

American Foreign Policy:

1. American Foreign Policy
 - a. Domestic Policy- any government policy that concerns affairs “at home”
 - i. Such as tax rates or regulating safety in factories
 - b. Foreign Policy- government policy that concerns foreign countries and events taking place outside the United States
 - i. Making an alliance with a foreign country, fighting a war over seas, trade agreement
 - c. Object of foreign policy is to protect the United States
2. Who Makes Foreign Policy
 - a. President
 - i. Appoints and receives ambassadors
 - ii. Negotiates treaties
 - b. Congress
 - i. Senate confirms the President’s appointments
 - ii. Senate ratifies treaties by a 2/3 vote
 - iii. Congress can declare war
 - c. Secretary of State (Cabinet member)
 - i. Sec. of State entrusted with the day-to-day running of our nation’s foreign policy
 - ii. Diplomats- officials who act as representatives between nations
 - iii. Diplomacy- the skill of handling relations between countries
3. The Objective of U.S. Foreign Policy
 - a. Protect the security of the United States
 - b. Encourage trade
 - c. Spread democracy
 - d. Promote international Peace and stability
 - e. Help to prevent armed conflict and genocide around the world
 - f. Help improve health education, and living conditions around the world
4. The Instruments of U.S. Foreign Policy
 - a. Military Force- both as a intervention and deterrent
 - b. Economic Sanctions- boycott or ban trade with any country
 - c. Economic Aid- provide money to develop economies
 - d. Alliances- NATO
 - e. Membership in International Organizations:
 - i. United Nations
 - ii. NAFTA
 - iii. World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - iv. World Health Organization (WHO)
 - v. Red Cross or Red Crescent

5. A Capsule History of American Foreign Policy
 - a. World War I
 - i. Germany announced unrestricted submarine warfare (sunk American ships)
 - ii. President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for declaration of war
 1. Sent troops to Europe to help
 - iii. 14 points- helped redefine and reorganize central and eastern Europe
 1. Created the League of Nations- Senate never confirmed/ U.S. didn't join
 - b. World War II
 - i. U.S. tried to stay out of war (Neutrality Acts)
 1. Pearl Harbor spurred U.S. into war
 - ii. April 1945 Germany surrenders (Hitler commits suicide)
 1. U.S. drops two atomic bombs on Japan (surrenders)
 - iii. United Nations is created to replace the unsuccessful League of Nations
 - c. Cold War
 - i. "Iron Curtain"- communist satellites
 - ii. Truman Doctrine- President Truman sent economic and military aid to Turkey and Greece
 - iii. Containment of Communism- avoid it spreading any further
 - iv. Soviet Union dissolved in 1991 ending the Cold War
 - d. Korean War
 - i. Policy of containment
 1. To stop the spread of Communism from North Korea, U.S. sent troops to aid South Korea
 - e. Cuba
 - i. Fidel Castro came into power and created a communist state
 1. Nationalized U.S. businesses -> U.S. boycotted
 - ii. Bay of Pigs
 1. Cuban exiles landed in Cuba, no air support
 - a. Exiles easily defeated by Castro and his forces
 2. Castro strengthens ties with Communist Soviet Union
 - iii. Cuban Missile Crisis
 1. Closest the world has come to a nuclear launch
 2. Cuba was building bases to store Soviet Union nuclear missiles
 3. U.S. sent a naval blockade
 - f. Vietnam War
 - i. In relation to the spread of Communism
 - ii. "Domino Theory"- one country falls, then another, and another
 - iii. Unpopular war in public opinion
 - iv. War Powers Act- limited President's power to commit troops w/o Congress
 - g. The Iran Hostage Crisis
 - i. U.S. agreed to allow overthrown Iranian leader to seek medical attention with U.S. borders
 - ii. New Iranian government allowed angry protests
 1. Stormed U.S. embassy and held hostages for over a year
 - h. Gulf Wars
 - i. Gulf War I
 1. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, a U.S. led coalition defeated Iraqi forces

- 2. Did not topple Saddam Hussein
 - ii. Gulf War II
 - 1. In response to intelligence that Saddam was hiding weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), U.S. sent in troops
 - a. Overthrew Saddam quickly
 - b. Continued when Obama sent in a SEAL team to capture and kill Osama bin Laden- terrorist leader responsible for 9/11
 - i. Terrorism
 - i. After 9/11 the U.S. committed to a global war on Terrorism
 - 1. Sought to destroy radical Islamic terrorists groups like al-Qaeda and the Taliban
6. U.S. Participation in International Organizations
- a. Intergovernmental Organizations (Organizations between governments)
 - i. The United Nations (UN)
 - 1. peace keeping organization
 - a. The World Court (located in the Netherlands) settles legal disputes
 - b. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)- provide food and healthcare
 - ii. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 - 1. Formed to defend Western Europe from possible Soviet attack
 - 2. Reassured Western Europe that U.S. come to the defense
 - iii. North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
 - 1. Trade zone consisting of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico
 - 2. Promoted lower tariffs on other members' goods
 - iv. World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - 1. 153 member countries
 - 2. Set rules for world trade and settle disputes
 - 3. Reduce tariffs and eliminate other trade obstacles
 - b. Nongovernmental Organizations (Private entities not affiliated with a government)
 - i. International Red Cross/ Red Crescent
 - 1. Most known for humanitarian aid
 - ii. Peace Corps
 - 1. Original goal was to help Americans and people of other nations understand one another
 - 2. Today deal with public health issues, technology, and business

Trade and Economic Systems:

- 1. Trade between nations
 - a. Nations do not always have the resources to produce what their people need or want
 - b. Solve the problem of scarcity nations trade with one another
 - c. Import (bring into the country) goods another country produces
 - d. Export (sell/ship out of the country) goods that we produce
 - e. Comparative Advantage- the ability to produce a product at a lower opportunity cost

2. Trade Barriers
 - a. Tariff- tax on imports
 - i. Goal is to make imported goods more expensive than domestic goods
 - b. Quota- limit on goods imported into the country
 - c. Subsidies- payment or benefit given by the government to help domestic producer
3. Balance of Trade
 - a. Trade Surplus
 - i. Export/Imports= trade surplus
 - ii. Country exports more than it imports
 - b. Trade Deficit
 - i. Imports/Exports= trade deficit
 - ii. Country imports more than it exports
 - iii. U.S. is continually in a trade deficit
4. Market Economies
 - a. Private individuals/organizations work in their own self-interest
 - b. Answer 3 basic questions:
 - i. What to produce
 - ii. How to produce
 - iii. Whom to produce
 - c. Supply and demand drive price
 - i. Supply goes up, demand will go down (less demand for product)
 - ii. Supply goes down, demand will go up (high demand for product)
 - d. Periods of growth and decline
5. Command Economies
 - a. Government owns factors of production
 - b. Government answers 3 basic questions (same as above)
 - c. In times of emergency government can direct resources to where needed most
 - d. Poor quality of products and often shortages of products
 - e. Slow growth in the economy
6. Mixed Economies
 - a. Most countries are a mix between market and command economies
 - i. United States is a mixed economy (more market oriented)
 1. Free enterprise underlying principle of our economy
 - b. Government's Role
 - i. Works to make sure markets are competitive
 - ii. Regulates some businesses
 - iii. Establishes a minimum wage
 - iv. Provides services (such as roads, bridges, and schools)