I. American Empire

A. U.S. dominates peoples and territories of the world.

1. Means of domination: military

a. most powerful military in history

b. global “force projection”

i. bases all over the world

ii. sea dominance

iii. space dominance

c. client states

2. Goal

a. world domination

b. eliminate threats (real, possible, potential, hypothetical) to domination

c. remake world in its own image

d. serve complex arrangement of economic and political interests

3. Militarism

a. military is dominant institution in American society

i. most resources

ii. military (including “militarists”) controls political system

iii. military values and norms are dominant norms in society

b. problems and solutions defined by military

c. no institutional constraints on use of military power

i. Congress/imperial presidency

ii. UN/International law

4. Empire: History, Ideology, Structure and “Sorrows”

B. History: Rise of American Empire

1. American Exceptionalism

a. The City on the Hill

b. Early Pre-Revolutionary Puritans

i. new Chosen People

ii. new “Promised Land”

c. unlimited natural resources

d. no class or caste system

e. infinite opportunity

f. benevolent and moral country ( a “good” country)

g. a unique and special people

2. America: Manifest Destiny

a. white race is ordained by God

b. conquer North America

c. justified “expansion”

i. Native Americans

ii. Mexican American War

d. Wilson: a “global destiny”

3. Overthrow

a. Hawaii

b. Spanish American War

i. Cuba/Platt Amendment

ii. Philippines

iii. Puerto Rico

c. Panama and the Canal

d. Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine

i. Nicaragua

ii. Honduras

e. Wilson and the Caribbean: Haiti, Dominican Republic

4. WWII and the end of Colonialism

* 1. Atlantic Charter

b. Collapse of Colonialism and decolonization

<https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>

c. UN Charter. Articles 2 and 51

d. Nuremberg Tribunals

i. crimes against the peace

ii. crimes against humanity

iii. war crimes

iv. conspiracy to commit above crimes

e. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

f. International Criminal Court

5. Post –Colonialism and American Empire

a. Grand Strategy

b. “friendly dictators”

c. “unfriendly dictators” :Cuba and Castro, Congo and Lumumba, Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh

d. Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil,

e. Vietnam and Grand Strategy

5. Cold War and Military Industrial Complex

a. “Containment”

b. MI Complex

i. permanent war economy

ii. military/mic in government

iii. military preparedness

c. 56 cents of every dollar to defense

d. arms race

i. atom bomb

ii. hydrogen bombs

iii. delivery systems

SAC, ICBMs 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

iv. tactical systems

v. nuclear submarines

vi. space race 1967 Outer Space Treaty

vii. neutron bomb

viii. multi- war

ix. MAD

6. After Vietnam: Reorganizing Empire and the Fall of the Soviet Union

a. Reagan: restarting the cold war

b. reestablishing U.S. power

i. Grenada, Panama,

ii. “exorcizing Vietnam”: Saddam Hussein and Iraq I

7. 9-11 and Empire: Bush Doctrine (National Security Strategy 2002)

a. US is in a unique position

i. single dominate power .

ii. largest economy

iii. most powerful military

b. US model: free market capitalism and democracy

c. Needs to maintain position, enhance interests, and

eliminate threats

i. Middle East is extremely important: economically

and strategically

ii. third world countries into line

iii. counter threats to global hegemony

d. rejection of doctrines of deterrence and containment

i. MAD

ii. 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

iii. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

iv. 1967 Outer Space Treaty

e. The standard of imminent threat (justification for preemptive war) is redefined to “possible or potential” threat

f. Doctrine of Preventive War

i. Basic Principle: the US has the right to use force

against any nation

- whose leaders have hostile intentions

- have alleged connection with terrorists

- have alleged potential connection with terrorists

- have alleged plans and projects regarding wmd

- anticipation of possible future dangers

ii. Between 50 and 60 countries could be targets

Of preemptive war

D. 9-11, Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Posture Review

i. Use against non-nuclear country if conventional weapons fail to achieve military goals.

ii. If specific targets withstand non nuclear attack

iii. "in the event of a surprising military development"

iv. in retaliation for attack with wmd

v. will begin developing new types of nuclear weapons

Nearly a quarter century after the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the U.S. government is still getting ready for nuclear war.

This fact was underscored on June 19, 2013, when the Pentagon, on behalf of President Barack Obama, released a [report](http://www.defense.gov/pubs/ReporttoCongressonUSNuclearEmploymentStrategy_Section491.pdf) to Congress outlining what it called the U.S. government’s “Nuclear Employment Strategy.” . . . In 2010, the administration’s Nuclear Posture Review declared that it would work toward making deterrence of nuclear attack the “sole purpose” of U.S. nuclear weapons. The 2013 report, however, without any explanation, reported that “we cannot adopt such a policy today.” Thus, as in the past, the U.S. government considers itself free to initiate a nuclear attack on other nations.

The 2013 “Nuclear Employment Strategy” also retained another controversial aspect of U.S. nuclear policy: counterforce strategy. Designed to employ U.S. nuclear weapons to destroy an enemy nation’s nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and associated installations. . .

One shift in emphasis indicated in the “Nuclear Employment Strategy” is a presidential directive to Pentagon officials to “reduce the role of `launch under attack.’” Currently, it is U.S. policy to fire nuclear weapons at an opponent on short notice if there are signs that a nuclear strike is under way against the United States or its allies. But this reduction in the likelihood of sliding into a full-scale nuclear war would be more reassuring if the President’s directive did not also command the Pentagon to retain a launch-under-attack capability, in case the President decided to use it.

. . . the reality was that the President suggested his readiness to support a reduction of “up to” a third of deployed Russian and American strategic nuclear weapons. Under the New START Treaty, the limit to the number of these kinds of weapons in each nation is 1,550. Thus, in reality, Obama announced that he favored an agreement for each nation to eliminate 1 to 517 of them. . . . it should be noted that, at present, the U.S. government possesses approximately [7,700 nuclear weapons](http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html).

<http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/nukestatus.html>

Another indication that the Obama administration is in no hurry to fulfill its promises about building a nuclear weapons-free world is found in its fiscal 2014 [budget proposal](http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/obama-seeks-boost-doe-nuclear-weapons-spending-cut-nonproliferation/) to Congress. Here, amid sharp cuts for a broad variety of programs, there is a proposed 9 percent increase in federal funding for the Energy Department’s U.S. nuclear weapons activities, including upgrading nuclear warheads (like the B61 gravity bomb, slated for a $10 billion makeover) and modernizing nuclear weapons production facilities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8>

8. Iraq War II

a. extend empire of bases

b. establish control over region

c.establish control over large supply of oil

d. assert policy: Bush Doctrine, empire acknowledges no

constraints on use of military force

e. develop propaganda techniques

f. expand power of imperial presidency

9. Global War on Terror

a. define the earth as the battlefield and as such U.S. can do any thing, any where, any time they want

b. high technology warfare

c: JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command)

i. created in 1980s, 10x larger now

ii. reports only to president

iii. operates beyond any legal accountability

iv. operations are secret

v. operations are in many countries and in countries we

have not even claimed are tied to terrorism

vi. sabotage, assassinate, “kill lists”

d. War at Home:

i. Patriot Act

ii. Bush/Obama and Telecoms

iii. Bush/Obama and National Security Agency

iv. Imperial Presidency and Secrecy

Bush/Obama State Secrecy

Bush/Obama Sovereign Immunity

National Defense Authorization Act

Patriot Act

Secret laws and secret interpretations

v. Supreme Court rulings