

APGOV - TheSKIMM - Foreign Policy Edition

Grace, Marin, Melissa, Paige

The Story

U.S. foreign policy has drastically changed throughout history, going from an isolationist nation to the unipolar superpower in the world.

Isolationism vs internationalism

Pre World War, American's were set on isolationism, the view that a country should focus on domestic affairs rather than getting involved in the world, and didn't even want to join the League of Nations, an organization that it created. Recently however, America has become Internationalist, a country deeply involved in world affairs.

Super America & Its League of Sidekicks

After WWII, the world had a bipolar power structure, stuck between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1991, the Soviet Union dismantled, leaving the world in the unipolar power structure dominated by the U.S. Today, we work in a multilateralism system, the "New World Order", in which nations work together in response to problems and crisis.

War Lessons - Start Taking Notes, Class

During World War II, America adopted a new policy after learning it "Lesson from Munich": appeasement leads to further aggression. America implemented a new policy of containment, a doctrine based on assumptions that the Soviet Union was an aggressor nation and that the US had to keep the "evil empire" from taking over the world. The "Lesson from Vietnam" showed that the US had limits to its power. You'll see why soon.

Why did we go to Vietnam? (let's just pho-get about it)

In an effort to control communism, LBJ sent troops to Vietnam. However, it wasn't an actual war but more guerrilla style fighting. This made it difficult to know who the enemy was and who to fight, so a lot of US soldiers were killed, though the US soldiers were more skilled than the Vietnamese. Needless to say, the public did not approve. LBJ decided to cut his losses and not run for reelection, so Nixon was stuck with the responsibility of disengagement. The US swiftly left Vietnam, allowing it to fall to communism soon after. Many don't see the point of going to Vietnam in the first place.

Nixon gets SALTy

Nixon reached out to the People's Republic of China, which was the first time anyone had done that since it became communist. He also initiated the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) with the Soviet Union, in order to reduce tensions and the possibility of nuclear weaponry. However, the Soviet Union was getting tired of being chummy, so it invaded Afghanistan in 1979 just to say it was still in the game. Ironically, the Soviet Union started collapsing within the next decade, and the US came out on top... by default.

Roots of US Foreign Policy – Ian Hogan, Chris Glenn, Kayne Knippen

The Skinny

In a world where war never changes, US foreign policy is like a moody teenager. We went through so many phases. They were all based around the same reasons, but some would call it a case of same tensions, different generation.

No New Friends

Before WWII the US was like a teenager who thought they were too cool for friends. Then everyone started fighting, so we did too because we thought it would be the cool thing to do. After that we had friends... and enemies too.

Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but Nuclear Warheads make me a World Power.

After WWII we emerged as one of 2 World Powers, the other one being the Soviet Union. We really didn't like each other, but we also didn't want to destroy each other, so we entered this "war." It was pretty chill. We were pretty similar, Soviet even entered a war they had no business being in. But you know what they say, if you can't take the heat, get out of Afghanistan.

A Little Toasty

Sometimes the "war" heated up, but it was kind of like when two mutual friends are fighting and then you and your mortal enemy go there just to stare at each other lovingly. Isolationist policies became internationalist and taking our war economy where it had little relevance left us leaving the bill for the other guy.

One Big (Power)Happy Family

With the US at the unchallenged helm of the United Nations, all the world got together in a circle (in a tall modernist building in New York) and sang Kumbaya.

And that's It?

Well, there were some speed bumps in the nineties, with the OPEC countries and vicious dictators and ethnic cleansing and whatnot, but the fact of the matter is that we faced it as a family, by economic sanction or air power, and family doesn't abandon the black sheeps.

**Especially if the "black sheeps" are sitting on the world's largest oil reserves...
Exactly.**

Shehla Chowdhury, Jeffrey Willhauck, McKenna Yorke, Brant Bedore

Foreign Policy Edition

Mercan-what?

Despite the global power of the U.S. Economy, the United States seems to be unable to get their exports up. This differs from the long standing belief that a country's export revenue should be greater than their import expenditures, commonly referred to as Mercantilism. Since 1975, the United States has been steadily increasing their import imbalance, and now the U.S. has the highest trade imbalance of any of the three major economic superpowers.

Marshall-Who?

The Marshall Plan was an example of foreign policy that also had economic interests. By taking a role in Europe, the US created a market for their goods there.

Intercontinental Economic Love Triangle

Today's economy is a tripolar structure. The power is split between the US, Japan and China, and the EU. Of these powers, the US can be seen as the weakest or the strongest. Despite a trade deficit, the US has a very diverse economy with strong agriculture, industry, and plentiful natural resources.

Once you go black, you never go back.

Due to the ever increasing importance of Oil to the American Economy, the economic juggernaut has been busy trying to get as much of the "black gold" as possible. By using its military, economic, and technological dominance, the U.S. politely "trades" with foreign countries and makes sure to strike a "fair deal".

The SKIMM

The US has many interests in mind when deciding which path to take in terms of foreign policy, but economic interests usually play a relatively big role.

John Mathison David Ifeguni Ethan Rexer Jack Corso

War on Terrorism

In 2001, George W. Bush planned on reducing America's military presence abroad and limit the nation's presence in the United Nations.

