Introduction

As the world continues to exit the last stages of a global pandemic, now familiar military conflicts continue to rage, new ones threaten to boil over and destabilize already tumultuous regions, and worldwide economies find themselves stumbling while trends of automation emerge with little oversight. All the while climate change continues to relentlessly push the world to inhospitable levels, and the constant detrimental spread of disinformation and malicious use of artificial intelligence disrupt the global physical and information landscape respectively. The governments of today find themselves in precarious positions

Since February of 2022 Ukraine and Russia have remained at war with nearly half a million dead. Ukraine's counter-offensives have begun to push the invading Russian army back with slow progress as their drone strikes remain a constant terror in the Black Sea near Crimea.² This and other devastating outbreaks of warfare should stand not only as important issues on their own, but also as worrying signs of potential escalations of conflict elsewhere across the globe. Border tensions and constant displays of might and violence threaten to erupt with devastating consequences. As Ukraine and Russia remain in conflict, western countries like the United States and those of Europe must decide their best path forward to aid their allies in the immediate conflict and to prevent it from spreading elsewhere on the continent. Whereas regional powers like the People's Republic of China may eye the conflict as an opportunity to both seek leverage over nearby partners embroiled in the conflict to attempt to cement themselves as the sole regional powerhouse, or even view it as a welcome distraction to pursue other goals as much of the fixation of the world is drawn elsewhere. No conflict happens in a vacuum. The lessons learned from Russia's direct aggression may be applicable in unforeseen circumstances, especially ones arising far sooner than any might think as tensions continue to escalate in the Taiwan Strait as well as across the globe.

Information-based warfare continues to spread and dominate much of modern technological discourse through social media and other information sharing platforms. On platforms like X (formerly known as Twitter), WeChat, and others, artificial intelligence continues to explode in popularity as new unregulated programs develop with risks of minor misrepresentations of facts at best, and dangerous violence-inciting misinformation at worst.³ Current problems have only grown as platforms like X have become unmoderated landscapes of falsified information with competing propaganda narratives and an unchecked spread of near outright lies. To compound this issue, the true volatility of A.I. remains yet to be seen, as does its potential impact on the economies of the world through automation & obsoletion, beyond the continued engagement and

¹ https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ukraine-war-estimated-casualties-1.6940723

² https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60506682

³ https://www.nvtimes.com/2023/02/08/technology/ai-chatbots-disinformation.html

creation of disinformation. Programs like ChatGPT, DALL E 2, and other artificial intelligence



Source: Stanford University, 2022

applications continue to develop and run rampant throughout the internet with little oversight.

Beyond the known concerns of warfare, both conventional and digital, climate change and its effects remains a looming specter over the entire globe. Natural disasters are undeniably increasing in intensity and frequency with record breaking heat

waves, floods, and droughts.⁴ The average temperature of the planet has risen an entire degree Celsius since the late 19th century,⁵ the Greenland & Antarctica ice sheets have lost an average of 280 and 150 billion tons of ice respectively,⁶ and "Global sea level rose about 20 centimeters in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century and accelerating slightly every year."⁷ The world must find common ground and solutions that can work for all while there still remains a world to save.

The delegates of this body are expected to be among the brightest available and will be called to answer many challenges in a variety of unique and effective ways. The validity of the very information being presented must be questioned alongside the decisions of how to solve the issues, and no stone must be left unturned to obtain a future that will be to the benefit of all, hopefully in a world of peace and understanding.

This guide will present the primary concerns facing each Cabinet, Committee, and Board of Directors at the start of the conference, **December 7th, 2023**. Each body will be approaching the same issues and expected to make their own decisions in the face of an uncertain future.

