

Lecture 10 Notes

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1. Foreign Policy — A strategy or planned course of action by decision-makers of a state, which aims to achieve specific goals defined in terms of national interest. Major steps include:
 - (a) Translating national interest into specific goals/objectives
 - (b) Determining the national and domestic situational factors related to policy goals
 - (c) Analyzing the state's capabilities for achieving desired results
 - (d) Developing a plan or strategy to link capabilities with goals
 - (e) Undertaking the requisite actions
 - (f) Periodically reviewing and evaluating progress toward achievement of the desired results
2. Foreign policy actions are difficult to evaluate because:
 - (a) Short-range advantages and disadvantages must be weighed in relation to long-term consequences
 - (b) Their impact on other nations is difficult to evaluate
 - (c) Most policies result in a mixture of successes and failures that are hard to disentangle
3. Foreign Policy Approaches
 - (a) Realist/Idealist Dichotomy — Alternative approaches in forming foreign policy
 - i. Realist — Fundamentally empirical and pragmatic
 - ii. Idealist — Abstract principles involving international norms, legal codes, and moral/ethical values
 - (b) Revisionist — Foreign policy which seeks to alter the existing territorial, ideological, or power distribution to its advantage (expansionist and acquisitive)

- (c) Status Quo — Foreign policy which seeks to maintain revisionists (conservative and “defensive”)

4. Foreign Policy Components

- (a) Objectives
- (b) Situational factors
- (c) National interest — The fundamental objective and ultimate determinant that guides decision-makers of a state in making foreign policy. There are 5 components:
 - i. National Security (preemptive vs. preventive warfare)
 - ii. Free Trade/Free Markets (capitalism)
 - iii. Democracy
 - iv. World Peace
 - v. Humanitarian Concerns

5. Foreign Policy Process

- (a) Capability analysis
- (b) Intelligence
- (c) “Groupthink”
- (d) Decision-makers — Those individuals who exercise the powers of making and implementing foreign policy decisions
 - i. Opinion elites
 - ii. General public
 - iii. Cabinet secretaries
 - iv. Foreign policy bureaucracy

6. American Foreign Policy — Common Themes and Historical Concepts

- (a) The Monroe Doctrine
- (b) Isolationism and Internationalism
- (c) Dollar Diplomacy (Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson)
- (d) Good Neighbor Policy (FDR)
- (e) The Marshall Plan
- (f) The Truman Doctrine (Containment)
- (g) Alliance for Progress (JFK)
- (h) Agency for International Development (AID)
- (i) The Military-Industrial Complex

7. Realism vs. Idealism in Foreign Policy

- (a) Realism — Design policy based on “what is”
 - i. Outlook — Isolationist
 - ii. Power — Utilize “hard” power
 - iii. Leadership — Unilateral
 - iv. Defense — Large; National Missile Defense; 2-War
 - v. Arms and Weapons — Tension → Arms → War
 - vi. Foreign Aid — Lower; Focus on Military
 - vii. Democracy, Human Rights, Environment, United Nations — Not As Important
 - viii. Trade and Business — Will not necessarily promote peace
- (b) Idealism — Design policy based on how the world “ought to be”
 - i. Outlook — Internationalist
 - ii. Power — Utilize “soft” power
 - iii. Leadership — Multilateral
 - iv. Defense — Smaller; Use weapons we already have
 - v. Arms and Weapons — Arms → Tension → War
 - vi. Foreign Aid — Higher; Focus on Social, Economic
 - vii. Democracy, Human Rights, Environment, United Nations — More Important
 - viii. Trade and Business — Will help promote peace

8. Three Schools of Thought on America’s Future

- (a) Declinism — One side in the persistent “debate” about the future of American power and influence. Declinists believe that the relative power position of the US is waning
- (b) American Exceptionalism — The other side of the debate on the future of America’s power. They believe that America is unique in world history, and thus will continue to grow in power and influence
- (c) Neoimperialism — An alternative to both theories. This theory suggests that, while American leaders focus on global leadership, they are ignoring pressing social, economic, and political problems at home

9. Walter Russell Mead’s Four Schools of American Foreign Policy

- (a) Jacksonian
 - i. First Priority — Physical security and economic well-being of the American populace
 - ii. US should not seek out foreign quarrels but should fight to win if war starts
 - iii. Values — Self-reliance above all

- iv. Jacksonian Presidents — Reagan; Bush (II)
- (b) Hamiltonian
 - i. First Priority — Economic primacy of the US (mercantilism)
 - ii. The relationship between government and big business is key to survival and success of a country
 - iii. Legacies — IMF, World Bank, NAFTA, WTO
 - iv. Hamiltonian Presidents — Bush (I); Clinton
- (c) Jeffersonian
 - i. First Priority — Protection of American democracy on the home front
 - ii. Foreign entanglements always bad for democratic systems and highly skeptical of projects that involve the US abroad
 - iii. Legacies — ACLU
 - iv. Jeffersonian Presidents — None in the 20th century
- (d) Wilsonian
 - i. First Priority — Spreading American democratic and social values throughout the world
 - ii. US should be involved in the world with a peaceful international community based on the rule of law
 - iii. Legacies — The United Nations
 - iv. Wilsonian Presidents — McKinley; Carter