situation in which no one
nation or region is much more powerful militarily than any other in the world Balance of Trade the relationship between a country's inflow and outflow of goods Cold War the period from shortly after World War II until approximately 1989-1990 when advanced industrial democracies divided behind the two superpowers (East: Soviet Union, West:
United States) and the fear of nuclear war abounded Diplomacy the establishment and maintenance of a formal relationship between countries Foreign Policy in which a country allows the unfettered flow of goods and services
between itself and other countries Hard Power the use or threat of military power to influence the behavior of another country North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) a cross-national military power to influence the behavior of another country does not permit other
countries to sell goods and services within its borders or charges them very high tariffs (import taxes) to do so Soft Power nonmilitary tools used to influence another country, such as economic sanctions (UN) an international organization of nation-states that seeks to promote peace, international relations, and economic and
environmental programs Science, Tech, Math All Science, Tech, Math Humanities All Humanities All
of foreign policy is to defend a nation's national interests, which can be in nonviolent or violent ways. Foreign policy encompasses the tactics and process by which a nation interests with other nations in order to further its own interests.
powerInternational bodies such as the United Nations and its predecessor, the League of Nations, help smooth relations between countries via diplomatic meansMajor foreign policy theories are Realism, Economic Structuralism, Psychological Theory, and Constructivism In 2013 China developed a foreign policy known as the Belt and
Road Initiative, the nation's strategy to develop stronger economic ties in Africa, Europe, and North America. In the United States, many presidents are known for their landmark foreign policy can also be the decision to not
participate in international organizations and conversations, such as the more isolationist policy relies on diplomacy, heads of state negotiate and collaborate with other world leaders to prevent conflict. Usually, diplomats are sent to represent a nation's foreign policy interests at international events. While an
emphasis on diplomacy is a cornerstone of many states' foreign policy, there are others that rely on military pressure or other less diplomatic means. Diplomacy has played a crucial role in the de-escalation of international crises, and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 is a prime example of this. During the Cold War, intelligence informed President John
F. Kennedy that the Soviet Union was sending weapons to Cuba, possibly preparing for a strike against the United States. President Kennedy was forced to choose between a foreign policy solution that was more militaristic. The former president decided to
enact a blockade around Cuba and threaten further military action if Soviet ships carrying missiles from Cuba, and in return, Kennedy agreed to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey (which was within striking distance of
the Soviet Union). This moment in time is significant because the two governments negotiated a solution that ended the current conflict, the blockade, as well as de-escalated the larger tension, the missiles near each other's borders. Foreign policy has existed as long as people have organized themselves into varying factions. However, the study of
issues diplomatically instead of resorting to military threats or wars. In the 20th Century, World War I and II once again exposed the need for an international forum to de-escalate conflict and keep the peace. The League of Nations (which was formed by former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson but ultimately did not include the U.S.) was created in
1920 with the primary purpose of maintaining world peace. After the League of Nations dissolved, it was replaced by the United Nations in 1954 after World War II, an organization to promote international cooperation and now includes 193 countries as members. It is important to note that many of these organizations are concentrated around
and Union of South American Countries which facilitate multilateral cooperation in their respective regions as well. The study of foreign policy reveals several theories are Realism, Economic Structuralism, Psychological Theory, and Constructivism. Realism states that interests
are always determined in terms of power and states will always act according to their best interest. Classical Realism follows 16th-century political theorist Niccolò Machiavelli's famous quote from his foreign policy book "The Prince": "It is much safer to be feared than loved." It follows that the world is full of chaos because humans are egoistic and
will do anything to have power. The structural reading of realism, however, focuses more on the state than the individual: All governments will react to pressures in the same way because they are more concerned about national security than power. The theory of liberalism emphasizes liberty and equality in all aspects and believes that the rights of
the individual are superior to the needs of the state. It also follows that the chaos of the world can be pacified with international cooperation and global citizenship. Economic issues, as this is where problems arise. The market has a long-term
trajectory towards stability, and nothing should interfere with that. Economic structuralism, or Marxism, was pioneered by Karl Marx, who believed that capitalism was immoral because it is the immoral exploitation of the many by the few. However, theorist Vladimir Lenin brought the analysis to an international level by explaining that imperialist
capitalist nations succeed by dumping their excess products in economically weaker nations, which drives down the proletariat. Psychological theories
explain international politics on a more individual level and seek to understand how an individual's psychology can affect their foreign policy decisions. This follows that diplomacy is deeply affected by the individual ability to judge, which is often colored by how solutions are presented, the time available for the decision, and level of risk. This explains
why political decision making is often inconsistent or may not follow a specific ideology. Constructivism believes that ideas influence identities and drive interests. The current structures only exist because years of social practice have made it so. If a situation needs to be resolved or a system must be changed, social and ideological movements have
the power to bring about reforms. A core example of constructivism is human rights, which are observed by some nations, but not others. Over the past few centuries, as social ideas and norms around human rights, gender, age, and racial equality have evolved, laws have changed to reflect these new societal norms. Elrod, Richard B. "The Concert of
Europe: A Fresh Look at an International System." World Politics, vol. 28, no. 2, 1976, pp. 159-174. JSTOR, JSTOR, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/2009888. "The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962." U.S. Department of State, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis. Viotti, Paul R., and Mark V. Kauppi. International
Relations Theory. 5th ed., Pearson, 2011. A state's foreign policy consists of the strategies it uses to protect its international and domestic interests and determines the way it interacts with other state actors. The primary purpose of foreign policy is to defend a nation's national interests, which can be in nonviolent or violent ways.
