I. Theory of American Empire

A. Chalmers Johnson: *Blowback, Sorrows of Empire, Nemesis*

B. Empire: global world system where a single power dominates the peoples and territories of the world.

C. Goal of Empire

1. shape world for own interests

2. eliminate threats to domination

D. Means

1. economic, political, military domination

2. manufacture consent of domestic population

3. ideological pacification of imperial populations

1. Emergence of American Empire

1. WWII

a. large standing army

b. military industrial complex

2. Cold War

a. permanent war economy

b. military leaders to political and economic positions

3. War on Terror

a. terrorist threat

b. perpetual war

4. American Exceptionalism

F. Form of U.S. Empire: Militarism

“U.S. dominates the world through military power.”

1. Militarism different from military

2. Militarism: dominant institution in society is military

(military-industrial-intelligence-security complex)

3. Military assumes civilian roles

4. Militarized foreign policy

5. Military values become dominant social values and penetrate all institutions

6. Actions (country and military) are not constrained by domestic or international law and are justified because the empire did it

G. U.S. Military

1. Empire of bases

2. Department of Defense

3. Intelligence

4. Special Operations and Joint training (JCET)

5. SOFA (status of forces agreements)

6. private contractors

7. Colleges

H. Imperialism is a function of militarism

1. control of globe for empires economic interests

2. profit from empire (industrial-security-intelligence complex)

a. weapons contractors

b. private military contractors

c. private intelligence contractors

3. other profiteers

a. 273,000 bottles, auto manufacturers, AIG etc

b. corporate media

I. National Security Strategy 2002 aka Bush/Obama Doctrine of Empire

1. US is in a unique position

a. single dominate power .

b. largest economy

c. most powerful military

2. US model: free market capitalism and democracy

3. Needs to maintain position, enhance interests, and

eliminate threats

a. Middle East is extremely important: economically

and strategically

b. third world countries into line

c. counter threats to global hegemony

4. rejection of doctrines of deterrence and containment

a. MAD

b. 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

c. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

d. 1967 Outer Space Treaty

5. The standard of imminent threat is redefined

to “possible or potential” threat

6. Doctrine of Preemptive War

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

against any nation

i. whose leaders have hostile intentions

ii. have alleged connection with terrorists

iii. have alleged potential connection with terrorists

iv. have alleged plans and projects regarding wmd

v. anticipation of possible future dangers

b. Between 50 and 60 countries could be targets

Of preemptive war

J. Policy: Nuclear Posture Review

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

2. If specific targets withstand non nuclear attack

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

4. in retaliation for attack with wmd

5. will begin developing new types of nuclear weapons

K. National Defense Appropriations Act

L. Costs of Empire

1. cost of war, debt and breakdown of economy

2. end of democracy

3. “blowback”