American Government B

**Unit 3: Economic and International Policies**

**Unit Summary:** This unit explains two of the most important types of actions taken by the United States government: economic policies and international policies. Economic policies include monetary policy and fiscal policy and follow either Keynesian approaches or Reaganomics. International policies are also varied, and the U.S. uses different policies with allies than with antagonistic nations. The Constitution provides some guidance on these policies. However, over time, economic policies have come from Congress and the executive branch, while international policies are more likely to come from the president and advisors.

In this unit, you will also learn how historic actions, decisions, and policies continue to impact current domestic and international affairs. You will trace how economic policies and international relations changed over the twentieth century and at the beginning of the twenty-first century. You will consider how people viewed each of these policies and the changes that occurred with them.

In economic policy, you will learn about different approaches available for government spending and different arguments over how much control government should have over the economy. You will also learn why we pay taxes, where that money goes, and who it benefits. You will begin to develop your understanding of government action and form opinions and arguments about what the government should do for specific problems.

In international policy, you will learn about the role of the U.S. in global relationships and how those relationships have changed or remained steady since World War II. You will discover that previous divisions between economic ideologies have given way to newer problems, such as terrorism, climate change, and global health. You will examine the different tools the U.S. uses to influence global events in the way it prefers, and you will analyze how well these tools work.

**Lesson 2 – Economic Systems**

**Objective 1:** Differentiate between economic systems used throughout the world and examine the limitations and freedoms of each system.

**Big Ideas**: There are four main economic systems: traditional, command, free market, and mixed market. Each has advantages and disadvantages and different levels of governmental involvement.

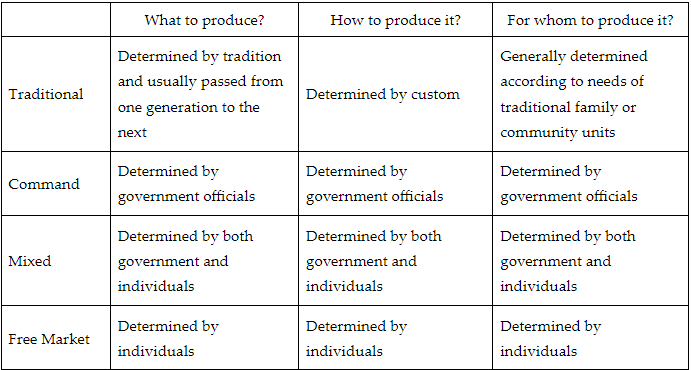
* **Traditional Economy**: In this system, people conduct economic activities without government influence. Economic decisions are often made based upon customs or religion. In traditional economies, production focuses on basic life necessities. Societies tend to be rural, tying the success of the economy to the land. Individuals barter with one another to get what they need.
  + **Pros**: Tend to be more sustainable; each person fulfills a specific role to contribute to the society resulting in less tension and competition between individuals
  + **Cons**: Production and distribution of resources rely on weather and nature; vulnerable to outside threats
* **Command Economy**: In a command economic system, the economic questions of what to produce and how to distribute it are decided by government officials. The government owns the land, resources, and means of production. The government determines what to produce and how much to produce. Authoritarian leaders make decisions that are followed by manufacturers and individual laborers alike.
  + **Pros**: When properly run, capable of efficiently executing economic decisions that best benefit the nation; affordable prices, full employment, healthy supply of resources
  + **Cons**: often lacks innovation and competition; limited choices available to consumers; limited personal freedoms in an authoritarian government; when economic activity takes place outside government-sanctioned channels, goods and services that are provided may be illegal, overpriced, or unsafe
* **Free Market Economy**: In a free market system, independent buyers and sellers are able to make decisions based on self-interest rather than government regulation. Often called a laissez-faire economy, there is no government interference in the economy.
  + **Pros**: Entrepreneurship and innovation are rewarded in a free market economy. Investment in new technologies, research, and development are made as businesses compete to meet consumer demand. This competition results in relatively efficient use of resources and production. Individuals enjoy freedom of choice and greater opportunities for business ownership.
  + **Cons**: demand and distribution are dominated by the wealthy and marginalized or economically disadvantaged groups may be ignored; common good is often ignored; access to education, health care, and housing depends upon wealth; monopolies often form, depriving consumers of freedom of choice and allowing predatory pricing
* **Mixed Market Economy**: A mixed economy is a combination of a market economy and a command economy. Business ownership and the means of production generally fall under private control. However, government involvement occurs with environmental or occupational regulations, subsidies, and shared ownership in the national defense industry.
  + **Pros**: less government intervention allowing private industries to run more efficiently; government can intervene to correct market failures or dismantle monopolies; programs such as social security and health care are supported by the government
  + **Cons**: striking the right balance between private enterprise and government intervention is a challenge

**Keywords**:

* **authoritarian government** – a type of government that maintains near absolute control, typically by force and is governed by a single individual, group, or class
* **barter** – an exchange of goods or services for other goods or services without using money

**Objective 2:** Describe how the government allocates resources to best answer basic economic questions.

**Big Ideas:** At the basic core of economics is the theory of scarcity. Scarcity occurs when the demand for a good or service is greater than its availability. Societies must decide what to produce, how to produce it, and for whom to produce it––these are considered the three basic economic questions.



The Defense Production Act (DPA) gives the president certain economic decision-making powers for the good of the nation when national security is at risk. The DPA has been invoked several times over the last 70 years, including:

* Korean War, 1950: to regulate production in steel and mining industries, and to prioritize and allocate industrial materials in short supply
* Cold War, 1950s: to establish domestic aluminum and titanium industries, and to ensure that government-funded industries were geographically dispersed across the country to prevent the industrial base from being destroyed by a nuclear attack
* Technology Innovation, 1980s: to develop new technologies and materials, including silicon carbide ceramics, semiconductors, microwave power tubes, radiation-hardened microelectronics, superconducting wire, and mining and processing of rare earth minerals
* Telecommunications, 2011: to force telecommunications companies, under criminal penalties, to provide information to the Commerce Department on the use of foreign-manufactured hardware and software in the companies' networks in order to combat Chinese cyberespionage
* COVID-19, 2021: ramp up in production of masks, face shields and other personal protective equipment (PPE); boost availability of at-home testing and bolster vaccine production; strategies to rapidly increase the percentage of Americans who were vaccinated against COVID-19

**Keywords**:

* **economic agent** – a consumer, producer, and/or influencer of capital markets and the economy at large
* **market forces** - the economic factors affecting the price of, demand for, and availability of a commodity
* **scarcity** - the demand for a good or service that is greater than the availability of the good or service

**Objective 3:** Compare and contrast demand-side and supply-side economic theories and the impact each economic policy may have on fiscal decisions made by federal officials.

**Big Ideas:** Elected officials and other federal bureaucrats make decisions every day about spending, saving, and investing. In this lesson, you will explore two economic philosophies that have driven economic decisions over the last century.

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**Keywords:**

* **demand-side economics** – an economic theory that treats consumer demand as the chief determinant of the economy
* **supply-side economics** – an economic theory that stresses the reduction of taxes, especially for those of higher income, as a means of encouraging business investment and innovation
* **trickle-down economics** – the theory that financial benefits given to big businesses and wealthy individuals will in turn be passed down to smaller businesses and consumers

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which of the following differentiates a command economy from other types of economies?

* **centralized economic planning by a government (p. 4)**
* a reliance on customs and local practices
* the absence of government intervention
* a combination of private sector initiatives and government involvement in the economy

Question 2: What is a potential benefit of a command economy?

* greater individual choice
* low levels of government intervention
* **attention to the needs of society as a whole (p. 4)**
* emphasis on spurring innovation and entrepreneurship

Question 3: Which of the following best describes a mixed economy?

* Private businesses have little or no control over economic decisions.
* Private businesses control all economic decisions.
* **Private businesses control most, but not all, economic decisions. (p. 6)**
* Local customs dictate economic decisions.

Question 4: Which economic system **best** describes the United States?

* a command system
* **a mixed system (p. 5 and 6)**
* a traditional system
* a free market system

Question 5: Contrast demand-side and supply-side economics by examining this chart. Which of the following statements is correct?

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* **Demand-side economics advocates government spending when consumer and business demand is low. (p. 20)**
* Supply-side economics advocates increased government regulation.
* Demand-side economics advocates tax cuts for large businesses and wealthy individuals.
* Supply-side economics advocates strong social welfare programs for the most vulnerable in society.