Foreign policy encompasses the tactics and process by which a nation interacts with other nations in order to further its own interests foreign policy may make use of diplomacy or other more direct means such as aggression rooted in military powerInternational bodies such as the United Nations and its predecessor, the League of Nations, help
smooth relations between countries via diplomatic meansMajor foreign policy theories are Realism, Liberalism, Economic Structuralism, Psychological Theory, and Constructivism In 2013 China developed a foreign policy known as the Belt and Road Initiative, the nation's strategy to develop stronger economic ties in Africa, Europe, and North
America. In the United States, many presidents are known for their landmark foreign policy decisions such as the Monroe Doctrine which opposed the imperialist takeover of an independent state. A foreign policy can also be the decision to not participate in international organizations, such as the more isolationist policies of North
Korea. When foreign policy relies on diplomacy, heads of state negotiate and collaborate with other world leaders to prevent conflict. Usually, diplomats are sent to represent a nation's foreign policy, there are others that rely on military
pressure or other less diplomatic means. Diplomacy has played a crucial role in the de-escalation of international crises, and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 is a prime example of this. During the Cold War, intelligence informed President John F. Kennedy that the Soviet Union was sending weapons to Cuba, possibly preparing for a strike against the
United States. President Kennedy was forced to choose between a forced to c
attempted to break through. In order to prevent further escalation, Khrushchev agreed to remove U.S. missiles from Cuba, and in return, Kennedy agreed not to invade Cuba and to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey (which was within striking distance of the Soviet Union). This moment in time is significant because the two governments negotiated a
solution that ended the current conflict, the blockade, as well as de-escalated the larger tension, the missiles near each other's borders. Foreign policy and the creation of international organizations to promote diplomacy is fairly recent.
One of the first established international bodies for discussing foreign policy was the Concert of Europe in 1814 after the Napoleonic wars. This gave the major European powers (Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia) a forum to solve issues diplomatically instead of resorting to military threats or wars. In the 20th Century, World War I
and II once again exposed the need for an international forum to de-escalate conflict and keep the peace. The League of Nations (which was formed by former U.S.) was created in 1920 with the primary purpose of maintaining world peace. After the League of Nations dissolved, it was
replaced by the United Nations in 1954 after World War II, an organization to promote international cooperation and now includes 193 countries as members. It is important to note that many of these organizations are concentrated around Europe and the Western Hemisphere as a whole. Because of European countries' history of imperialism and
colonization, they often wielded the greatest international political and economic powers and subsequently created these global systems. However, there are continental diplomatic bodies such as the African Union, Asia Cooperation Dialogue, and Union of South American Countries which facilitate multilateral cooperation in their respective regions
as well. The study of foreign policy reveals several theories as to why states act the way they do. The prevailing theories are Realism, Economic Structuralism, Psychological Theory, and Constructivism. Realism states that interests are always determined in terms of power and states will always act according to their best interest. Classical
Realism follows 16th-century political theorist Niccolò Machiavelli's famous quote from his foreign policy book "The Prince": "It is much safer to be feared than loved." It follows that the world is full of chaos because humans are egoistic and will do anything to have power. The structural reading of realism, however, focuses more on the state than the
individual: All governments will react to pressures in the same way because they are more concerned about national security than power. The theory of liberalism emphasizes liberty and equality in all aspects and believes that the rights of the individual are superior to the needs of the state. It also follows that the chaos of the world can be pacified
with international cooperation and global citizenship. Economically, liberalism values free trade above all and believes the state should rarely intervene in economic issues, as this is where problems arise. The market has a long-term trajectory towards stability, and nothing should interfere with that. Economic structuralism, or Marxism, was
pioneered by Karl Marx, who believed that capitalism was immoral because it is the immoral exploitation of the many by the few. However, theorist Vladimir Lenin brought the analysis to an international level by explaining that imperialist capitalist nations succeed by dumping their excess products in economically weaker nations, which drives down
the prices and further weakens the economy in those areas. Essentially, issues arise in international relations because of this concentration of capital, and change can only occur through the action of the proletariat. Psychology
can affect their foreign policy decisions. This follows that diplomacy is deeply affected by the individual ability to judge, which is often colored by how solutions are presented, the time available for the decision, and level of risk. This explains why political decision making is often inconsistent or may not follow a specific ideology. Constructivism
believes that ideas influence identities and drive interests. The current structures only exist because years of social practice have made it so. If a situation needs to be resolved or a system must be changed, social and ideological movements have the power to bring about reforms. A core example of constructivism is human rights, which are observed
by some nations, but not others. Over the past few centuries, as social ideas and norms around human rights, gender, age, and racial equality have evolved, laws have changed to reflect these new societal norms. Elrod, Richard B. "The Concert of Europe: A Fresh Look at an International System." World Politics, vol. 28, no. 2, 1976, pp. 159-
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