

The Players: The Makers and Shapers of Foreign Policy

There are three principle governmental actors or institutions that make foreign policy:

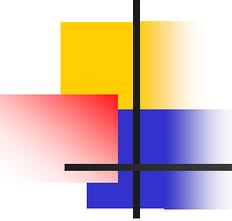
- the President
- the bureaucracy
- the Congress



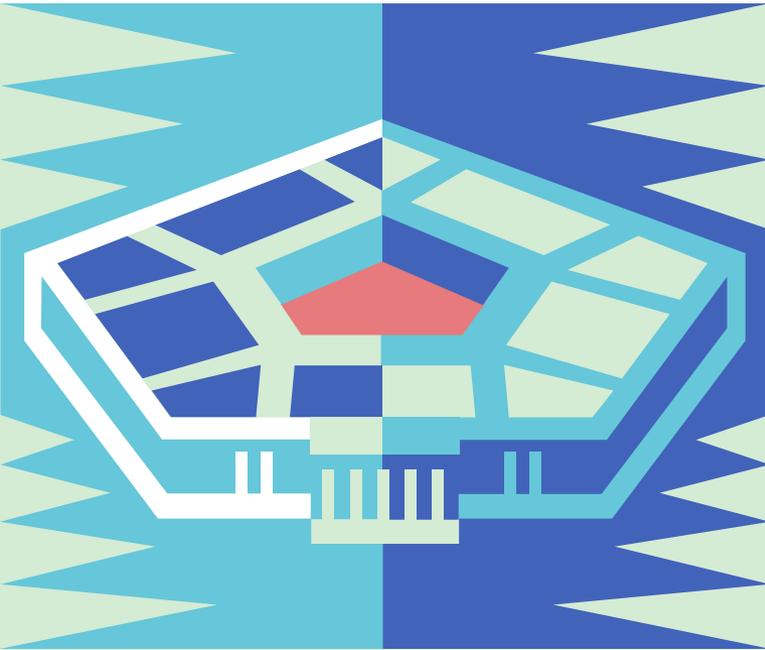
Foreign Policy

As Commander in Chief, the President of the United States has an unusual amount of influence in foreign policy making.



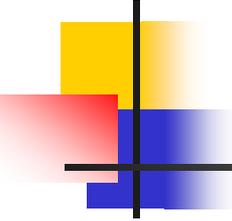


Foreign Policy



Several executive departments and agencies advise the president and Congress on foreign policy and play their own roles in implementing these policies. These include:

- the Department of State
- the Department of Defense
- the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- the Central Intelligence Agency
- the National Security Council
- the Department of Homeland Security



Foreign Policy

Congress makes foreign policy through its power to declare war, its role in making policy and funding programs, and the Senate's role in ratifying treaties.

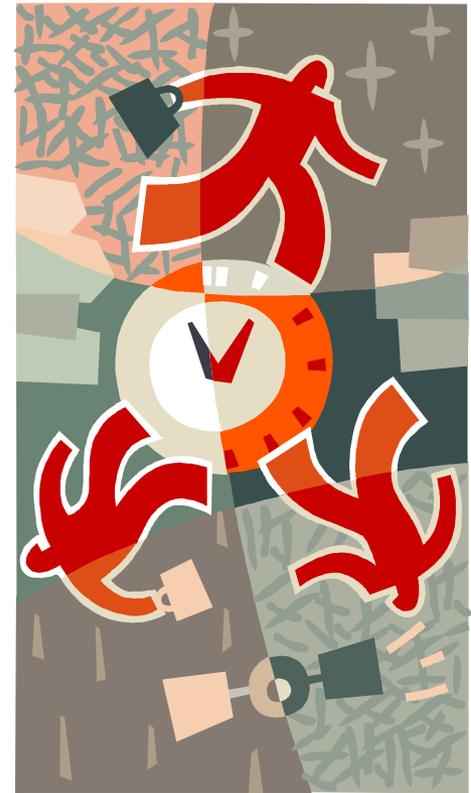
Important committees are:

- the Senate's Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees
- the House Senate International Affairs and Armed Services Committees



Foreign Policy

Interest groups, ranging from businesses and defense contractors to ethnic interest groups and organized labor, seek to shape American defense, diplomatic, and trade policies.