**Lesson 3 – Monetary and Fiscal Policy**

**Objective 1:** Explain the tools and strategies employed by the Federal Reserve System to influence the U.S. economy, including monetary policy, open market operations, reserve requirements, and discount rate.

**Big Ideas**: *Monetary policy* is the steps a nation’s central bank takes to control the quantity of money and credit available in an economy as well as the methods by which new money is supplied. The financial institution that is given control over producing and distributing credit and money for a nation is called the *central bank*.

The *Federal Reserve System (the Fed)*, America’s central bank, is responsible for monitoring the health of the U.S. economy. To ensure stability and growth, the Federal Reserve System employs a number of tools to influence the money supply. These include:

* *open market operations* - activity by a central bank to give liquidity in its currency to a bank or a group of banks; allow the Fed to manipulate interest rates, specifically rate used for bank-to-bank loans
* *the discount rate* - the rate of interest that a central bank charges on its loans and advances to a commercial bank; the Fed sets the federal discount rate on loans extended to commercial banks; by adjusting the discount rate, the Fed reduces the pressure of reserve requirements and manages the supply of money in the economy to ensure stability in the economic markets
* *reserve requirements* - a central bank regulation that sets the minimum amount of cash that banks must have in their vaults or at the closest Federal Reserve Bank; used by the Fed to increase or decrease the money supply in the economy and to influence interest rates

**Keywords**:

* **federal funds rate** – the interest rate that commercial banks charge each other for overnight loans

**Objective 2:** Assess the ways monetary and fiscal policy impact the health of the economy and help achieve socioeconomic goals.

**Big Ideas:** *Monetary policy* is the power to control the amount of money in circulation. *Fiscal policy* is the power to tax and spend, and it refers to the government’s ability to influence economic conditions through spending and tax policies. When the government sets monetary and fiscal policy, it does so with the goal of promoting sustainable economic growth. To choose the correct policies, the government needs to know what’s going well in the economy and where problems might lie. To make those determinations, the government looks at key economic indicators.

**Examples of Economic Indicators**

* *Gross Domestic Product (GDP):* dollar measure of the goods produced by the economy
* *Consumer Price Index (CPI)*: measure of the prices of goods and services within the economy
* Unemployment Rate: measure of the percentage of individuals actually looking for employment who cannot obtain employment

**Policy and Socioeconomic Goals**

Government can employ various monetary and fiscal policies to address problems they see in the economic indicators. These choices have political implications and reaching consensus about the correct options to choose can be difficult. Also, efforts to correct a problem in one area may cause a problem in another area. Three key areas of concern to policymakers include: unemployment, economic growth, and inflation.

*Unemployment*: When workers are unemployed, the problem not only impacts the individual and their families, but also impacts society and the economy. Without income, individuals do not have money to spend on the necessities, such as food and housing. Unemployment can impact the mental and physical health of individuals as well and may impact their access to health care. Because they also do not have disposable income to make purchases, unemployment diminishes spending power and eventually reduces our country’s overall economic output. Policy solutions may include job creation through government funded projects. Another consideration is manipulation of interest rates that may encourage more borrowing, spending, businesses hiring more workers and offering better benefits.

*Economic Growth*: Economic growth is measured by how much the value of goods and services created by a country increases over a given period. For the government, when our economy is growing, taxes provide increased revenue. In turn, the government can use that revenue to improve public services, such as education, health care, and other social safety net services. Additionally, the government can stimulate job creation to spur economic growth. To correct a downturn and stimulate economic growth, monetary policy may utilize the option to lower interest rates. Reducing interest rates will spur borrowing and encourage consumer purchases.

*Inflation*: Inflation is the condition of the economy in which prices become so high that our purchasing power diminishes. This rise in prices impacts the cost of goods and services. When businesses incur an increase in their production costs, that increase is passed on to the consumer. This is called cost-push inflation. Inflation may also be caused by a surge in demand for a good or service if consumers are willing to pay more for the product; this is considered demand-pull inflation. During times of inflation, monetary policy can increase interest rates. Higher interest rates will in turn slow economic growth and curb inflation. Some economists argue that controlling the supply of money is the best solution to control inflation. A fiscal policy solution to curb inflation would include an increase in income tax so the government would have more revenue to put toward spending.

**Keywords**:

* **economic indicator** – a macroeconomic measurement used by analysts to understand current and future economic activity and opportunity
* **macroeconomics** – the branch of economics that studies the economy as a whole
* **recession** – a condition that occurs when there are two economic quarters of negative GDP

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which statement best explains U.S. monetary policy?

* **Monetary policy includes the steps the nation’s central bank takes to ensure a healthy economy. (p. 3)**
* Monetary policy ensures steady job growth.
* Monetary policy includes the exchange rate on the U.S. dollar in foreign markets.
* Monetary policy prevents future economic downturns and financial panics.

Question 2: Which statement is the best example of the Federal Reserve employing open market operations?

* **buying securities to put more money into the economy (p. 4)**
* decreasing the salaries of federal workers
* decreasing the federal budget proposed by the president
* buying more commercial banks

Question 3: Assess the following statements. Which one best describes monetary policy?

* Monetary policy focuses on spending and taxation.
* **Monetary policy focuses on the money supply. (p. 9)**
* Monetary policy tries to create the highest economic growth rate.
* Monetary policy was discredited in the 1970s.

Question 4: What does the unemployment rate measure?

* the percentage of individuals due to retire within the year
* **the percentage of individuals actually looking for employment who cannot obtain employment (p. 11)**
* the percentage of individuals actually looking to seek new careers
* the percentage of individuals who are currently under-employed

Question 5: Which of the following is the focus of fiscal policy?

* **spending and taxation (p. 9)**
* trade deficits
* exchange rates
* the money supply

**Lesson 4 – Taxes and Spending**

**Objective 1:** Describe regressive, progressive, and proportional taxes; the purpose of each tax type; and how tax revenues are used for the public good.

**Big Ideas**: Taxes are mandatory contributions made to the federal government by individuals and businesses. The *Internal Revenue Service* collects the federal income taxes in the United States. There are three categories of tax systems in the U.S.: regressive tax, progressive tax, and proportional tax. These tax systems impact people in many ways and usually depend on the income that individuals earn. Regressive taxes have a greater impact on lower-income individuals, whereas progressive taxes have a greater impact on higher-income earners. Proportional taxes impact all income earners relatively equally. Overall, the revenues collected through taxes are used for the public good to fund and support the U.S. federal government and the services it provides to its citizens.

**Regressive Tax System**

A regressive tax is a tax that does not change based on the taxpayer’s level of income. Sales tax and excise tax are good examples of this. A *sales tax* is a tax collected when a good or service is consumed or purchased. *Excise taxes* are collected on specific items that are purchased, such as gasoline and airfare.

**Progressive Tax System**

A progressive tax is based on the taxpayer’s ability to pay, where higher tax rates apply to higher levels of income and a lower tax rate on lower-income earners. This system is set up through tax brackets of individual taxpayers by their range of income. The U.S. has a progressive tax system. The tax rates range from 10 percent to 37 percent. The tax bracket that an individual will fall under depends on the amount of money an individual makes. Examples of a progressive tax are investment income taxes, rental earnings, estate taxes, and tax credits.

Advantages include: reduction in the burden of taxes on lower-income earners and increased tax revenue collected by the government to provide funding for social programs

Disadvantages include: creating disincentives for workers and lowering government revenues and lower tax revenue collected by the federal government

**Proportional Tax System**

A proportional tax is a tax system where all levels of yearly income are taxed at the same rate. This type of tax system is sometimes called a flat tax. Under a proportional tax system, an individual pays a set percentage of their annual income regardless of how much they earn. Critics argue this system places a burden on low-wage earners by lowering the tax rates on the wealthy. Supporters of a proportional tax system believe it stimulates the economy by encouraging people to work and provides an incentive to earn more money as they are not penalized with a higher tax bracket like a progressive tax.

**Tax Revenues**

Income taxes are the largest source of revenue for the U.S. government. The revenues collected from federal taxes are used to help the public good. Tax revenues are used for building and maintaining the infrastructure within the country such as roads, schools, and public transportation as well as government-funded programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, and defense spending.

**Objective 2:** Explain the role of Congress in taxing and spending federal money.

**Big Ideas:** The power to tax and spend federal money was granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. Without taxes, the government would have few resources. It would be unable to fund public works programs and services to maintain the infrastructure such as roads, transportation, and education. Additionally, it would be unable to protect the country and care for its citizens through Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The federal government spends more money than it takes in annually. This is referred to as a budget deficit. As deficits grow, they are added to the overall debt of the national government. In 1787, the national debt was $75 million. Today the national debt is around $28 trillion dollars.