Country Brief

⁴ https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62712301

⁵ https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/monitoring

⁶ https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/?trk=public_post_comment-text

⁷ https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1717312115

The world is in conflict, and the global position of the United States does not allow for a lax approach to securing the future of its ideals and beliefs. Since his inauguration in January of 2021, President Biden has dedicated himself to restoring America's standing in the world. However, no President can do anything alone, and so he will heavily rely upon his cabinet for success in Building Back America domestically and on the global stage. As the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic draws to a close, President Biden has one last chance to tackle his policy goals before gearing up for re-election. With ongoing conflicts across the globe, especially the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, the President intends to reaffirm the U.S.' commitment to supporting its allies in democracy. Despite Ukraine & Russia finding themselves at a standstill, there is still much to be done. The U.S. economy finds itself in a tumultuous time as economic disparities and divides continue to grow across the country. The President will need his cabinet's help to build the economy back even stronger than it was before the pandemic, and to ensure a modernization of the economy that will work for the benefit of both current and future generations. All the while, racial supremacy and the violence it invites continue to be an undeniable problem within the communities of the U.S. The White House's commitment to stopping what it calls "a poison running through our body politic" has never been stronger.

In an age of disinformation and rampant unchecked domestic violence, this cabinet must assist the President to their fullest capability. Every cabinet member is confirmed by the U.S. Senate and will advise the president on any subject relating to their duties to the fullest extent of their respective office. As the heads of multiple executive departments, the Cabinet will be expected to use their specific backgrounds for the betterment of President Biden's agenda. Each cabinet member present will be asked to develop new solutions and engage in complex topics, utilizing the resources at their disposal to promote the betterment of the U.S., and the world as a whole.

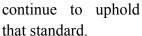
Topic 1 - Supporting the Victims of Ideological Expansionist Warfare

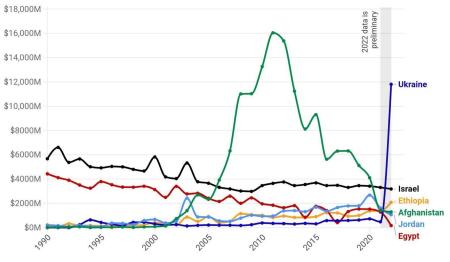
During WWII, the United States supported the Allied forces, even before the attacks on Pearl Harbor. This is a demonstration of the U.S.' dedication to international peace, as it was not until the Pearl Harbor attack that the U.S. declared war on Japan. After war was declared on Japan, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., thus cementing the U.S.' involvement in WWII. Dating back to The Marshall Plan, which provided significant economic aid to Europe post-WWII, this cabinet has always moved to help stabilize the U.S.' European democratic allies. This has led to the creation of reliable trading partners, as well as opened up opportunities for the U.S.' influence in Europe.⁹ The Cabinet is the successor to a government that has

https://www.reuters.com/world/us/buffalo-biden-meet-victims-families-after-white-supremacist-shooting-2022-05-17/

⁹ Marshall Plan (1948) | National Archives

provided ample support for its allies and must decide, given current circumstances, if it will





The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a travesty, and the Cabinet must analyze the current political situation and determine the level of support that will be provided for Ukraine.

Source: ForeignAssistance.gov • Data for 2022 is partially reported. Dollars are reflected in constant U.S. dollars, adjusted for inflation. Numbers above reflect obligations that may be paid out immediately or in the future.

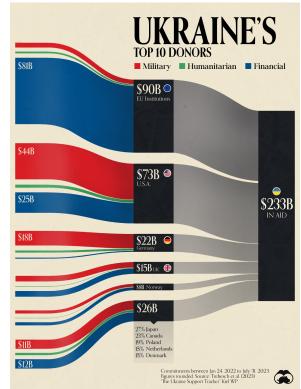
Chart. Intil a Haines / U.S. News & World Renue.

After the initial invasion in 2022,

U.S. support for Ukraine skyrocketed, as shown by the graphic to the left. Since 2014 and up through October 5, 2023, the U.S. has provided 46.7 billion to help Ukraine "preserve its

territorial integrity, secure its borders, and improve interoperability with NATO" according to the State Department.¹⁰ It is evident that support for Ukraine is a priority for the U.S., but the Cabinet must decide if it should continue to be, as the conflict has no obvious end in sight.

