

# USA & UK FOREIGN POLICY

## SHORT QUESTIONS

### 1. BREXIT

Brexit is a term that refers to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union (EU). The word "Brexit" is a collection of "Britain" and "exit." The process of Brexit began when the UK held a referendum on June 23, 2016, in which a majority of voters chose to leave the EU. Following the referendum, the UK government triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, formally notifying the EU of its intention to withdraw.

Brexit has significant political, economic, and social implications, both for the UK and for the EU. It involves disentangling the UK from various EU institutions, laws, and agreements, as well as negotiating new arrangements for trade, immigration, security, and other areas. The process of Brexit has been complex and contentious, with debates over the terms of withdrawal, the future relationship between the UK and the EU, and the potential impact on various sectors of the economy.

### 2. DETENTE

Detente is a term used in international relations to describe a period of reduced tension or improved relations between countries, particularly between rivals or adversaries. It typically involves a relaxation of hostile attitudes, diplomatic efforts to improve communication and cooperation, and sometimes the signing of agreements to manage conflicts or reduce the risk of confrontation.

The term "detente" is most commonly associated with the period of improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union in the 1970s, characterized by initiatives such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the Helsinki Accords. However, detente can occur in various contexts and between different countries, depending on the geopolitical circumstances and the willingness of parties to engage in dialogue and cooperation.

### 3. NATO

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a political and military alliance established in 1949. Its founding members included the United States, Canada, and several Western European countries. The organization was formed in response to the perceived threat posed by the Soviet Union and the spread of communism in Europe following World War II.

The core principle of NATO is collective defense: an attack on one member is considered an attack on all members, and the alliance is committed to responding collectively to such threats. This principle is enshrined in Article 5 of the NATO treaty.

#### **4. SEATO**

SEATO, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, was an international organization established in 1954 to address the security concerns in Southeast Asia. It was formed in response to the perceived threat of communist expansion in the region, particularly in the aftermath of the Korean War and the First Indochina War.

SEATO's primary objective was to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia by providing collective security and defense cooperation among its member states. The founding members of SEATO included Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

#### **5. CENTO**

CENTO, or the Central Treaty Organization, emerged in 1955 as a regional security alliance comprising Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Formed in response to growing concerns over communist expansion in the Middle East and South Asia, particularly in the wake of the 1953 Iranian coup and Soviet influence in the region, CENTO aimed to foster mutual defense and cooperation among its member states. CENTO played a role in countering Soviet influence and promoting stability in the region during the Cold War, internal divisions, regional conflicts, and shifting geopolitical dynamics ultimately limited its impact.

#### **6. VIETNAM WAR**

The Vietnam War was a conflict that took place from 1955 to 1975. It was fought between North Vietnam, supported by its communist allies, and the government of South Vietnam, supported by the United States and other anti-communist nations. The war is often seen as a proxy conflict of the Cold War, with North Vietnam supported by the Soviet Union and China, while South Vietnam was supported by the United States and its allies.

The conflict stemmed from the division of Vietnam after the Geneva Accords in 1954, which temporarily separated the country into communist North Vietnam and anti-communist South Vietnam. The communist forces in the north sought to reunify the country under a single communist government, while the South Vietnamese government, with the backing of the United States, aimed to resist communist expansion.

## **7. SUEZ CANAL CRISIS**

The Suez Canal Crisis, also known as the Suez Crisis, occurred in 1956 and involved a military conflict primarily between Egypt on one side and a coalition of Israel, France, and the United Kingdom on the other.

The crisis was sparked by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's decision to nationalize the Suez Canal, a vital waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. The canal had previously been owned and operated by the Suez Canal Company, which was largely controlled by British and French interests. Nasser's nationalization move was seen as a challenge to Western dominance in the region and a threat to international shipping.

However, the actions of the coalition met with widespread international condemnation, including from the United States and the Soviet Union. Pressure from both superpowers, coupled with the threat of economic sanctions and the deteriorating military situation on the ground, forced France and the UK to withdraw their forces from Egypt by early 1957. Israel also withdrew its troops from Egyptian territory under pressure from the United Nations.

## **8. MARSHALL PLAN**

The Marshall Plan, officially known as the European Recovery Program (ERP), was a landmark initiative launched by the United States in 1948 to aid in the economic reconstruction of Western Europe following the devastation of World War II. Named after U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the plan sought to address the urgent need for recovery and stability in war-torn European countries by providing substantial financial assistance and technical expertise. Over the course of four years, the United States allocated approximately \$13 billion (equivalent to over \$130 billion in today's dollars) to support the rebuilding of European economies, infrastructure, and industries. The Marshall Plan aimed to promote economic recovery, foster political stability, and prevent the spread of communism in the region, laying the foundation for post-war prosperity and cooperation.

## **9. IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL AND USA**

The Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was a landmark agreement reached in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, which includes the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany, along with the European Union. The JCPOA aimed to address concerns about Iran's nuclear program and prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons, while also providing sanctions relief for Iran. Under the agreement, Iran agreed to significant limitations on its nuclear activities, including reducing its stockpile of enriched uranium and dismantling centrifuges, in exchange for relief from nuclear-related sanctions imposed by the international community. However, in May 2018, the



United States, under the administration of President Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and imposed sanctions on Iran, citing concerns about Iran's compliance with the agreement and its broader behavior in the region. The withdrawal from the JCPOA strained relations between the United States and its European allies, who remained committed to the agreement and sought to preserve it through diplomatic efforts.

