

Chapter 17: Foreign Policy and  
National Defense

Section 4  
Lecture Notes

AMERICAN  
**GOVERNMENT**

PEARSON

# ► Objectives

1. Identify two types of foreign aid and describe the foreign aid policy of the United States.
2. Describe the major security alliances developed by the United States.
3. Examine the role and structure of the United Nations and the problems it addresses.

# ▶ Key Terms

- **foreign aid:** economic and military aid given to other countries
- **regional security alliance:** nations united by a mutual defense treaty
- **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization; a major security alliance including the United States, Canada, and much of Europe
- **United Nations:** a global organization dedicated to maintaining peace, security, and friendship between nations
- **Security Council:** a 15-member UN council responsible for maintaining international peace

# ► Introduction

- In what ways does the United States cooperate with other nations?
  - The United States provides economic and military aid to foreign countries.
  - The United States belongs to a number of regional security alliances pledged to mutual defense.
  - The United States is a leading member of the United Nations.

# ▶ U.S. Foreign Aid

- Early foreign aid, such as the Marshall Plan, was mainly economic and went mostly to Europe.
- Today foreign aid is both military and economic.
- Most aid goes to nations in Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.



- Checkpoint: How has NATO's purpose changed?
  - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was originally formed to protect western Europe against Soviet aggression.
  - Since the collapse of the USSR, NATO has grown in size and is no longer focused on opposing the Soviets.
  - Today NATO is focused on crisis management and peacekeeping in Europe and around the world.

# The Expansion of NATO



# ▶ NATO Missions

- NATO intervened to stop fighting in Bosnia and Kosovo. NATO troops continue their peacekeeping mission in the Balkans today.
- NATO has taken over the ISAF, the multinational peacekeeping force fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- NATO also plays a small peacekeeping role in the Darfur region of Sudan.



## ▶ Other Security Alliances

- **The Rio Pact** is a mutual defense treaty allying the United States with Canada and 32 Latin American countries.
- **ANZUS** is a pact uniting Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.
- **The Japanese, Korean, and Philippines Pacts** each pledge that U.S. forces will come to the aid of their ally if needed.

# ▶ The United Nations

- The United Nations charter was written in San Francisco in 1945. The UN first met in 1946.
- The UN's goals are:
  - Maintaining world peace and security
  - Developing friendly relations among all nations
  - Promoting justice and solving international disputes



# ▶ General Assembly

- Each UN member has a vote in the General Assembly, which regularly meets once a year in New York and in special sessions.
- The Assembly has several functions.
  - It can debate issues and make nonbinding, but influential recommendations.
  - It elects the nonpermanent members of various UN councils and courts.
  - It can admit, suspend, or expel members.
  - It can propose amendments to the charter.

# ▶ Security Council

- The **Security Council** is responsible for maintaining international peace.
  - It has 15 members. Five—the United States, China, Britain, France, and Russia—are permanent members. The other 10 serve two-year terms.
  - With the support of at least 9 members, the Council can call for sanctions, peace-keeping operations, or military action.
  - A permanent member can veto any major Security Council resolution.

## ▶ Other Councils

- The **Economic and Social Council** has 54 members elected by the General Assembly. They carry out the UN's many economic, cultural, educational, and health activities.
- The **Trusteeship Council** once oversaw the treatment of colonies and former colonies. Since these are all independent now the Council exists in name only.

## ▶ World Court

- The **International Court of Justice**, or World Court, is the UN's judicial arm.
  - The ICJ is made up of 15 judges who handle cases brought to them voluntarily by UN members and nonmembers.

# ▶ The Secretariat

- The Secretariat is the UN's civil service branch.
  - It is led by the secretary-general, elected by the General Assembly.
  - The secretary-general prepares the UN budget, oversees day-to-day administration of the UN, and brings key matters before the Security Council.

# ▶ The Work of the UN

- The UN has 15 **specialized agencies** that provide many economic and social programs.
- The **FAO** works to improve farming productivity, food quality, and living standards in rural nations.





## ▶ The Work of the UN, cont.

- The **WHO** has helped immunize 80 percent of the world's children against six fatal diseases.
- **UNESCO** promotes education, science, culture, and freedom of the press.
- The **IMF** promotes global financial stability.



# ► The Work of the UN, cont.

- Peacekeeping is a major function of the UN.
- The UN promotes human rights, protects refugees, and raises money for disaster relief.
- The UN also works closely with many NGOs, such as the Red Cross, to aid people worldwide.

## UN Peacekeeping

**\$7.1 billion**

Current budget for UN peacekeeping operations

**16**

Peacekeeping operations in progress

**88,000**

UN troops deployed in peacekeeping missions around the world

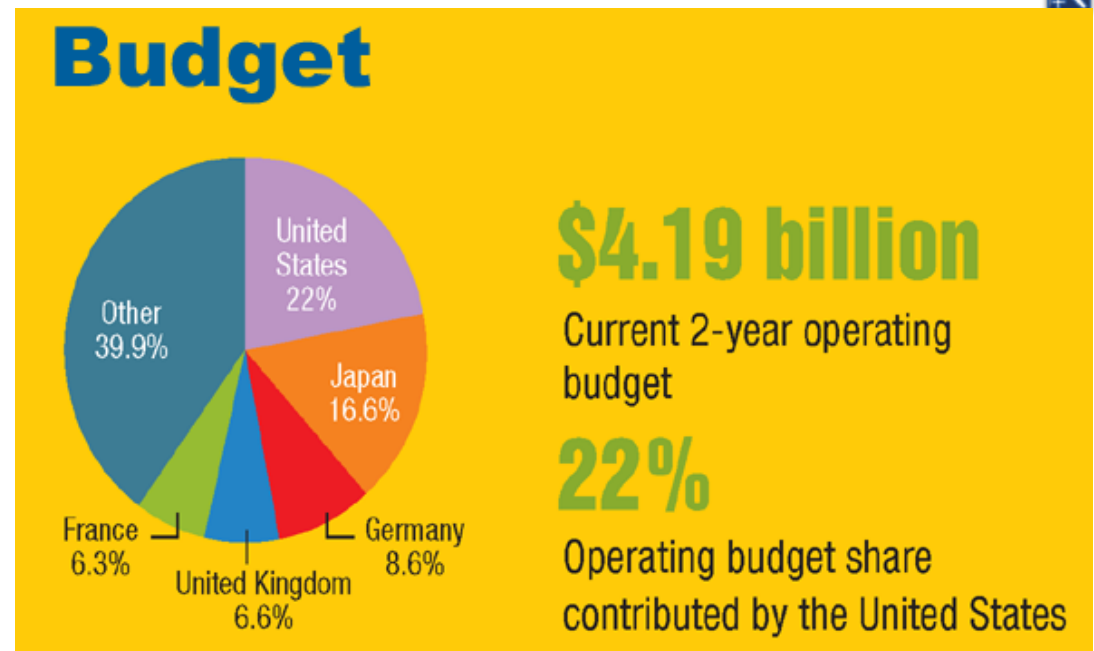
SOURCE: The United Nations



# ► The United States and the UN

- The United States provides major funding to the UN.
- The UN and U.S. leaders have not always agreed.

- At times the United States has withheld funds or fought UN policies.
- Still, the two work closely together on many issues.



## ► Review

- Now that you have learned about the ways in which the United States cooperates with other nations, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
  - How should the United States interact with other countries?