

Chapter 17: Foreign Policy and
National Defense

Opener
Lecture Notes

AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

...peace is the highest aspiration of the American people.
We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it, we will not
surrender for it, now or ever.

*-Ronald Reagan, Inaugural Address
(January 20, 1981)*



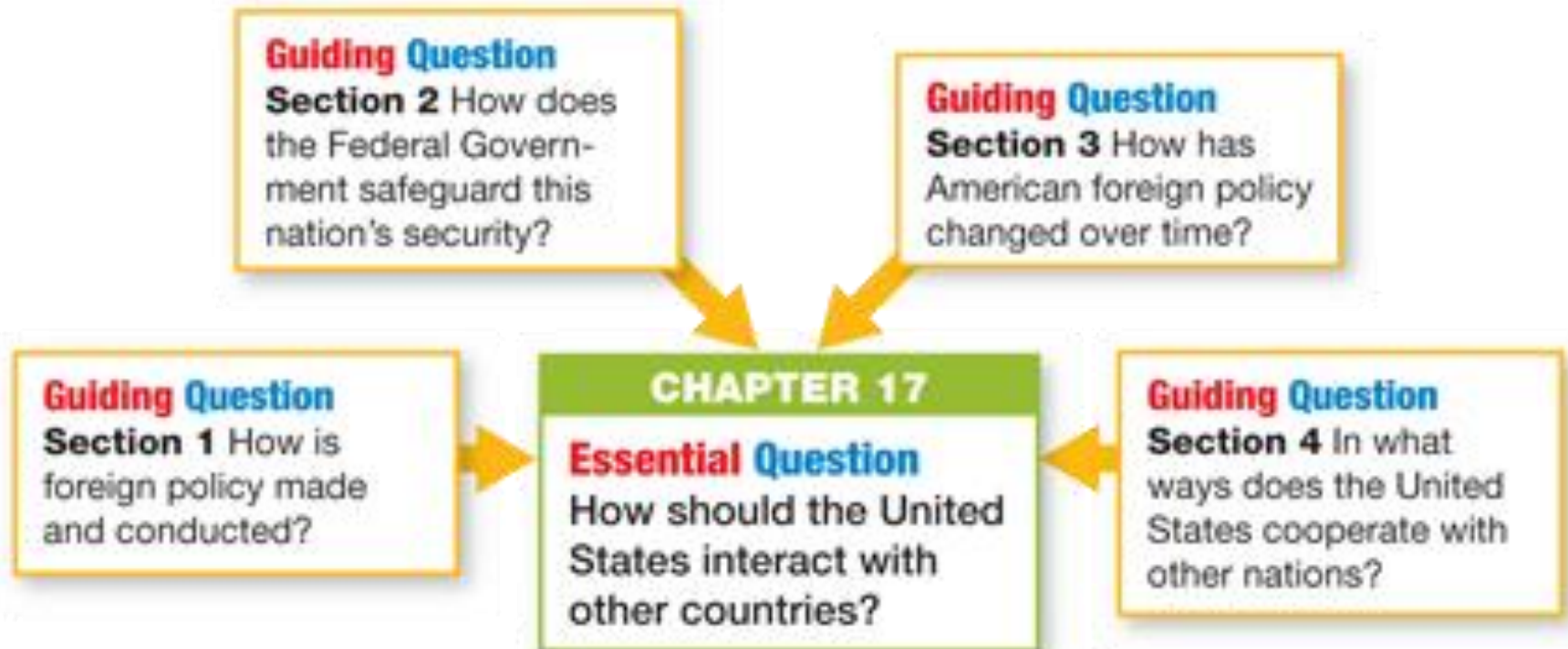
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Photo: President Reagan escorts British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she reviews the honor guard at the White House.

► Essential Question

- How should the United States interact with other countries?



▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 1: Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy
 - How is foreign policy made and conducted?
 - Foreign policy is made by the President with the advice of members of the State Department and is carried out by U.S. ambassadors and other diplomats, both individually and as members of international organizations.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 2: National Security
 - How does the Federal Government safeguard this nation's security?
 - The President and the Department of Defense oversee the operation of the nation's armed forces, the Director of National Intelligence oversees the operation of the nation's intelligence agencies, and the Department of Homeland Security coordinates all national efforts to combat terrorism.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 3: American Foreign Policy Overview
 - How has American foreign policy changed over time?
 - The United States began as an isolationist country, concentrating its early foreign policy efforts in the Western hemisphere. It then became a major player in international affairs, influencing political, economic and military issues around the world.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 4: Foreign Aid and Alliances
 - In what ways does the United States cooperate with other nations?
 - The United States provides foreign aid, belongs to several regional security alliances, such as NATO, and is a leading member and major funder of the United Nations.