

Introduction to Public Policy: Foreign Policy and Homeland Security

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Chapter 12: Foreign Policy and Homeland Security

Key Concepts in Public Policy under an Incoming Trump Administration

Learning Objectives

- Explain the nature of foreign policy and homeland security
- Analyze expected policy shifts with Trump's return to the White House
- Describe key foreign policy issues in light of new executive priorities
- **Apply policy process theories to anticipated changes in security policy**

Introduction to Homeland Security

- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** Potential return to Trump-era approaches on border security, immigration
 - *Agenda-Setting Theory:* How changing administrations redefine national security priorities
- **Terrorism:** Unlawful violence for political ends; emphasis may shift to domestic vs. foreign threats

Background and Policy Evolution in Foreign Policy

- **Foreign Policy under Trump:** A likely pivot back to unilateralism and “America First”
 - **Executive Dominance:** Under Trump, foreign policy often reflects direct executive control
 - **Policy Formulation:** Involves actors like the President, NSC, and Secretary of State aligning with Trump’s international priorities
- Diplomatic tools: Could see emphasis on tariffs, sanctions, and renegotiated alliances

Distinctive Qualities in Foreign Policymaking

- 1 **Executive-driven strategies** - Reflects **agenda-setting** by the president directly
- 2 **Secrecy and unilateral actions** - Emphasis on **executive authority**
- 3 **Reduced reliance on multilateralism** - May lead to reduced **international policy feedback**
- 4 **Presidential dominance** - Trump's return may renew direct executive involvement over congressional checks

Defense Policy in the Trump Administration

- Likely shifts in military funding and reallocation of defense priorities:
 - May see increased emphasis on **counterterrorism and defense buildup**
 - **Implementation Theory:** Centralized control of military initiatives, potential reduction in international deployments
- **NSC:** Trump's advisory team may pivot to a nationalistic, America-first stance on military involvement

Case Study: NATO and “America First” Strategy

- **NATO under Trump:** Potentially less emphasis on multilateral defense and more pressure for allies to fund their defense
 - **Policy Feedback:** Trump administration may reduce U.S. engagement based on prior conflicts over defense spending contributions
 - **Feedback Loops:** Possible pushback from NATO allies could impact the U.S. role in the alliance

Cold War Policies and Agenda-Setting

- Under Trump, **Cold War-style** rhetoric may resurface in relation to countries like China and Russia
 - **Incrementalism**: Small changes in rhetoric or policy could gradually escalate U.S. involvement or competition
 - **Agenda-Setting Theory**: Potential to redefine U.S. relations with emerging powers as threats

United Nations and Globalization: Policy Network Changes

- **UN Relations:** Trump's previous administration took a more limited view of UN involvement; possible return to reduced engagement
 - **Globalization:** Potential rollbacks in trade agreements to favor bilateral over multilateral policies
 - **Policy Networks Theory:** Trump's policies may shift away from international networks, emphasizing sovereign control

Trade Policies and “America First”

- **WTO and Trade:** Likely emphasis on renegotiating trade agreements, questioning multilateral frameworks
 - **Policy Networks:** Trump’s stance may limit U.S. involvement in large-scale trade deals, opting instead for individual country agreements

Military Buildup and Deterrence Theory

- **Arms Race and Deterrence:** Renewed focus on military readiness and increased nuclear deterrence capabilities
 - **Evaluation:** Continuous reassessment of policy effectiveness in maintaining security through deterrence

Intelligence Agencies and Executive Oversight

- **CIA, NSA under Trump:** Potential shifts in operational focus, return to targeted intelligence on specific threats
 - **Policy Streams Theory:** Direct executive influence could shape priorities in intelligence, focusing on national threats over global concerns

War on Terror and Homeland Security

- **Middle East Policies:** Trump may re-evaluate U.S. military involvement in the Middle East, shifting focus or withdrawing
 - **Implementation Theory:** Adjustments in troop deployment, operational objectives, and regional partnerships
 - May emphasize **border security** as a domestic counterterrorism measure

Foreign Aid and Strategic Alliances

- **USAID:** Likely realignment of aid to countries with strategic interests, less focus on multilateral aid
 - **Policy Feedback:** Expected international critique may influence adjustments in aid distribution to align with foreign policy objectives

Homeland Security Threats in Trump's Second Term

- **Key Threats:**
 - Potential increase in focus on **border security** and **domestic terrorism**
 - Renewed emphasis on **cybersecurity** due to increased digital threats
- **Punctuated Equilibrium:** Trump's administration may introduce sudden shifts in homeland security strategies, especially in high-impact areas

Civil Liberties and Surveillance Expansion

- **USA PATRIOT Act:** Possible reinforcement of surveillance and monitoring, especially in domestic terrorism
 - **Advocacy Coalition Framework:** Renewed coalitions may form around issues of civil liberties, pushing back on expanded executive powers
 - **Feedback:** Privacy advocates may influence oversight measures

Discussion Questions

- 1 **Presidential Influence:** How do changing administrations shift foreign policy focus? Use **agenda-setting theory** to explain.
- 2 **Balance of Power:** How might executive dominance affect checks and balances in foreign policy? Discuss using **policy feedback** theories.
- 3 **Policy Stability:** How should agencies adapt to rapid shifts in foreign policy focus? Consider **implementation theory** for insights.

Summary and Theoretical Reflection

- Transition to a Trump administration highlights the dynamic nature of policy evolution and **executive-led agenda-setting**
- **Implications:** Students should anticipate how changing priorities will impact the U.S. role in global and domestic security landscapes

Study Guide Questions for Final Exam

Key Concepts

- 1 Agenda-Setting:** How does the transition of administrations influence which foreign policy issues are prioritized? Provide examples.
- 2 Implementation:** What are some challenges in implementing homeland security policies at the local and federal levels?
- 3 Evaluation and Feedback:** How might public opinion and international alliances affect the evaluation of foreign policy successes?

Application to Policy Theories

- 1 **Policy Streams:** How does the “policy window” concept apply to moments of international crisis (e.g., 9/11, pandemic outbreaks)?
- 2 **Punctuated Equilibrium:** Identify examples of sudden shifts in U.S. foreign policy. What events caused these shifts?
- 3 **Advocacy Coalitions:** In what ways have civil liberties groups influenced or challenged national security policies?

Reflection Questions

- 1 **Balancing Security and Civil Liberties:** How should policymakers approach the balance between national security needs and individual rights?
- 2 **Executive Dominance:** What are the implications of strong presidential control over foreign policy for democratic governance?