## **10. BRITISH POLICY DURING COLD WAR**

During the Cold War, Britain's policy was all about sticking close to its friends and keeping the peace. It joined up with the United States and other countries to form groups like NATO, which was kind of like a club for countries that wanted to protect each other from the Soviet Union and communism. Britain also made its own nuclear weapons to show it was tough and could defend itself. It worked with other European countries to build stronger relationships, and it helped its former colonies become independent while staying friends through something called the Commonwealth. Overall, Britain tried to stay strong, make friends, and keep the world safe from big conflicts.

## **11. ECONOMIC IMPLICATION OF BREXIT**

Brexit, the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union (EU), has had significant economic implications since its inception. The uncertainty surrounding Brexit negotiations and its eventual implementation led to volatility in financial markets, currency fluctuations, and a decline in business confidence. As the UK formally left the EU's single market and customs union, trade barriers such as customs checks and regulatory differences emerged, disrupting supply chains and increasing costs for businesses. Certain industries, particularly those reliant on frictionless trade with the EU, such as manufacturing, agriculture, and financial services, have been particularly affected. Additionally, Brexit has impacted the labor market, with changes to immigration policies affecting the availability of skilled and unskilled workers in various sectors. While the full extent of Brexit's economic impact remains to be seen, it has undoubtedly posed challenges for the UK economy, requiring businesses to adapt to a new trading environment and prompting policymakers to implement measures to mitigate potential disruptions.

## **12. WAR AGAINST TERRORISM**

The war against terrorism, launched in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, is a global effort aimed at combating extremist groups and preventing future acts of terrorism. Led primarily by the United States and its allies, this campaign involves military interventions, intelligence operations, diplomatic initiatives, and law enforcement efforts targeting terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates. Key objectives of the war on terror include dismantling terrorist networks, disrupting their financing and recruitment efforts, and promoting stability and security in regions affected by extremism. The war on terror has led to significant military engagements in countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, as well as to the implementation of counterterrorism measures and surveillance programs.

domestically and internationally. However, the war on terror has also faced criticism for its human rights implications, including civilian casualties, erosion of civil liberties, and allegations of torture and abuse. Despite these challenges, the war on terror remains a central priority for many governments around the world, reflecting the ongoing threat posed by terrorism and the commitment to safeguarding global security and stability.

### **13. FUTURE OF NAFTA**

The future of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, remains uncertain as the agreement undergoes significant changes and renegotiation. Originally established in 1994 to facilitate trade and economic cooperation between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, NAFTA has faced criticism from various quarters over its impact on jobs, wages, and industries in member countries. In 2018, the United States, under the Trump administration, initiated renegotiation efforts, leading to the signing of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2018. The USMCA aimed to modernize and update NAFTA's provisions, addressing issues such as intellectual property rights, digital trade, labor standards, and environmental protections. However, the future of the USMCA remains subject to political and economic factors, including changes in leadership, shifts in trade policy priorities, and evolving dynamics between member countries. While the USMCA represents a new chapter in North American trade relations, its effectiveness in addressing longstanding concerns and promoting inclusive economic growth will depend on its implementation and enforcement mechanisms, as well as on ongoing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and integration.

### **14. TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN**

Trump's travel ban, officially known as Executive Order 13769, was issued shortly after he assumed office in January 2017. The order suspended entry into the United States for citizens of seven predominantly Muslim-majority countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, for 90 days. It also halted the refugee admissions program for 120 days and indefinitely banned Syrian refugees. The travel ban faced immediate legal challenges and widespread criticism, with opponents arguing that it was discriminatory, unconstitutional, and counterproductive in addressing national security concerns. After several revisions and legal battles, the Supreme Court upheld a modified version of the travel ban in June 2018, which included restrictions on citizens from Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen, as well as certain government officials from Iraq. Perspectives on the travel ban remain deeply divided, with supporters viewing it as a necessary measure to enhance national security and control immigration, while critics condemn it as discriminatory and harmful to America's image and values as a nation of immigrants. The travel ban's long-term impact on immigration policy, national security, and diplomatic relations continues to be debated, with ongoing implications for immigrants, refugees, and affected communities both in the United States and abroad.

## **15. U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR DEAL**

The U.S. withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), occurred in May 2018 under the Trump administration. The JCPOA, negotiated in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries (United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany), aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. President Trump's decision to withdraw from the JCPOA was based on his assertion that the agreement did not go far enough in addressing Iran's broader regional activities and ballistic missile program, and that it provided insufficient guarantees to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons in the long term. The U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA was met with international criticism and concerns about its impact on regional stability, nuclear proliferation, and diplomatic relations. In response to the U.S. withdrawal, Iran gradually began to exceed certain limits set by the JCPOA on its nuclear activities, while remaining open to negotiations with the remaining parties to the agreement. The withdrawal from the JCPOA marked a significant shift in U.S. policy towards Iran and had far-reaching implications for nuclear non-proliferation efforts, regional dynamics in the Middle East, and broader U.S. diplomatic engagements.