The Cabinet must not only debate the level of support provided to Ukraine but also what kind of support is provided. Humanitarian aid likely provides the most help to individuals directly impacted by the conflict, but military aid is more likely to shorten the length of the conflict. Military aid, however, may have the opposite intended impact and prolong the conflict. Russia is a much larger nation with the means to meet Ukraine with equal force, likely regardless of how much force is present. The U.S. has provided 44



¹⁰ U.S. Security Assistance to Ukraine.

Billion in military aid, compared to the lesser value of 25 Billion in humanitarian aid. It is up to the Cabinet to decide if the division of funds, and the amount of funds donated to Ukraine should change.

U.S. intervention in the conflict is not a likely solution, as it would put the nation in direct conflict with Russia. Regardless of the U.S. opinion of Russia, entering into direct conflict with them will result in unforeseen circumstances and should be avoided at all costs.

In conclusion, the Cabinet has tough decisions to make regarding aid and support to Ukraine. The Cabinet should also consider the impact of such a large amount of aid on the U.S.'s ability to financially contribute to other international conflicts. With the Russia-Ukraine conflict being prolonged, it is important now more than ever to assess the U.S.'s need to assist.

Topic 2 - Securing a Modernized Automated Economy

In an era defined by technological advancements, the United States stands at a crucial juncture where the transformation towards a modernized automated economy is imperative for sustained growth, global competitiveness, societal well-being, and national security. The integration of technologies holds the potential to revolutionize industries, enhance productivity, and address evolving challenges on the global stage. Beyond just domestic interests, securing leadership in automation is essential for the United States in the global arena.

One key field that can be used as a case study is that of artificial intelligence or AI. Like other aspects of a modernized automated economy, A.I. has implications for not only the United States' economic interests but also its military applications. We can see from this example that the United States' main competitors in this specific field also overlap the main actors in other matters such as national security and geopolitical stabilization. As such, the United States has dedicated Department of Defense (DOD) resources to researching and developing A.I. tools and systems not only for military applications but also for their industry uses.¹¹

Evidence from the past few years has shown that A.I. has had an outsized impact on the global economy. Not only has it contributed directly to increased economic activity through the creation of more jobs and technical work, but it also allows for faster and more efficient decision-making in non-related industries in which it is implemented. The effect of A.I. has been multiplicative in allowing the United States to continue to lead the world not only in A.I. development but also in related fields such as robotics and technology due to its implementation in said fields.¹²

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¹¹ Artificial Intelligence and National Security [Congressional Research Service]

¹² AI and the Economy [Innovation Policy and the Economy]

This begs the question as to why the United States should focus on continuing to modernize its economy. This largely stems from the observation that economic and political influence are intrinsically linked in today's political environment. Examples in the last century span as far back as the Marshall Plan¹³ following World War II, up to China's more recent Belt and Road Initiative.¹⁴ These strategies both served to provide economic support, and thus influence targeted regions. This resulted in further political influence, geopolitical stabilization, and advantageous partnerships through trade and military relations.¹⁵

One major consideration is what role the government should play and to what extent it should play a role. It comes as no surprise that viewpoints are often divided amongst political lines. While the benefits and necessity of securing such an economy are obvious, it remains to be seen what exactly the role of the government is in this equation. While American companies have historically held hegemony in many industries, they have always had to contend with foreign influences such as foreign market access, differing regulatory bodies, and competitors based outside the United States.¹⁶

To summarize, securing a modernized automated economy should be a top priority for the United States. The effects of such an economy have been proven in both the last century and today's world stage. A strong and modern economy helps not only America's economic interests but also its political and military interests. These investments pay dividends and help the United States extend both its soft and hard power reach, as well as further our capabilities to respond to global threats and crises and mitigate the emergence of said threats in the first place.