Fiscal policy is enacted by the federal government. The government uses its taxing and spending powers to influence economic conditions that will promote stable and sustainable growth in the economy. The government employs expansionary fiscal tax policy and contractionary fiscal tax policy to address different economic situations and when looking for different outcomes.

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**Keywords**:

* **contractionary fiscal policy** – an action by the government to decrease money available to the people
* **debt**– the accounting of all money owed by the national government
* **deficit** – the accounting of money spent in excess of money collected in a fiscal year
* **expansionary fiscal policy** – an action by the government to increase money available to the people

**Objective 3:** Explain why the power of taxation by a government system is important.

**Big Ideas:** Every organized society has some form of government system. Many governments, especially in free societies, have obligations to protect individual freedoms and to promote the well-being of its society. It costs a huge amount of money to run a government. One reason being the large population a government serves.

The American economy relies on the power of taxation to provide our system of government with the revenue it needs to effectively protect the citizens from foreign invaders, regulate commerce within our country, as well as provide services to the public. While federal governments rely mainly on income taxes for its revenue, state governments depend on income and sales taxes. Most city and county governments use property taxes to generate revenues.

**Types of Taxation**

* *Income tax*: A tax collected by the federal and some state governments on financial income generated by individuals and businesses.
* *Corporate tax*: A type of tax collected by the federal government that is imposed on the profit of a business.
* *Capital gains*: A tax collected by the federal and some state governments on any capital gains or profits made by people or businesses from the sale of certain assets including stocks, bonds, or real estate.
* *Property tax*: A tax collected by a local government and paid for by the owner of a property. This tax is calculated based on property and land values.
* *Inheritance tax*: A type of tax levied by state governments on individuals who inherit the estate of a deceased person.
* *Sales tax*: A state tax on goods or services that are consumed or purchased.

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which statement best describes a proportional tax?

* a tax on consumable goods or services such as gasoline
* **a tax where all levels of yearly income are taxed at the same rate (p. 5)**
* a tax where lower-income earners are charged at a higher rate
* a tax that places levels of income into brackets

Question 2: A sales tax can be described as

* **a regressive tax. (p. 3)**
* an excise tax.
* a proportional tax.
* a progressive tax.

Question 3: Which of the following statements best explains the importance of taxing by Congress?

* The importance of taxing is to help all citizens fund and pay for personal living expenses.
* The importance of taxing is to decrease the national debt.
* **The importance of taxing is to raise revenue for the federal government. (p. 19)**
* The importance of taxing is to eliminate personal consumer debt and loans.

Question 4: Which of the following best explains why taxation is important to a government?

* to fund businesses and make a profit
* **to collect revenue and provide for the public good (p. 19)**
* to collect money for foreign aid
* to collect revenue for personal citizen salaries

Question 5: What is the name of the tax when a portion of your paycheck goes to the state and federal government?

* **income tax (p. 20)**
* sales tax
* property tax
* inheritance tax

**Lesson 6 – Governmental Decisions**

**Objective 1:** Evaluate the ways in which governmental policies and decisions impact society.

**Big Ideas:** One of the ways in which people feel the impact of governmental decisions is while shopping for basic goods and needs. The consumer price index (CPI) is used to track the prices of the goods that are commonly consumed. When the government makes decisions, prices will often change in response to new policy. This will result in a moderate change in the consumer price index. This inflation is often the result of many measures taken by the government to help the economy during economic downturns. Price stability is an important concept that often reflects the status of the economy.

Governmental actions can also be measured by the changes in our country’s gross domestic product (GDP). This economic measure is important because it is used to track the amount of domestic production. When domestic production of goods and services is high, that often means that unemployment is low. This is because workers are needed to ensure this production takes place. When people are employed, they have money to spend, which will often drive even more production. Measuring the unemployment rate also helps track the impact of the government’s decisions and policies.

Many of the decisions taken by the government will often be reflected in the response of the stock market. The stock market is made up of private companies that trade stock in different markets in the United States. The Dow Jones and Nasdaq are often recognized as important markets in which these transactions take place.

Security is another way people feel the impact of the government in everyday life. People will often use crime rates as a measure of security. If crime rates increase, people may feel that the government is not doing its job in ensuring security. Similarly, foreign policy actions can often be evaluated with the perception of safety.

**Objective 2:** Analyze the role of federal agencies throughout our country’s history.

**Big Ideas:** The term *federal agency* refers to federal departments, regulatory commissions, and corporations that are part of the executive branch.

Federal agencies were first created to help the executive branch enforce the law. Over time, the role of the federal agencies has continued to grow and change. Agencies have been created to fulfill the duties needed to execute the law.

An agency can be created by congressional action or by executive order. Presidents tend to create agencies whenever they have a task that requires support. These agencies will often take different roles. Some will research, others will advise, and some will write rules for how a particular action will be executed.

George Washington’s administration created the Departments of War, Navy, Treasury, and State. These agencies helped the young nation defend itself from enemies, organize the country’s finances, and establish foreign policy.

Federal agencies continued to reflect the changing times of our country.

By the 1920s, the U.S. was a prosperous nation. This brought about the creation of the Department of Commerce and Labor, which later split into two separate departments. This prosperity also brought an influx of immigrants, which led to the establishment of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, now known as U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

During the 1930s, many Americans were struggling due to the Great Depression. In response, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the New Deal to help the country recover. This plan called for the implementation of new public programs to aid people. This resulted in the creation of additional federal agencies to plan, review, and oversee these programs.

This expansion continued in the 1960s and 1970s during President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society. This plan looked to increase government programs to help improve education, reduce poverty, and provide health care. Because new technologies had been developed, proper government enforcement was needed. The increase in pressure for improved environmental and consumer standards also pushed for the creation of new regulatory agencies, which became the Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

By the 1980s, Americans had witnessed the federal government grow. There were new agencies to fulfill the needs of the people and new programs to assist individuals in need. But the early ’80s brought higher prices, increased crime, and foreign competition. As a result, many citizens felt that government programs were not fulfilling their duties. Federal agencies were blamed for impeding progress by putting obstacles for companies to expand or by delaying implementation of necessary programs. This resulted in a push from various administrations to purge the bureaucracy of unnecessary agencies. In the decades that followed, there was a push to reduce the size of the federal government. Many agencies merged or were absorbed by larger departments. Other agencies were dissolved as they were no longer needed.

**Regulatory Commissions**

The Interstate Commerce Commission became the first federal regulatory agency. Regulatory agencies oversee economic activity to ensure proper competition for all and to prevent a company from becoming a monopoly. In addition to economic concerns, these regulatory agencies were also created for the purpose of ensuring the safety of consumers. The Food and Drug Administration was established to create standards for safe food, medicine, and cosmetic consumption. The U.S. Fish Commission was created to regulate fishing practices and to research the declining fish populations.

**Objective 3:** Develop an argument to defend a specific set of budget priorities at different levels of government.

**Big Ideas:** One of the most important tasks that a government must do is create a budget. Creating a spending budget allows governments to prioritize actions they will take, to plan for their goals to take place, and to inform members of the community what will be completed.

This budgetary process is done at the national, state, and local levels of government. Each level creates a budget for its distinct needs. The budgetary process at each level is similar as it is completed by the executive and legislative branches. But there are differences at the state and local levels.

One of an executive’s most important jobs is preparing a budget that includes the money necessary to fulfill the administration’s agenda and complete their job. At the federal level, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) works with the president and executive agencies to account for the money they need to do their jobs. At the state and local levels of government, the process of the executive is almost identical, as each executive works with a team to create a budget proposal.

The second step in the budget-making process is congressional review and approval. The legislative branch authorizes funds for the government. Thus, the president, governor, and local executives often campaign to the legislative branch to get their budget approved. At the state and local levels, citizens often are part of the discussion during open houses and town hall meetings. At all levels of government, the budget is divided and discussed in committees, which decide how much money should be given to specific sectors. After debate, the members of the legislative branch resolve any problems, and an appropriations bill is passed. At the federal and state levels of government, the president or governor signs the budget. At the local level, an independent auditor reviews the bill to ensure there are no discrepancies.

**Priorities of the Federal Government**

Because of the nature of nondiscretionary spending, this is always a priority in the federal budget. Money to pay for Medicare, Social Security, and veteran benefits is essential, as many Americans depend on these programs.

