

Module 2

What is Grand Strategy?

Why we invaded Iraq, why others would submit when SADDAm fell

Intellectual architecture or World view that provides the foundation for foreign policy(Top of the pyramid of foreign Policy)

Big ideas – Containment, democracy promotion, counter nuclear proliferation

Ideology (like partisanship, but is not partisan(Rand Paul v. McCain)), Draw on Theories(nature of security threats in international system)

Components of Grand Strategy

Grand Strategy- Set of overarching ideas or principles that structure and provide the political, econ, and moral rationale for a more specific set of foreign policies that Us might implement

Visions of grand Strategy:

- Isolationism

- Selective engagement

- Liberal Internationalism

- Primacy

Differ by

- Interests – Geographic Scope (Regional or Global), overarching interests (containment or Democracy promotions (was 2nd in CW, no 1st))

- Threats – geographic threats (scope (narrow v expansive)), identify (Al Qaeda, ISIS) and interests of adversaries, interests and threats often linked

- Means – unilateralism(own) v. multilateralism (degree to which we rely on intern. Coop.), effectiveness of military force, diplomacy, economic statecraft, nothing

Obama West Point Speech

As a statement of GS(terrorism)

- National interests

 - Goals – Human Dignity(freedom, moral respons), rebuild national economy

- Discussion of means

 - Push back against bush(intervention milit, less secure if reliant on military force), Identification of threats(terrorism, China rise, Russia)

- Critique of rival GS

critiques isolationism and primacy(liberal hegemony)

Assessment of state of World

Challenges us decline, we are indispensable(threats that cannot be handle unilaterally, we must lead, rooted in WW1-WW2, selective about this term(milt crisis, 2009 fin crisis))

Unique – Obeezys desire to increase the utilization of foreign troops in foreign wars

Domestic Dimension – public and economy issues of using milt force in long term

Historical Examples of Isolationism

GW Farewell address

Critique of French meddling (jade treaty with Britain, French undermined federalists in 1896)

Set against wars associated with French revolution

Warns against foreign entanglements: antipathies or alliances, so demo can consolidate

Helps to set up a tradition of isolationism by recommending detachment from Europe

Post Pres Wilson

Republican successors to Wilson in 1920s(Renegotiated Versailles treaty(League of Nations))

Rely on private economic influence, rather than pol/milt power

Tax cuts, demobilization, and limited political involvement in Europe

FDR first term was more ISO(withdrew from Euro in 1933)

Isolationism During and After the Cold War

Isolationism waxed and waned with perceived threats and levels of US global Power

Much less isolationism during the cold war

Rebirth of ISO after the collapse of USSR “peace dividend”

Partial retreat again with emergence of perceived threat of al Qaeda

Return of “Neo-ISO” in current climate?(Trump)

Posen Reading

Says Bipartisan fusion of liberal internationalism and primacy since end of cold war(Liberal Hegemony)

Promotion of Democracy, Open Markets, and multilateral organizations

Provokes anti-American Backlash(Rivals rallying against us, China and Russia), quagmires in identify conflicts(Iraq and Afghan, unending), allies are neglecting(they are being dependent on us)

Alternative – Limited core missions(preventing the rise of a powerful rival, fighting terrorism, preventing nuclear proliferation), scale back alliance commitments, avoid counterinsurgency(Do not reform societies, use drones, spec ops against terrorist), cut military spending