Topic 3 - Combatting the Spread of Disinformation and Racial Supremacy

The world right now lives in an unparalleled time of global connection. The ability to pass information from one end of the planet to the other in moments has resulted in an information landscape that is rapidly and persistently changing. While this rapid spread of information has provided a tremendous service to the global community, the ability of malicious actors to manipulate and misrepresent facts and narratives cannot go unaddressed. Disinformation, information that is false and spread deliberately so as to influence public opinion while obscuring the truth, is a critical problem in the modern world. Globally, disinformation represents a serious threat to the integrity of elections of states and threatens the stability of already tumultuous areas. Within the United States, disinformation has played an unignorable role in fomenting civil unrest, especially that of political unrest and stoking racial tensions.

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¹³ The Marshall Plan: History's Most Successful Structural Adjustment Program

¹⁴ Understanding China's Belt & Road Initiative: Motivation, framework and assessment [China Economic Review]

¹⁵ Economic interdependence, bargaining power, and political influence [International Organization]

¹⁶ Reconsidering the Fiscal Role of Government: The International Perspective

Disinformation has proven itself to be an undeniable election issue in the United States in recent years. While rumors and other untrustworthy news headlines have been around since our country's founding, the pervasiveness and far reaching effects of disinformation has affected multiple elections for the U.S. In the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections it was proven that Russian backed accounts called "bots" would spread disinformation on social media sites like Twitter and Facebook with the intent of causing chaos and conflict, in a strategy described as "Chaos is the point". A report released by the U.S. intelligence community assessed "Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election. Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and harm her electability and potential presidency." By utilizing paid social media users the Russian government was able to influence the language surrounding the election even if it did not directly change the results entirely. By creating conflict online Russian actors were able to destabilize to a degree the faith of the American people in their political institutions, leading to a distrust of Americans in their democracy.

19

In the lead up to the 2020 election and the COVID-19 pandemic disinformation played an important role. "As of mid-March 2020, 48% of Americans said they had seen at least some news related to COVID-19 that seemed completely made up. By mid-April, that figure had risen to 64%."20 Numerous falsified posts with little scientific evidence made the rounds on social media advertising multiple illegitimate ways to test for COVID-19 or falsely protect oneself against the virus. Fake claims included holding deep breaths to prove no infection, the different varieties of coughs determining infection status, and that staying hydrated with water would prevent any infections from the virus, among many other claims that circulated social media.²¹ This and other sources of disinformation posed serious health risks to people across the globe. As people encountered more and more false info this led to a rise in refusals to take anti-inflammatory drugs, hospitalizations for abuse of vitamins like vitamin D, methanol intake poisoning, or even believing that wearing a mask covering was connected to developing cancer, among many other detrimental effects.²² Disinformation during the pandemic was an undeniable source of risk and damaged public health, as well as public trust in their health institutions. Research indicates that from January to March of 2020, 800 people died while 5,800 were hospitalized, solely from COVID-19 based disinformation.²³

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¹⁷ https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/10/us/politics/russia-hacking-disinformation-election.html

¹⁸https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/ICA_2017_01.pdf

¹⁹https://www.politifact.com/article/2017/apr/04/four-things-know-about-russias-2016-misinformation/

²⁰https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2020/03/18/americans-immersed-in-covid-19-news-most-think-media-are -doing-fairly-well-covering-it/

²¹https://www.factcheck.org/2020/03/viral-social-media-posts-offer-false-coronavirus-tips/