When it comes to discretionary spending, most presidents have similar priorities. Since the national government takes care of the entire country, it focuses on spending that is necessary for the safety and economic well-being of all citizens. Prioritizing defense ensures preparation for a foreign or domestic attack. Homeland security is also prioritized as it deals with borders, natural disasters, Customs, and other programs for public security. Transportation is another important part of the budget because it helps connect the country and stimulate economic activity. Prioritizing education programs, such as financial aid and study grants, helps long-term economic growth. Finally, essential to the budget is financing the pay of over two million government employees needed to make the government run.

**Spending Priorities of the State**

When it comes to preparing and passing the budget, each state has different necessities and thus different budgetary priorities. Factors such as location, needs, tasks, social demographics, ideology, and public opinion all influence a state’s budget.

However, every state must make sure to fulfill necessities. States often prioritize spending on hospitals and health care. The state budget also includes money for higher education and training programs. Like the federal government, infrastructure spending on transportation is an important priority to keep all citizens connected. Spending money on public safety and security is also an essential expenditure.

**Local Government and Spending**

The spending of the local government is like the state in that its focus is the welfare of its citizens.

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which of the following best evaluates the economic impact of decisions the government makes on society?

* reviewing changes in foreign stock markets
* reviewing rates of hospitalizations and deaths
* **tracking changes in the consumer price index (p. 3)**
* tracking changes in presidential approval rating

Question 2: Why is tracking GDP a good way to evaluate the impact of governmental decisions on society?

* The GDP can help track the stability of prices.
* **The GDP can help track changes in employment. (p. 3)**
* The GDP is a marketplace in which stocks are bought and sold.
* The GDP can help measure the total production of goods and services around the world.

Question 3: Which statement best analyzes the role of federal agencies through time?

* **Federal agencies have evolved over time as the need for the enforcement of specific tasks have arisen. (p. 8, 9, 11)**
* Federal agencies have decreased over time as the country has grown.
* Federal agencies have been created only during times of national crisis.
* Federal agencies have only increased since the first presidential administration, as new agencies are created with each new president.

Question 4: Which statement best develops the argument defending why states should prioritize spending on hospitals and health care?

* Citizens often vote for spending on hospitals and health care to be prioritized.
* **It is the job of the state to provide for the welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring access to hospitals and health-care programs. (p. 18)**
* The funding of hospitals and health care is part of the executive branch’s nondiscretionary spending.
* Governors are required by state legislatures to include hospital and health-care funding in their budget proposals.

Question 5: Why does the executive branch at each level of government begin the budget-making process?

* because the executive branch has the power to fund government spending
* because the executive branch has access to information that other branches lack
* because the executive branch is the only branch responsible for making and passing the budget
* **because the executive branch enforces the law and knows how much money is necessary to execute the law (p. 16)**

**Lesson 7 – Public Policy Issues**

**Objective 1:** Describe a public policy issue in your local community.

**Big Ideas**: Public policy is the collection of laws and regulations that address problems and apply to all citizens. These policies can be created at the national, state, or local levels. It is important to note that not all government levels can address every public policy issue. For example, the driving age can only be addressed at the state level, whereas income tax policies and interstate commerce, or trade between the states, can only be addressed at the national level.

At a local level, there is a wide variety of topics that could be the focus of public policy. These issues range from housing to transportation to education and more. One example of a local public policy issue involves the impact of vehicle emissions on the environment. Voters can show their support for certain issues through their votes. Government officials can talk to their constituents to find out what is most important in their lives. Since constituents are voters in a local community, their voices would be important in this process.

**Public Policy Issue Solutions and Action**

* Government officials work with stakeholders to come up with a list of potential solutions.
* A committee may be created to decide about which is the best solution.
* Government, in consultation with other organizations, carries out the plan, including identifying a funding source.

**Keywords**

* **stakeholder** – an individual who has a particular interest in an issue

**Objective 2:** Analyze a contemporary public policy issue while integrating information from diverse sources.

**Big Ideas:** The power of public policy is that it can identify problems, evaluate solutions, and implement change for the betterment of society.

*Foreign policy* addresses issues with other nations. One such issue is trade. As a nation, we need to examine who we are conducting trade with and under what conditions we are conducting this trade.

*Domestic policy* is the set of public policies that address problems within a country’s borders. One such domestic policy could address immigration.

Problems can be brought to the attention of the government in a variety of ways. Sometimes citizens will write an email or a letter to their government officials. They might visit the office of the lawmaker or talk to them at a public event. Citizen groups and organizations may also share problems or goals in the same ways.

When deciding which problems to address, government officials need to think about the reach of their powers as well as other considerations. Some common policy areas to be addressed by the government include education, the environment, economics, transportation, energy, public safety, and public health.

Once a problem has been identified, it is time to get to work evaluating solutions and eventually selecting one. The work of evaluating these possible solutions is a research process. During this research process, people may work independently to analyze primary and secondary sources.

There are many factors that influence which solution may be selected. Certain solutions may require more funding than others. Government officials who are making these decisions need to consider how their constituents may be affected by the decision that is made. A government official’s opinion can also influence what solution may be selected.

Once a solution is selected, the executive branch and those in the cabinet departments work on developing the regulations and allocating funds.

**Keywords**:

**primary source** – a first-hand account of something happening at the time

**secondary source** – someone’s interpretation or analysis of primary sources

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which of these describes a public policy issue that could be addressed at the local level?

* **vehicle emissions (p. 2-3)**
* income tax reform
* interstate commerce
* amending the driving age

Question 2: Why would government officials work with stakeholders to come up with possible solutions to issues?

* Stakeholders are constituents, so they will be voting on these issues.
* **Stakeholders are people who have interest in a particular issue. (p. 4)**
* Stakeholders are paid to conduct research to provide to government officials.
* Stakeholders belong to activist groups that care about some of these issues.

Question 3: Which group would make the decision about which solution is best?

* constituents
* activist group
* **committee (p. 4)**
* lobbyists

Question 4: Analyze the role of the executive branch in developing public policy.

* The executive branch develops the foreign policy that informs public policy.
* The executive branch writes primary sources after analyzing data.
* The only role the executive branch plays is when the president signs a bill.
* **The executive branch develops the rules and regulations to carry out an act. (p. 13)**

Question 5: How does the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act try to help address the problem of vehicle emissions?

* by improving public transit systems by rebuilding aging bridges
* by improving public transit systems by replacing damaged and aging pipes
* **by improving public transit systems by implementing upgrades and investing in electric vehicles (p. 11)**
* by improving public transit systems by repaving unsafe roads

**Lesson 8 – Foreign Policy**

**Objective 1:** Identify the powers given to Congress and the president in the area of foreign affairs.

**Big Ideas**:

Article I of the Constitution describes the powers given to Congress regarding foreign affairs.

* Regulating commerce, declaring war, raising and supporting armies, and maintaining the navy are powers directly stated in the Constitution for Congress.
* The Senate, acting on behalf of the legislative branch, has the power to approve treaties that the president makes with other nations. It is also able to vote on diplomats appointed by the president.
* More generalized powers given to Congress include the ability to collect taxes, draw money from the treasury, and make laws that are needed.

The president is given powers related to foreign affairs as designated in Article II of the Constitution.

* The president is given the role of commander in chief and is in control of the military. Under this title, the president is responsible for protecting and defending the U.S. Military action can be taken without a declaration of war, which allows for troops to be sent to other countries at the president’s direction.
* Appointing ambassadors and making treaties, with the approval of the Senate, are part of the powers given to the president.
* Presidents must exercise *diplomacy* or work with other countries on important issues that affect multiple nations.
* The president makes treaties with other nations but needs the support of the Senate with a two-thirds majority vote for the treaty to be approved.

While the two branches are obligated to work together on certain issues relating to foreign affairs, there are often clashes on foreign affair policies. Foreign policy requires that the branches of government work together to determine the best possible outcome for the U.S. While they may not agree on all matters of foreign affairs, they carry out the duties assigned to them with the input and support of other branches.

**Objective 2:** Compare the foreign policy powers given to the three branches of the United States government.

**Big Ideas:** Congress and the president share the bulk of the responsibilities of foreign policy. The Supreme Court weighs in on items that might violate the Constitution and acts to resolve disputes in foreign policy between the branches of government and other nations. The system of checks and balances allows the three branches of government to take on powers that are established in the Constitution. For each power assigned to a branch of the government, another branch can check that power to ensure that no one branch retains complete authority in foreign affairs.

