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?