²²https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7395797/

²³https://www.ajtmh.org/view/journals/tpmd/103/4/article-p1621.xml

One of the single largest culminations of the violent results of disinformation is what happened on January 6th in the U.S. Capitol. In the months leading up to and immediately following the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election, multiple disinformation claims by key political figures across the nation attempted to allege the illegitimacy of the election. Even as the election remained uncertain, figures like Donald Trump made fraudulent comments stating "We were getting ready to win the election, frankly, we did win this election."24 Thousands of protestors rallied in Washington D.C. to "stop the steal" as they claimed, following disinformation that the election had been stolen illegitimately. Despite throwing the results of the election into question, no actual evidence of fraud, misuse of ballots, or other examples of illegitimacy were provided. As lawyers for both Donald Trump and other members of his administration, Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell, among others, alleged that the election had been stolen and millions of ballots were fraudulently submitted. However, when pushed for evidence, nothing was provided. Even pro-Trump and conservative leading media never received any evidence of fraud in the election. "But she never sent us any evidence, despite a lot of polite requests. When we kept pressing, she got angry and told us to stop contacting her." As time went on this spread of disinformation would lead to further violence. Rallies in December 2020 would chant claims of "Joe Biden will be removed one way or another."²⁷, and clashes after the rallies would lead to 33 arrests and the vandalization of multiple churches in violent confrontations.²⁸

In a move that would further stoke tensions Donald Trump tweeted, "Statistically impossible to have lost the 2020 Election. Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!" forecasting the day of the Capitol riots. On January 2nd, 2021, Donald Trump pushed to find falsified votes in the Georgia election results, pushing direct disinformation by demanding "All I want to do is this: I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have, because we won the state." The real threats of violence would continue to escalate as on January 5th 2023 in Washington D.C. pipe bombs were placed outside the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee offices. On the day of January 6th, 2021, during and immediately after a speech by Donald Trump repeating his unsubstantiated claims that the

²⁴ https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-claims-victory-states-undecided-supreme-court-white-house

²⁵ https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-54945154

²⁶ https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-carlson-rudy-giuliani-sidney-powell-election-fraud

²⁷https://www.justsecurity.org/74622/stopthesteal-timeline-of-social-media-and-extremist-activities-leading-to-1-6-in surrection/

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/06/us/politics/capitol-mob-trump-supporters.html

 $^{^{30}} https://www.npr.org/2021/01/03/953012128/this-was-a-scam-in-recorded-call-trump-pushed-official-to-overturn-general-vote$

³¹https://www.forbes.com/sites/masonbissada/2022/01/06/what-we-know-and-still-dont-know-about-the-dnc-and-rnc-pipe-bomb-planter-one-year-later/?sh=556a62cc59ea

election was fraudulent, rioters would breach the perimeter of the Capitol.³² Thousands of people would enter the building, committing vandalism, assaulting officers, and threatening to 'Hang Mike Pence' as gallows were erected near the Capitol.³³ Rioters would occupy multiple rooms including the Speaker of the House's office among other congressional offices and the Senate chamber.³⁴ Donald Trump would issue a statement on social media asking his supporters to "go home", but the building would not clear until nearly 6:00 p.m. that evening.³⁵ While the rioters were eventually removed from the premises, allowing the certification of the election to continue and certifying Joe Biden's victory, five people died through the events of the day and many more were injured.³⁶ Officers and rioters were crushed and trampled alike, an officer was stunned with a taser and threatened with his own sidearm.³⁷ It is difficult to understate the violent results of the disinformation spread regarding the 2020 election. The January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol is the single biggest example of the violent end of disinformation and the threat it poses to the health, safety, and democracy of the American people.

Tackling disinformation is a difficult subject that requires a balance between addressing and preventing the falsified information, while not overly restricting the individuality and wide ranging growth of online networks. In April of 2022 the Biden administration partnered with over 50 other countries to launch the Declaration for the Future of the Internet. The purpose of the declaration is to defend a shared vision of the internet that respects and upholds the rights of all people and their democratic institutions. In that same month the White House announced the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board to combat disinformation, state sponsored or otherwise, however the board would be disbanded in August of that same year. The Stanford Cyber Policy Center has recommended five practical priorities for the Biden administration to properly address disinformation, first ensuring U.S. digital technology policy is consistent with human rights and democratic values, from there they recommend to heal the policy rift between the U.S. and their E.U. partners, creating a democratic alliance around a shared model of digital governance and strategic technology, develop a comprehensive strategy to combat the growing authoritarian model of governance digitally, and lastly to invest in innovation and entrepreneurship in regions that have not been included in the digital revolution, be they domestic or international.³⁸