**Foreign Policy and the Legislative Branch**

* Declare war
* Regulate interstate and foreign trade
* Senate: accept or reject treaties

**Foreign Policy and the Executive Branch**

* Control and lead military forces
* Negotiate treaties with other nations (with two-thirds majority vote from the Senate to approve)
* Executive agreements between the U.S. and other nations that are created to sustain positive foreign relations
* Appointing diplomats and cabinet positions that involve foreign affairs (must be approved by two-thirds majority vote from the Senate)

**Foreign Policy and the Judicial Branch**

* Resolve policy differences between legislative and executive branches
* Original jurisdiction in all cases that surround constitutional or federal law
* Review disputes that arise due to treaties made with other nations, as well as cases where the U.S. is being sued by another nation

**Objective 3:** Differentiate between the United States foreign policy characteristics and basic goals.

**Big Ideas:** The United States interacts with other nations to trade goods, promote democracy, ensure the welfare of people, and defend the U.S. How the U.S. deals with other nations is referred to as *foreign policy*. It is necessary to assign certain people and departments to maintain relationships with other nations. The management of relationships with other nations is known as *diplomacy*.

**Basic Goals of Foreign Policy:**

* *National Security*: The best way to protect the U.S. and its people is to maintain positive relations with other nations of the world. At the forefront of foreign policy goals are the defense and security of the country. By creating alliances and working to resolve differences with other nations, the security of the U.S. is preserved.
* *Promoting Democracy and Human Rights*: Helping other nations that have newly formed democracies to understand and implement the principles of democracy is a way to help other nations be more stable and secure.
* *Educate the World on American Values and Policies*: The U.S. helps other nations to see the common interests and values they share. This work allows for better foreign policy practices.
* *Support of Government Officials and U.S. Diplomats*: Government officials and U.S. diplomats work closely with other nations to ensure peace and outline common interests. By working directly with people from other nations, they can exchange ideas and better help those around the world.

**Main Characteristics of Foreign Policy:** After the U.S. was established, the country took a stance of *isolationism* regarding foreign policy. This meant they believed it was in the country’s best interests to stay out of the affairs of other nations.

Over time, the U.S. government’s approach to foreign policy has evolved. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor thrust the U.S. into a role of promoting democracy and defending the country. By becoming involved in the interests and affairs of other nations, the U.S. can now be characterized as having an *internationalism* stance on foreign policy.

**Keywords**:

* **internationalism** – supporting political and economic cooperation with other countries
* **isolationism** – remaining separate from other countries in political affairs and interests

**Quick Check**

Question 1: What statement best identifies the powers given to the president relating to foreign affairs?

* The president is given the powers to command armed forces, appropriate funds for foreign relief, and make treaties.
* **The president is given the powers to command armed forces, make treaties, and appoint diplomats. (p. 4)**
* The president is given the powers to declare war, make treaties, and command armed forces.
* The president is given the powers to appoint diplomats, make treaties, collect taxes.

Question 2: What power is explicitly given to Congress in the Constitution regarding foreign affairs?

* **the power to declare war (p. 3, 5)**
* the power to make treaties
* the power to collect taxes
* the power to make laws

Question 3: How do the foreign policy powers of Congress compare to the foreign policy powers of the president?

* Congress can regulate trade, while the president can use judicial review.
* Congress can appropriate money, while the president approves diplomatic appointments.
* **Congress can declare war, while the president can make treaties. (p. 3, 4)**
* Congress can command the military, while the president appoints diplomats.

Question 4: How does the Supreme Court participate in matters of foreign policy with the legislative and executive branches?

* by determining whether the president is able to take military action against other nations
* by approving the Senate’s majority vote for treaties and diplomatic appointments
* by overseeing the appropriation of funds that is decided on by Congress
* **by performing judicial review in cases involving constitutional law between branches and other nations (p. 12)**

Question 5: How does U.S. foreign policy today differentiate from foreign policy during the country’s founding?

* Foreign policy has not changed throughout the country’s history.
* Foreign policy has shifted from an internationalism perspective to an isolationism perspective.
* Foreign policy has gone back and forth between internationalism and isolationism perspectives.
* **The country’s foreign policy has shifted from an isolationism perspective to an internationalism perspective. (p. 18)**

**Lesson 9 – Foreign Policy Tools and Strategies**

**Objective 1:** Identify tools used to carry out United States foreign policy.

**Big Ideas**: Foreign policy focuses on the relationships the United States has with other nations. Foreign policy can be anything from waging war against a country to creating a *treaty*, or a legal agreement with another country. The U.S.’s interactions with other countries focuses on protecting the country and its citizens. It also seeks to promote democracy, human rights, American values and policies, as well as support the country's diplomats and other government officials.

**Foreign Issues**

* International Relations: Prior to World War I, the U.S. developed a strong sense of isolationism, or the view that the U.S. should not become involved with other countries. However, during World War I, former President Woodrow Wilson defended U.S. interference in Europeans affairs by advocating that the country’s role in European conflict was to maintain a peaceful order. Since then, the U.S. has continued to create both positive and negative relations with other countries.
* Diplomats: Representatives of each country, called *diplomats*, help communicate national ideas and interests to one another. The purpose of diplomatic meetings can be to maintain security, create trade deals, or foster alliances.
* Treaties: Treaties are a legal agreement between countries. Treaties can be created for numerous reasons, such as the ability to trade resources among countries or because of a war.

**Wars Among Nations**

The U.S. may decide to go to war for a variety of reasons. However, the government’s use of military can often be seen as the last option to international affairs. The military serves to protect U.S. citizens and fight for U.S. ideas, particularly in other countries. It is also important to note that wars do have a significant economic cost. Wars can also lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths.

**Humanitarian Aid**

Another branch of foreign policy involves *humanitarian aid*, or assistance to people in need of basic resources. The U.S. can provide humanitarian aid to people who have experienced war in their own country or who have recently experienced a natural disaster.

**Objective 2:** Interpret strategies the United States uses to achieve foreign policy objectives.

**Big Ideas:** Global Approaches Throughout History

* Solve Problems:
  + The Monroe Doctrine was a foreign policy that stopped European control in the Western Hemisphere. The Louisiana Purchase Treaty expanded U.S. territories. Through each of these foreign policies, the U.S. was able to defend itself against foreign nations and expand the U.S.
  + President Wilson created an international diplomatic group called the League of Nations. The League of Nations intended to resolve disputes peacefully. The Treaty of Versailles established by the League of Nations ended World War I.
* Isolationism: During the late 1920s to early 1930s, the Great Depression played a pivotal role in the way the U.S. approached international affairs. The last thing the American people wanted was to become entangled in European affairs and enter another war. Thus, the general attitude within the nation centered around the concept of *isolationism*, which advocated for the U.S. to stay out of international affairs. Isolationists wanted to focus on the issues within the nation and start creating solutions that would directly impact the country.
* A Turning Point: When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the stance to remain isolationist had shifted. The bombing of Pearl Harbor caused both American leaders and the American people to enter war, responding to the first foreign attack on U.S. soil. When the bombing occurred, the U.S. joined its allies, or other countries that work together for a common purpose, to fight Germany, Italy, and Japan.
* *Détente* in the 1970s: During President Richard Nixon’s presidential term in the late 1970s, there was high tension with China and the Soviet Union. Nixon attempted to ease tensions between the countries through diplomacy, in what is known as the Soviet *détente*. The Soviet *détente* involved the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) treaties with the Soviet Union. The SALT treaties included two diplomacy agreements regarding nuclear weapons. The first treaty was the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty). This treaty restricted the use of ballistic missiles. The other treaty was an Interim agreement that ceased the use of ballistic missiles for five years. Through President Nixon’s diplomacy, he was able to improve foreign relations with the Soviet Union. He also was able to improve relations with China. President Nixon visited China, resulting in a political breakthrough moment in both Chinese and American history. This marked the beginning of a momentous diplomatic relationship.

**Keywords**:

* **détente** – an attempt to ease tensions and strained relationships between foreign nations

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Identify the reason why a country would want to go to war.

* A country would go to war if it wanted to discuss issuing a trade agreement with engaging countries.
* A country would go to war if it wanted the people of the country to have more jobs.
* A country would go to war if it wanted to expand businesses in other countries.
* **A country would want to go to war if it wanted to obtain resources from another country. (p. 3)**

Question 2: Which of the following is a consequence of a country going to war?

* **One of the consequences of war is that it has an incredible economic toll. (p. 4)**
* One of the consequences of war is an overall increase in health among the general population.
* One of the consequences of going to war is that banks usually file for bankruptcy after a war is finished.
* One of the consequences of going to war is an automatic reelection of country leaders.

Question 3: What role do treaties play in foreign policy?

