

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

Terms and concepts to know:

Foreign policy

Realist – Idealist dichotomy

Status Quo

USAID

“Dollar Diplomacy”

Isolationism / Internationalism

Marshall Plan

Military-Industrial Complex

The “5 Components”

National interest

Revisionism

Unilateralism

Alliance for Progress

“Good Neighbor Policy”

Monroe Doctrine

Truman Doctrine

Bush Doctrine

Trump Doctrine

Biden Doctrine?

Study and discussion questions:

1. Author Laurence Shoup suggests that Biden’s foreign policy team (and therefore US foreign policy in general) is not that much different from Trump’s. Examine the data he puts forth and analyze whether you agree or disagree with his theory that the CFR is what *really* drives US foreign policy. As a corollary, which of the 9 theories that we’ve discussed would this fall under?

2. What is America’s “national interest”? Of the list of 5 given earlier, rank them in order of importance and explain why they should be ranked in that order. Feel free to add any you feel are important and remove any that are not.

3. Should America follow a realist or idealist foreign policy? Isolationist or internationalist? Do these terms have any real meaning today?

4. What two theoretical forces does Krauthammer see as “converging” in the contemporary era? Do you support his logic of supporting undemocratic dictators?

5. What does Ferguson mean by the term “apolarity”? How does this differ from uni-polarity, bi-polarity, or multi-polarity? Do you agree that it constitutes a more dangerous world condition?

6. Examine Parenti’s argument. What is he stressing that we take into account when analyzing any chosen foreign policy of the United States? Do you agree/disagree this provides a more “fruitful” analysis?

7. How does Selfa’s analysis conflict with that of Krauthammer? What would Selfa’s primary objection be to Krauthammer’s thesis? Of the two, who gave the other author a spanking?

Readings:

WEB – Readings from the “US Foreign Policy” links.

Video:

In Whose Interest?