Following 9/11, American foreign policy to address the threats that faced the nation abroad. Bush announced a new foreign policy known as the preemptive war doctrine which allowed the US to attack a potentially threatening nation even if the threat level was not at a serious or immediate level. Bush declared Iraq, Iran, and North Korea to be an "axis of evil" and they funded terrorism.

In the summer of 2002, Bush targeted Saddam Hussein's regime and asked Congress for a resolution authorizing military force if Iraq did not fully and rapidly disarm its presumed nuclear weapons.

The US then practiced the policy of unilateralism which meant one nation would take military action against another nation.

The US captured and killed Saddam relatively quickly but there was a military presence in Iraq until the nation was stabilized. The majority of Republicans and Democrats agreed that the US should maintain a presence in the region until it was stable.

A nation can have a foreign policy that they want implement but it can change drastically based on certain events and adverse situations

Carly, Cheyenne, Jacob, Cade, Alex

theSKIMM'S GUIDE TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM

THE STORY

When Bush took office he wanted to decrease military presence abroad. However, in the coming years war would be at the forefront of United States foreign policy.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

After the terrorist attacks on 9/11 the United States was forced to change its foreign policy and President Bush decided to wage the war on terrorism. The war targets not nations but groups engaged in terrorism aimed to attack the United States and its interests.

RESPONSE TO 9/11 AND ATTACKING THE TALIBAN

In response to 9/11, President Bush sent troops into Afghanistan in order to attack the country's Taliban lead government who aided the terrorist group Al Qaeda which planned the attacks on the World Trade Center. President Bush also responded to 9/11 with the creation of the *preemptive war doctrine*. This doctrine would allow the United States to attack potentially threatening nations, even if the threats posed by these nations have not yet reached a serious and immediate level.

TAKING THE BATTLE TO IRAQ

Summer of 2002, Bush targets Iraq claiming that they had Weapons of Mass Destruction and chemical and biological weapons. These suspicions lead to the United Nations requiring weapon inspections in Iraq.

THE BATTLE BEGINS

Despite the failure to get the UN's approval, Bush orders an assault on Iraq and the Saddam Hussein regime collapsed in about a months time due to the american efforts. This assault was

in essence an act of **unilateralism** which indicates one nation taking action against another state or states.

DOES THE PUBLIC LIKE THIS?

Public opinion was constantly shifting in the United States. Beginning the post-9/11 response the American public was in favor with what was being done. However, after U.S. involvement in Iraq dragged on, Americans began to question America's motives for their presence abroad.

POST-COMBAT PHASE

Due to the efforts of America in Iraq, the Iraqi government was toppled with America's presence. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, talked of "The Pottery-Barn Rule" simply indicating if you break it, you own it. Since the U.S. basically broke Iraq, the U.S. was obligated to aid significantly with the reconstruction process in Iraq, with the cost of rebuilding rising to above 100 billion dollars.

Caroline, Jennifer, Amol, Allison, Jasmine, and Oke

Military SKIMM

The Story

In 2016, increased engagement in foreign policy has led to increased spending in national security and war efforts

What's It to Me?

Affects the defense of the national public and the tax dollars awarded to the government by its citizens

What are the military powers, uses, and capabilities?

The military is called for different types of military action from nuclear conflict to guerrilla warfare.

What's the Military complex?

Composed of the military establishment, industries of manufacture weapons, and members of congress from states and district that mutually benefit from high levels of defense spending. It is uncertain which of the three components have the most influence in the declaration of war.

How is that does that work?

American people put their trust into their government to make the best decisions for national security. However, most of the american public is not educated on national security details and military defense.

What happened when?

Defense efforts in Iraq and 9/11 have raised spending on defense efforts, along with political negotiations such as the Iran Nuclear Deal.

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There a lot of spending involved in US defense efforts and national security. The american public puts its trust in the government to make the best decisions in defense of the nation, but the public is also uneducated.

SKIMM'S GUIDE TO U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY by Darcey, Ashvini, Aimen, Vanessa

THE STORY

The United States is part of a giant world economy and a broad system of global trade. The economic decisions that the U.S. makes have to take this into account to sustain balance in the economy.

A TRI-POLAR WORLD

The United States is just one part of a trifecta of economic power. Japan and China come in second, with the largest and strongest economy being that of the 25-country European Union. These three centers combined create the majority of the global economy.

WHY AREN'T WE THE STRONGEST?

The United States actually has the worst trade imbalance of the three centers, with a huge trade deficit of \$500 billion. We haven't had a surplus since 1975, meaning that we import a lot more than we export: we are hardly self-sufficient.

BUT WAIT...WE ARE STILL STRONG

Although we aren't the best in terms of trade, we have a balanced economy with a strong industrial base. We also have a strong agricultural sector, more abundant natural resources, and numerous technological advances. This makes us economically competitive.

WE ARE #GOALS

The United States aims to maintain access to energy and natural resources, vital to strengthening our economy. This is done by having open and stable trade that will promote prosperity. It is important to us to sustain healthy trade that will not widen the gap between the rich and the poor.

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There are many things to consider as a global economic power in terms of balancing trade with other countries. Foreign policy decisions are largely affected by our economic relationships with other countries, and the strength of our domestic growth.