* **Treaties act as a legal agreement between two nations. (p. 2)**
* Treaties are a conference that allows citizens to vote for new leaders.
* Treaties act as the first step to requesting new leadership in another country.
* Treaties act as a sign to start a war.

Question 4: Interpret which statement best describes diplomatic relations between two countries.

* The country of Malaysia decides to bomb the U.S.
* **The country of Malaysia provides significant trading relations with the U.S. in order for the U.S. to provide security against terrorists in Malaysia. (p. 3)**
* The country of Malaysia aims to withdraw a relationship with other countries and depend on only resources within the country.
* The country of Malaysia disagrees with the human rights violations occurring in the U.S., so its political leaders threaten to go to war with the U.S.

Question 5: What was the impact of President Nixon’s diplomatic mission to China?

* **Nixon’s diplomatic mission to China caused a release in political tension among the two countries. (p. 12)**
* Nixon’s diplomatic mission to China caused a war in Vietnam.
* Nixon’s diplomatic mission to China caused another war in Asia.
* Nixon’s diplomatic mission to China caused the U.S. to revert to isolationism.

**Lesson 10 – Foreign Policy Influences**

**Objective 1:** Interpret foreign policy issues that impact local community and state interests.

**Big Ideas**: Foreign policy refers to a country’s ability to make decisions with other countries. These are often initiated to further a country’s own interests. Wars, diplomatic missions, and trade deals are a few examples of foreign policy.

Trade deals highlight the economic relationship within foreign policy. More specifically, the United States agrees to a set of terms to trade resources with other countries. However, when analyzed closer, economic success overseas means a loss in economic opportunity for states and local communities. Employment overseas may be economically advantageous regarding cheap labor; however, there are consequences to smaller communities within the U.S.

“The Two Prices of Soy” by Christine M. Du Bois highlights the soybean industry. In the 1970s, President Nixon established an embargo on U.S. soy imports to Japan. Although this embargo only lasted a week, Japan quickly looked to Brazil for soy. Japan invested quality technology into the soy business in Brazil. This took an economic toll on the United States and created an ongoing environmental concern for Brazilian land. Due to the technology integrated into the soy business, deforestation was rampant. Du Bois mentions how rain patterns, weather changes, and animal habitation have been altered. The environmental changes can arguably be traced back to Nixon’s decision to stop selling soy to Japan. This foreign policy was only meant to impact Japan, but it has unintentionally affected the Amazon ecosystem in Brazil.

Immigrants from all over the world enter the United States to live. However, recognizing the U.S. southern border’s proximity to northern Mexico allows us to better understand how immigration specifically affects local communities and states. Although the federal government has taken the initiative to handle immigration issues, states like California and Texas handle immigration more frequently due to their geographical location. In this regard, state issues and policies often correlate with the influx of Mexican immigrants that arrive in the United States.

**Objective 2:** Summarize the influence that individuals, businesses, labor and interest groups, and other organizations have on United States foreign policy.

**Big Ideas:** Although foreign policy issues are handled specifically with foreign countries, individuals, businesses, and labor and interest groups may also be impacted by foreign policy decisions. Throughout history, groups of people have pushed to have their voices heard on how their lives and businesses may be impacted by foreign policy decisions.

The president looks to their *cabinet*, or major advisors, to help the president deliberate and make decisions on issues. Within this cabinet, there is the secretary of state, secretary of defense, and the national security advisor.

* The *secretary of state* deals with diplomatic relations.
* The *secretary of defense* overseas the defense department and the military branches.
* The *national security advisor* handles national security issues.

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is the largest labor organization in the U.S. It makes up 57 unions that include 12.5 million people. Among the 12.5 million people are nurses, actors, postal workers, pilots, and more. The AFL-CIO made tremendous strides in 2005 when the convention passed a groundbreaking resolution. For the first time in its 50-year history, the federation officially called for the rapid withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq. It is difficult to measure the impact labor organizations have; however, the AFL-CIO's passing of this rapid withdrawal resolution highlighted the way labor unions impact international issues.

News outlets, newspapers, and blogs are a major source of how federal decisions are communicated to the people. When more people discover what happens internationally, it can create a catalyst for citizens to openly express their position to political leaders. People can encourage members of Congress to vote on certain issues that may be influenced through information provided by organizations like Amnesty International. Amnesty International is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reveal human rights abuses.

*Lobbying* is when representatives from a variety of industries advocate to legislators to vote on political issues on behalf of their organization. Lobbyists attempt to persuade members of Congress to consider their ideas when voting on certain issues.

**Objective 3:** Analyze isolationism versus interventionism in United States foreign policy.

**Big Ideas:** *Isolationism* is the idea that the United States should stay out of foreign affairs. This concept can be traced back to the 1800s when President James Monroe created the *Monroe Doctrine* that announced to European countries that they were not allowed to colonize or intervene in affairs within the Western Hemisphere of the world, specifically in North and South America. However, isolationism was really embraced after the Great Depression and World War I. The people of the United States wanted to focus on the country’s own needs, rather than focusing on issues happening abroad.

*Interventionism* describes U.S. involvement in other countries’ affairs. A country can become involved in other countries’ affairs through military intervention, economic intervention, political intervention, and cultural intervention. The different types of intervention do not always occur independently.

* Military Intervention: Military intervention involves deploying the military. The most well-known foreign policy initiative involves military aid in war. Military aid can come in the form of soldiers who risk their lives when they are deployed and federal money to fund military equipment.
* Economic Intervention: Economic intervention involves the United States taking initiative to change the way another country's economy functions.
* Political Intervention: Political intervention describes how the United States attempts to change or influence the legal actions of foreign countries.
* Cultural Intervention: Cultural intervention is the United States’s attempt at changing or altering another country’s beliefs or ideas.

**Quick Check**

Question 1: The EBSCO article “The Two Prices of Soy” discusses Nixon’s decision to stop selling soy to Japan. Interpret which of the following describes the impact of Nixon’s decision.

* Nixon’s decision to stop selling soy to Japan has caused a major soy shortage in Japan.
* Nixon’s decision to stop selling soy to Japan has caused the U.S.’s soy business to prosper.
* Nixon’s decision to stop selling soy to Japan caused Japan to invest in agriculture in its own country.
* **Nixon’s decision to stop selling soy to Japan has caused environmental damage to Brazil’s agriculture. (p. 4)**

Question 2: Which statement summarizes the impact lobbyists have on foreign policy?

* A major soda company lobbies for soda to be provided in public schools.
* Lobbyists engage in demonstrations in order to have legislators understand how their company is affected.
* **A major soda company lobbies for free trade laws to expand their company. (p. 12)**
* Lobbyists advise the president on what decisions to make on foreign policy issues.

Question 3: Who does the president refer to for guidance on foreign issues?

* **the cabinet (p. 9)**
* foreign leaders
* lobbyists
* nonprofit organizations

Question 4: Analyze which of the following statements would be an example of a military interventionist approach to foreign policy.

* The U.S. decides to have an embargo on Japanese goods after Japan cut ties with U.S. imports.
* The U.S. decides to invest money and resources into the country and avoid going to war with other countries.
* **The U.S. decides to fight and deploy military soldiers to Japan after Pearl Harbor was bombed. (p. 20)**
* The U.S. decides to overthrow the Japanese government by providing Japanese rebels with weapons.

Question 5: What role did the Great Depression have on the U.S.’s approach to foreign policy?

* **The people of the U.S. embraced isolationism to prioritize the country’s own needs. (p. 18)**
* The people of the U.S. were eager to fight another war after winning World War I.
* The people of the U.S. wanted to support other countries’ wars by providing government bonds.
* The people of the U.S. wanted to support other countries’ wars by providing military troops.

**Lesson 11 – Nation-State Interactions**

**Objective 1:** Summarize the financial costs of national security.

**Big Ideas:** National security involves the costs of funding defense and not funding defense. Funding defense can bring greater security because a nation can defend itself; however, not funding defense can invite attacks. The way in which a country decides to defend itself can define national security. Merely providing defense against invasion or protecting the borders is a passive form of national security. Stationing military forces around the world and building alliances is a more aggressive form of national security.

The cost of national security is also defined in relation to the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is a measure of the country’s production of goods and services. It can be thought of as a form of national income; the higher the nation’s GDP, the greater the wealth that nation has.

On the surface, the national security budget is what people might say is the financial cost of national security; however, others see this financial cost as an investment. The development of new technologies is part of the defense budget and that gives way to innovation that might not otherwise exist.