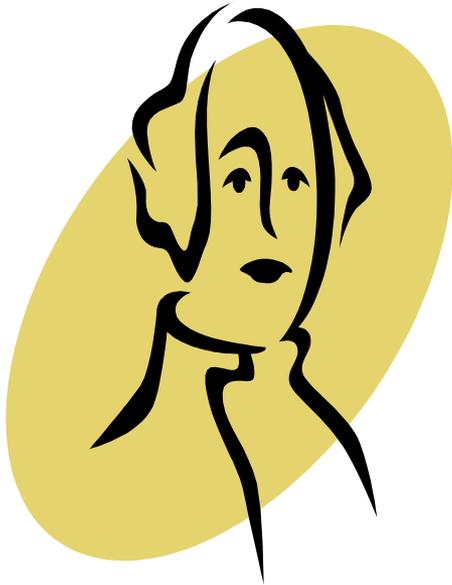
Foreign Policy



The **media** also play important roles in informing the public and seeking to shape public perceptions of the world.



The Values in American Foreign Policy



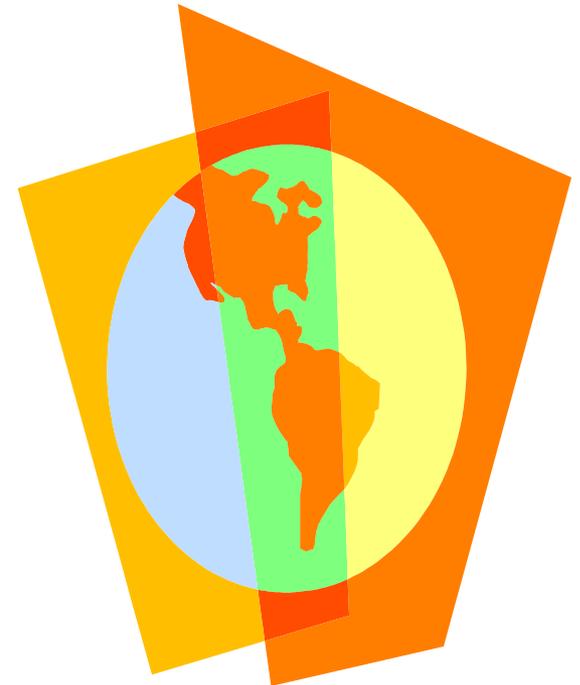
In his 1796 Farewell Address, President George Washington parted American politics with a series of warnings.

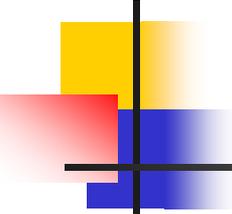
Domestically, Washington warned of the danger of factions and internal division.

In foreign policy, Washington encouraged the United States to remain independent in pursuit of its interests in the world.

Foreign Policy

As the United States became a world power in the 20th century, its traditional unilateralism gave way to a more **multilateral** foreign policy where it sought to work in concert with other countries in international organizations like **NATO** and the **United Nations**.





Foreign Policy

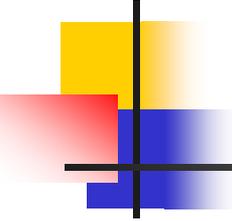
The United States fought the Cold War in a multilateral way seeking to **contain** communism and to build up its military strength, in part, to **deter** the Soviet Union from attack.

containment

defined: a policy to restrict the expansion of communism and limit the influence of the Soviet Union

deterrence

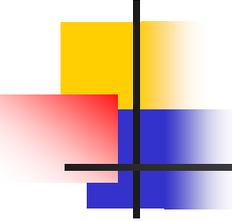
defined: efforts to maintain military strength as a means of discouraging attack



