

Chapter 17: Foreign Policy and
National Defense

Section 1
Lecture Notes

AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

► Objectives

1. Explain the difference between isolationism and internationalism.
2. Define foreign policy.
3. Understand that a nation's foreign policy is composed of its many foreign policies.
4. Describe the functions, components, and organization of the Department of State.

▶ Key Terms

- **domestic affairs:** events in one's home country
- **foreign affairs:** a nation's relations with other nations
- **isolationism:** a refusal to become involved in the affairs of the rest of the world
- **foreign policy:** everything a nation does and says in world affairs

▶ Key Terms, cont.

- **right of legation:** the right to send and receive diplomatic representatives
- **ambassador:** an official representative of a sovereign state in the conduct of its foreign affairs
- **diplomatic immunity:** not being subject to the laws of a state to which one is an accredited ambassador
- **passport:** a legal document that identifies someone as a citizen of a state
- **visa:** a permit to enter another state

► Introduction

- How is foreign policy made and conducted?
 - Foreign policy is made by the President with the advice of the Secretary of State and State Department.
 - It is carried out in person by U.S. ambassadors and other diplomats, both individually and as members of international organizations.
 - It is also conducted by America's stands on issues such as international trade, human rights, and international conflicts.

► Isolationism to Internationalism

- For nearly 150 years U.S. foreign relations were based on isolationism, as U.S. leaders refused to get widely involved in foreign affairs.
- From the 1940s on, the United States has played a major role in world affairs.
 - Today America's national security can be endangered by terrorism and foreign conflicts.
 - Additionally, the U.S. economy is now tied to the global economy.

▶ Foreign Policy

- Checkpoint: What is foreign policy?
 - Foreign policy consists of all the stands and actions that a nation takes in every aspect of its relationships with other countries – including diplomatic, military, and economic relationships.
 - These stands and actions include all of America's treaties, alliances, and foreign aid, as well as U.S. policies on international trade, immigration, human rights and the environment.

► Foreign Policy, cont.

- Foreign policy goals change over time.
- The President is the nation's chief diplomat.
 - Several Presidents have tried to broker Mideast peace agreements.
 - According to the cartoon, how successful have these efforts been?



► State Department

- The President looks to the State Department, the first executive department created by Congress, for advice and assistance in conducting U.S. foreign policy.
- The department is divided into bureaus that deal with specific geographic regions or with specific foreign policy issues.
- The State Department pursues four major foreign policy goals:
 - **Protecting America**
 - **Advancing democracy**
 - **Protecting American values**
 - **Supporting diplomatic officials**

► Protecting America

- The State Department:
 - Maintains and strengthens diplomatic ties with other nations
 - Manages domestic and international travel and trade policies
 - Promotes global stability



► Advancing Democracy

- The State Department:
 - Supports newly established democracies
 - Promotes fair voting practices and just legal systems
 - Monitors human rights issues globally



▶ Promoting American Values

- The State Department:
 - Uses government-supported and other media to provide information on American values to other peoples
 - Supports cultural exchange programs



▶ Supporting Diplomatic Officials

- The State Department:
 - Uses the right of legation to send thousands of diplomats abroad
 - Protects American diplomats and others abroad under international law



► Secretary of State

- The President appoints the Secretary of State, who is always a key cabinet member.
- He or she helps make and conduct policy as well as managing the State department.
 - John Foster Dulles (right) was an influential Secretary of State.



► Ambassadors and Embassies

- Ambassadors are appointed by the President with Senate approval and serve at the President's pleasure.
 - Appointees range from political allies of the President to career diplomats.
- The United States has embassies in more than 180 countries.
 - Foreign Service officers staff more than 260 diplomatic and consular offices as well. They encourage trade, gather intelligence, and aid American citizens abroad.

▶ Diplomatic Immunity

- Ambassadors and embassy personnel are normally granted diplomatic immunity.
 - This means they cannot be arrested, sued, or taxed by the country to which they are ambassadors.
 - Their embassies and communications cannot be entered or searched without their consent.
 - However, a host country can expel a diplomat whose conduct it finds unacceptable.

► Diplomatic Immunity, cont.

- Diplomatic immunity is normally, but not always, respected.
- In 1979, Iranian students violated diplomatic immunity and international law by seizing the American embassy in Tehran and holding 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.



► Travel Documents

Passports	Visas
Issued by a government and identifies the bearer as a citizen or national of the issuing country	Issued by the country the individual requests permission to enter
Entitles the bearer to consular protection abroad and to return to his or her country of citizenship	Permits the traveler to remain in a country for a specified period of time, but does not guarantee entry
Valid for 10 years	Valid for only the time period stated
Three types: diplomatic, official, tourist	Of many types, including: transit, tourist, business, and student

▶ Review

- Now that you have learned about how foreign policy is made and conducted, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
 - How should the United States interact with other countries?