Opportunity cost has to do with the other ways budgeted money could be spent. In other words, what could be bought with the national security budget? Perhaps the government could pay for everyone to go to college or receive free health care. Policy makers must decide where best to direct funds. Not having defense puts everyone in jeopardy, and having too much defense compromises the social status of citizens.

**Objective 2:** Assess the political and social costs of national security.

**Big Ideas:** A political cost has to do with the consequences of the actions of a particular political figure or party. These political costs are not just related to public opinion polls, they can also translate into election losses.

Social costs are consequences faced by the nation, its citizens, and to particular groups within the population.

**Objective 3:** Show the ways nation-states interact, including through trade, tourism, diplomacy, treaties and agreements, and military action.

**Big Ideas**: Unlike nation-states with a central authority, such as the United States, the world is anarchic. Despite having the United Nations (UN), a central authority does not issue and enforce rules or laws for all nations to follow. Although nations can agree to observe international law or cooperate with other nations, they can also choose to make war. Nation-states make the decision for cooperation or conflict using a cost-benefit analysis.

Nation-states have choices when deciding a course of action with another nation-state. Ultimately, these choices fall into four categories: diplomatic, informational, military, and economic.

* Diplomatic Power: using negotiation either bilaterally or multilaterally to achieve a country’s goals
* Informational Power: using communication tools to inform, persuade, and influence foreign audiences
* Military Power: employ military force to coerce, compel, or defeat an adversary
* Economic Power: using economic resources to influence other countries

A table of informational power

Description automatically generated

The following chart reflects how the choices about which powers to use might be influenced.

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**Objective 4**: Identify sources and patterns of conflict among nation-states, including resources, territory, differences in systems of government, religious differences, and ethnicity.

**Big Ideas**: The concept of *anarchism* is at the core of relations between states in international politics, and it is the guiding principle of the world system. Anarchism means there is not a world government forcing states to cooperate, or a world police force stopping states from going to war, or a world president making states honor their promises. Instead, states in the world system are ultimately autonomous. That does not mean there is no order in the international system. Countries can enter into alliances, deals, treaties, or international organizations with other countries if they wish. There are advantages to cooperating in this way, and consequences to violating the terms of agreements.

Most military and economic power still rests with the states. If a state decides to act against the international order, it is primarily up to other states to respond.

*Historic and Contemporary Examples of Conflict over Territory* - Territory is an important source of power, and states compete for land and resources. Historically, these competitions often turned into conflict between states.

* + Examples: Western Europe, North America, and East Asia were in a nearly constant state of conflict over territory and resources until about 1945. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops to invade Ukraine in late February 2022.

*Historic and Contemporary Examples of Conflict Over Government Systems* - Competition among opposing governments or economic systems can lead states into conflicts. Generally, this occurs when one or both sides view the other as an existential threat. This threat might come because of a fundamental ideological difference between two parties about how a society should be organized.

* Examples: During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union were on opposite ends of an ideological spectrum. The U.S. is organized based on capitalist principles of private property ownership and free markets. The Soviet Union was organized based on Marxist/communist principles of shared or public ownership of resources and material equality of outcome.

*Historic and Contemporary Examples of Conflict over Religion and Ethnicity* - States also engage in conflict on religious grounds or ethnic tensions. Two or more ethnic groups that have a long history of conflict with one another may break into conflict over political power, resources, or territory.

* + Examples: A contemporary example of conflict on religious grounds is the Islamic states and Israel entering into conflict over a dispute about who has the right to holy territory in Jerusalem. An example of ethnic-based conflict is when the Hutus, a Rwandan ethnic majority, began brutally attacking the Tutsis, an ethnic minority, over the course of several months in 1994. The attacks were based on decades of disagreement over power and resources and resulted in the deaths of more than a million Rwandans by machete and gunfire. The weak and corrupt Rwandan state was unable to stop the bloodshed, and the international community did not intervene until the genocide was over.

*The Role of the United Nations and Other Supranational Organizations*

The world system is anarchic, and therefore no overarching world government exists. However, there are some supranational organizations that facilitate some formal integration, cooperation, and order within the international system.

One of the most important of these organizations is the United Nations (UN). The UN was created after World War II as a forum for nations to meet and formally discuss international problems and to hold states accountable for violations of human rights. The UN has a small military force called the UN peacekeepers that it uses for enforcement of its decisions. However, the UN budget, and therefore the power of its military force, is extremely small.

Another important supranational organization is the European Union (EU). The EU is a formal economic and political union between 27 states in Europe. The EU was created after World War II to integrate and streamline trade between these countries and to enforce laws and agreements by member states. Today, the EU is one of the largest trading blocs with a gross domestic product (GDP) of about $20 trillion. However, like the UN, the EU has very little power on its own and relies on member state governments to carry out policy. Aside from a small police force, the EU has no military to enforce laws and has a relatively small budget.

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Summarize the costs of national security.

* the percentage spent as it relates to GDP and the cost of social services to the public
* **the actual dollar figure that the U.S. government pays out and the ratio of that to GDP**
* the total dollar amount found in the budget and the cost of developing new technology
* the political and social costs

Question 2: What is gross domestic product (GDP)?

* the attempt to amass as many weapons as possible so that your country has more weapons than your enemie
* **the market value of goods and services produced by a country**
* the idea that there are other ways money could be spent than the way it is currently being spent
* the effort to work through problems by talking rather than using weapons

Question 3: Assess how a president losing an election after making unpopular national security decisions is a political cost.

* It is a political cost because a politician’s decisions affect the nation as a whole.
* It is a political cost because it affects a particular social group.
* It is a political cost because it will hurt the groups that make up the president’s voting base.
* **It is a political cost because it is the cost of a political figures’ actions.**

Question 4: Use the text excerpt from the 2022 Joint Declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan to answer the question.

“The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, a member of the United Nations and recognized by the United States and the international community as a sovereign state under international law, and the United States of America are committed to working together to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement that ends the war in Afghanistan for the benefit of all Afghans and contributes to regional stability and global security. A comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement will include four parts: 1) guarantees to prevent the use of Afghan soil by any international terrorist groups or individuals against the security of the United States and its allies, 2) a timeline for the withdrawal of all U.S. and Coalition forces from Afghanistan, 3) a political settlement resulting from intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations between the Taliban and an inclusive negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and 4) a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire . . . ”

Which type of interaction used by the United States is shown in this example?

* economic
* **diplomatic**
* military
* informational

Question 5: Identify which of the following is the concept that the world system has no global government or supranational organization more powerful than any state’s military or economic power, and therefore states are ultimately on their own in the world system.

* the United Nations
* **anarchy**
* sovereignty
* equality of outcome

**Lesson 12 – International Organizations**

**Objective 1:** Describe the roles and purposes of various international governmental and nongovernmental organizations to which the United States belongs.

**Big Ideas:** The world is made up of hundreds of countries. Each of these countries has its own government. Considering such, how do countries unite for political and nonpolitical purposes? Countries use various political and nonpolitical organizations.

* *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* (NATO): NATO is a military organization made up of 28 countries whose governments work together to keep peace around the world. NATO started as an organization for western countries to protect each other against communism in Russia. Eventually, several countries under Russian influence joined NATO after the Cold War was over. NATO helps countries work together when there are conflicts or threats to its members.
* *The United Nations* (UN): The UN was established in 1945, in hopes of never having a world war again and to promote human rights and equality for all people. The main goal of the UN is to keep peace in the world, particularly within and between its 193 member countries. The member countries contribute military and humanitarian aid. According to Article 1 of the UN Charter the following are the purposes of the UN:
  + To keep international peace and security. To prevent and remove threats to peace. To assist in the settlement of international issues to keep peace.
  + To work with other nations in a manner that shares respect and the value of equality to promote peace.
  + To promote international cooperation in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights and freedoms for all.
  + To be the centralizing force in keeping the peace worldwide.
* *International Olympic Committee* (IOC): The IOC brings athletes from all over the world together to compete in the summer and winter Olympics. Their purpose is to promote fair play and organize the structure and competitions of the games. The IOC works to ensure that all athletes and countries play by the same rules. The IOC works with the various national Olympic committees such as the *U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee* (USOPC). The mission of the USOPC as stated on their website is to support Olympic athletes in their quest for greatness in their sport.

**Objective 2**: Cite evidence of the United States’ role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

**Big Ideas**: The U.S. is one of the founding members of NATO. It has been an active member in the organization since its beginning in 1949.