Disinformation regarding the 2016 election and COVID-19 are not the only main issues with disinformation. Beyond election or health related disinformation lies problematic and pervasive

³² https://www.c-span.org/video/?507744-1/rally-electoral-college-vote-certification#

³³ https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/hang-mike-pence-chant-capitol-riot/

³⁴ ttps://apnews.com/article/docs-expose-depth-january-6-capitol-siege-chaos-fd3204574c11e453be8fb4e3c81258c3

³⁵ https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/532976-trump-tells-rioters-go-home-we-love-you

³⁶ https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/11/us/who-died-in-capitol-building-attack.html

³⁷ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/albuquerque-head-mike-fanone-sentenced n 635ace0fe4b04dfacf7dfe1b

³⁸https://cyber.fsi.stanford.edu/news/top-technology-policy-priorities-new-administration

disinformation intent on stoking racial tensions. As circumstances such as the January 6th riots in the U.S. Capitol demonstrated, there exist violent real world consequences to the spread of disinformation, especially ones focused on stoking racial tensions and supremacy. Racial supremacy has long since been a problem in the United States, but the volatility of political and racial tensions in America today cannot be understated. The Anti-Defamation League released a study in February of 2023 that found mass shootings were the primary cause of most extremism based fatalities, and over 80% of those mass shootings were linked to perpetrators of white supremacy.³⁹ Online forums and social media are a constant source of disinformation narratives such as the "Great Replacement" theory, a white supremacist theory that white populations at large will be replaced by nonwhite people through a variety of means.⁴⁰ These falsified narratives meant to incite anger and violence spurs actors into committing attacks. The ADL also found that "Of the 29 extremist-related killings in 2021, almost half (13) were committed by white supremacists."⁴¹

President Biden has gone on record stating "White supremacy is a poison" and "White supremacy...is the single most dangerous terrorist threat in our homeland." The Biden administration has released the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism which features four main pillars. One, understand and share domestic terrorism—related information to be able to combat the threat directly. Two, prevent domestic terrorism recruitment and mobilization to violence. Not only must the federal government engage in prosecuting those who engage in domestic terrorism, but it must also inhibit the supply and recruitment of white domestic terrorism. Third, disrupt and deter domestic terrorism activity. This includes enabling appropriate investigative powers to match the elevated threat level applied to domestic terrorism, and assessing where potential legislative reforms may be necessary. Last, the focus will be to confront long-term contributors to domestic terrorism. As stated in the publication, "That means tackling racism in America. It means protecting Americans from gun violence and mass murders. It means ensuring that we provide early intervention and appropriate care for those who pose a danger to themselves or others."

Disinformation across the U.S. poses a serious threat to the stability of the nation, and the health of every individual American. As disinformation spreads so too does violence and racial supremacy. This administration is responsible for protecting the American people and must

³⁹https://www.reuters.com/world/us/white-supremacists-behind-over-80-extremism-related-us-murders-2022-2023-0 2-23/

⁴⁰https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/18/technology/replacement-theory.html

⁴¹https://www.adl.org/resources/report/murder-and-extremism-united-states-2021#exploring-the-numbers

⁴²https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/17/joe-biden-buffalo-shooting-white-supremacist-lies

⁴³https://www.politico.com/news/2023/05/13/biden-howard-university-white-supremacy-terrorism-00096811

⁴⁴https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Domestic-Terrorism.p df

⁴⁵Ibid

tackle the difficult subject of addressing disinformation in all its facets. From its sources, to its spreading, to its terrible results, disinformation represents a source of constant danger to the U.S. Disinformation and the inherent violence behind racial supremacy will continue to put American lives at stake until the Biden administration can stop it.