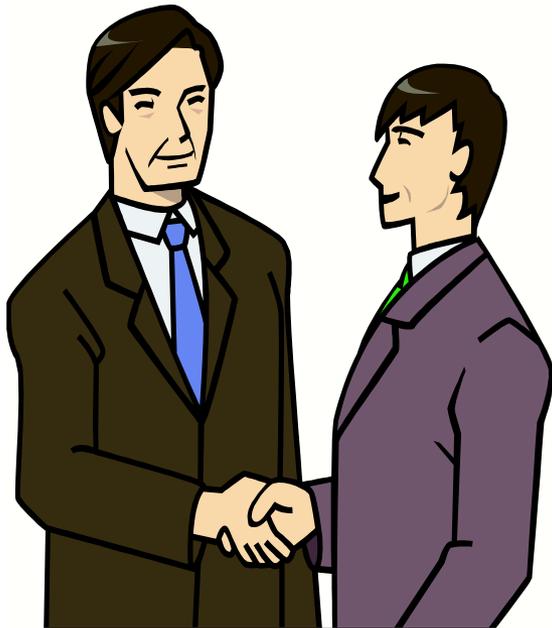
The Instruments of Modern American Foreign Policy

As is the case with any kind of policy making, foreign policy making is composed of a number of tools, institutions, and sources of influence. The key tools of foreign policy include:

- diplomacy
- the United Nations
- the International Monetary Structure
- economic aid
- collective security
- military deterrence

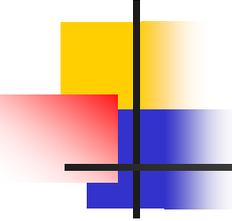


Foreign Policy



Through the Department of State and the Foreign Service, the U. S. conducts foreign policy by maintaining friendly relations with the governments of other countries.

Still, because such cooperation involves politics and trade-offs, American presidents frequently have been suspicious of **diplomacy.**



Foreign Policy

Established in 1945, the United Nations has served as a venue for negotiating international conflicts and seeking peaceful solutions.

Despite some notable conflicts, the United States has frequently relied on the UN to accomplish its foreign policy aims.



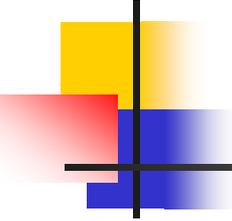
Foreign Policy-Economic

American foreign policy aims are also achieved through economic solutions.

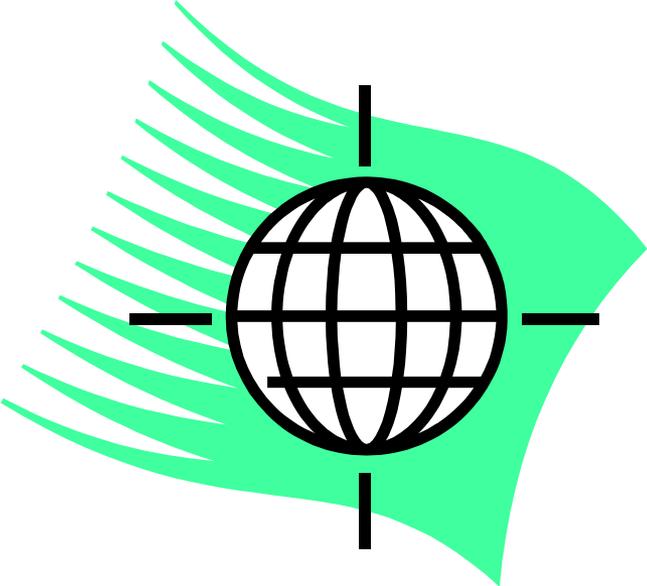
Institutions like the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank** are institutions that stabilize the world economy and facilitate international exchange.



And, through direct **economic aid** to countries, the United States can provide assistance to needy countries and shore up its political position in the world.



Foreign Policy



Through collective security arrangements and bilateral treaties with individual countries, the United States seeks to cooperate and have a somewhat shared fate with its partner countries.

Still, the United States seems to share the largest part of the security burden in most of these relationships.