I. Theory of American Empire

A. System of single power domination over peoples and territories of the world.

B. Goal

1. shape world for own interests

2. eliminate threats to domination

C. Examples

* + 1. Roman Empire

a. First century BC Roman Republic

i. expansion through conquest

ii. ruled known world except for China

b. from Republic to dictatorship

i. Julius Caesar and civil war

ii. military dictatorship

c. goals

i. natural resources

ii. security

* + 1. British Empire

a. British century: Waterloo to WWI

b. 1914 “sun never sets”

c. Africa, Asia, Australia, Latin America, North America, Middle East, Open Door and China

d. colonial governance

i. Crown colonies

ii. governors (India: Viceroy and General Governor)

iii. political, economic, military, and ideological (“White Man’s Burden”)

e. goals

i. resources

ii. markets

iii. cheap labor

D. Limits and Overreach

1. Rome and the sorrows of empire

a. destroyed system of elections

b. reduced Roman Senate to impotence

c. ended popular assemblies

d. military dominant institution

e. Roman Empire collapses: “overwhelmed by enemies that

it had created”

2. England and the sorrows of empire

a. cost

b. wars: Afghanistan, Iraq

c. WWI and WWII

d. other sorrows: genocide, concentration camps, environmental destruction

II. American Empire

1. Emergence

1. Monroe Doctrine 1823

a. “no new (European) colonization in Western Hemisphere”

b. “threat to peace and safety”

2. Bush Doctrine 2002

B. New Form

“Dominates the world through military power.”

1. Empire of bases

2. Huge military

3. CIA

4. Special Ops

5. Mutual defense treaties

6. Joint training

7. SOFA (status of forces agreements)

8. Intelligence

9.. Militarism +Imperialism

C. Militarism

1. Militarism different from military

2. Dominate institution in society is military

(military-industrial-intelligence-security complex)

3. Military assumes civilian and domestic roles

a. foreign policy: Secretary of State

b. Homeland Security, immigration, drugs

4. Militarized foreign policy

5. Military values become dominant social values

6. Actions (country and military) are not constrained by international law)

D. Imperialism

1. Intertwined with militarism

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

a. weapons contractors

b. private military contractors

3. other profiteers

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

b. obsequious corporate media

E. Roots of Militarism

1. Spanish-American War

a. Cuba: Platt Amendment, Treaty of Paris

b. Philippines: Manifest Destiny and race

c. bases: Guantanamo, Pearl Harbor

1. Emergence of Professional army
   1. General Staff/ Prussia as a model

b. National Guard

c. Army War College

3. Wilson: manifest destiny and democracy to the world

a. Mexican Revolution

* 1. Treaty of Versailles: U.S. no on “racial equality”
  2. Fourteen Points and self-determination

4. WWII

a. large standing army

b. emergence of military industrial complex

c. military challenge to civilian authority

5. Cold War

1. permanent war economy
2. professional military class

c. military/m-i to government

d. military preparedness highest priority

6. Fall of S.U.

a. NSS 1990: “new enemies”

b. expand NATO

7. 9/11 and the Project for a New American Century

8. 2002: new empire

F. National Security Strategy 2002 aka Bush Doctrine

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

G. 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