* Monetary Contributions to NATO: The U.S. contributes money to NATO. Contributions to NATO are in proportion to each member country’s *Gross National Income* (GNI).
* Military Assistance: As of October 2021, the U.S. was involved in providing military assistance in Kosovo to keep peace and freedom of movement for all. The U.S. provides troops for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. These member countries are great allies, and the U.S. feels the need to support them since these countries are so close to Russia. The U.S. is also involved in helping NATO’s mission in Iraq to monitor and stop terrorists. The U.S. and other member nations have sent military advisors to help train Iraq’s security forces since the Iraqi government asked for assistance in July 2018.

**Key Words**

* **Gross National Income** (GNI) – the amount earned by all of a country’s people and businesses

**Objective 3**: Analyze some governmental and nongovernmental international organizations and their role in international affairs.

**Big Ideas**: Governmental organizations are developed usually by treaties and run by governmental representatives from member nations. Nongovernmental organizations are those that operate without government input. These nongovernmental organizations may receive funding from governments, but this funding is voluntary, whereas with governmental organizations the funding and managing of the organization comes from member nations. Nongovernmental organizations typically work on social issues such as world hunger, human rights, education, and acceptance of all people.

* *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF): a UN nongovernmental organization that relies on voluntary contributions from UN member nations, businesses, and individuals with the goal of providing global support to children around the world
* *The World Trade Organization* (WTO): governmental, international organization that works to regulate and support trade between nations; The goal of the WTO is to support all parties involved in international trade around the world. All major decisions are made by the 164 member nations, so there is global agreement on trade issues.

**Objective 4**: Explain how nations can cooperate politically and economically through international organizations.

**Big Ideas**: There are many international organizations where countries work together to solve political and humanitarian issues all over the world. These groups require organization and cooperation from people from a variety of countries, which can be difficult at times given the diversity of cultures, politics, and economic means.

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Political Cooperation: NATO members work together to support democracy in their nations and solve issues peacefully. Member nations consult with each other when there is a conflict, and each member nation sends a representative to the table to discuss and decide on plans of action and policies.

These organizations each have a specific governing body made up of representatives from each of the member nations. These governing bodies are the center of the cooperation that must be worked out among the member nations.

Economic Cooperation: There are several international organizations whose main purpose is financial or economic stability. These organizations are made up of member nations who send representatives to discuss and make decisions on issues relating to the world economy. Monetary aid is usually provided by the wealthier countries to assist the organizations in working towards their goals.

One of the main ways that member nations work together through international organizations is to provide funding to those organizations to support their goals. The countries with larger economies are often expected to provide a larger amount to organizations.

**Key Words**

* **Group of 20 (G20)** – an intergovernmental organization made up of 19 countries and the European Union. The countries (not in the EU) are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States
* **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** – an international organization that tries to stabilize banking and currency issues around the world
* **World Health Organization (WHO)** – an international organization that works to provide medical information, advice, and assistance to countries to make the world a safer and healthier place

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which response describes the purpose of the USOPC?

* to represent the U.S. government in official meetings
* to support member countries in building peace within their country
* to support every Olympic stakeholder and promote Olympism worldwide
* **to empower athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence and well-being (p. 5)**

Question 2: What kind of support does the UN give to member countries?

* The UN provides political aid and military aid.
* The UN provides humanitarian and political aid.
* **The UN provides military and humanitarian aid. (p. 4)**
* The UN provides military and economic aid.

Question 3: Which statement best cites evidence that the U.S. is one of the largest monetary contributors to NATO?

* **Based on NATO’s website, one can conclude that the U.S. pays more in defense expenditures to NATO in total amounts than any other country. (p. 12)**
* NATO’s website provides several graphs and charts illustrating the amount of money the U.S. contributes.
* Based on NATO’s website, the U.S. has been involved in and contributed to NATO since it was started.
* Based on a Department of Defense article, a current Secretary of State said President Trump had committed to supporting NATO 100 percent.

Question 4: Analyzing the international role of WTO, one can conclude that the WTO

* **provides help with trade issues around the world. (p. 18)**
* helps women work in the trade industry.
* makes sure trade agreements within the United States are fair.
* works to find illegal smugglers who are hijacking cargo ships and disrupting trade.

Question 5: Which statement best explains how nations work together politically in the UN?

* **All the member nations participate in the UN General Assembly. (p. 24)**
* The member nations provide money to help the poorer countries.
* All the member nations work to elect democratic leaders in every country.
* Most of the member nations send delegates to the UN offices to work for the UN.

**Lesson 13 – International Order**

**Objective 1:** Identify the role and functions of the United Nations (UN) to reduce the potential for international conflict and address social and economic issues.

**Big Ideas**: The Security Council is a subset of nations of the General Assembly. It has five permanent member nations and ten nonpermanent member nations. The permanent members include the U.S., Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. The nonpermanent members are elected by the General Assembly and serve for two-year terms. The General Assembly is led by the Secretariat.

The Security Council votes on resolutions that address international conflict and arms control. The Security Council can pass a resolution with nine votes. However, the permanent members have the power of veto. If any permanent member disagrees with a security resolution, they can veto it. When it is vetoed, it will not pass even though it has the required nine votes.

The UN also addresses economic and social issues by supporting trade development, economic development, and postwar reconstruction. The principal UN agency for this work is the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC). The ECOSOC is comprised of fifty-four member nations that serve three-year terms. The U.S., Russia, France, and the United Kingdom serve consecutive terms because they provide most of the council’s funding.

The UN also devotes energy and resources to addressing social welfare issues. Social welfare issues include refugee settlement, protecting human rights, controlling the spread of illegal drugs, and health issues. The principal UN organizations devoted to these missions include the International Court of Justice, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Commission on Human Rights, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Key Words**:

* **Commission on Human Rights** – a United Nations agency devoted to protecting human rights in all member nations
* **Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty** – a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1996, banning the testing of all nuclear weapons in all physical environments
* **General Assembly** – the main decision-making body of the United Nations consisting of 193 member nations and 2 observer non-members
* **International Court of Justice** – also known as the World Court, a United Nations court settling legal disputes between member states
* **International Development Association** – a part of the United Nations World Bank that provides low-cost loans to developing countries
* **Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty** – a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1963, banning the testing of all nuclear weapons underwater, in space, and in Earth’s atmosphere
* **Secretariat** – the executive branch of the United Nations responsible for the daily running of the United Nations and setting the organization’s agenda
* **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) – the United Nations agency responsible for addressing the needs of refugees in the world
* **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** – a resolution adopted by the United Nations in 1948, affirming the freedoms and basic rights of all people
* **World Bank** – an organization affiliated with the United Nations that provides loans and grants to low and middle-income countries
* **World Health Organization (WHO)** – an agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health

**Objective 2**: Cite evidence for the various roles of the United States within the United Nations over the last 80 years.

**Big Ideas**: The UN was the first international governmental organization supported by U.S. funding, political elite support, and broader public support.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union were competitive during the Cold War. The UN reflected this competition. The U.S. sought to contain Communism and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The U.S. used the UN as a tool for this purpose. This involved gathering groups of other nations, or bandwagoning, to support American security resolutions to contain the spread of Communism.

The former Soviet Union (now Russia) collapsed in 1989 creating 15 new countries. As a result, competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union ended in 1989. The U.S. emerged as the sole superpower in the world. The U.S. used its status, financial resources, and the UN to pursue their goals. From 1990 to 2000, the U.S. adopted a national security strategy. The strategy was to promote the growth of democracies throughout the world. From 2001 to the present, the U.S. used the UN to combat terrorism.

**Key Words**

* **bandwagoning** – in international relations when a group of nations join with one powerful nation to counter the influence and actions of another powerful nation
* **Cold War** – the period after World War II characterized by tensions between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., or the Soviet Union (now Russia); sometimes referred to as the “bi-polar world” because much of the world was divided into countries who supported the Soviet Union and those who were allied with the United States

**Objective 2**: Analyze the impact of the U.S. Constitution, the United Nations Charter, and international law on international order.

**Big Ideas**: The United Nations Charter defines the major principles and rules for all member nations to protect international order. The charter also empowers the Security Council to enforce international treaties and international law. Finally, the U.S. Constitution supports international order by providing legal procedures to approve international treaties.

*The United Nations Charter and International Order*: The United Nations Charter establishes courts, tribunals, and treaties to promote and preserve international law. International law creates stability between nations when involved in trade and politics.

The United Nations Charter created the *International Court of Justice* (ICJ). The ICJ settles legal disputes between member nations in accordance with international law and treaties. The Court may also provide legal advice to the UN and its Security Council. The ICJ is also assisted by ad hoc tribunals. The UN creates ad hoc tribunals to address specific criminal activity.

The United Nations Charter also protects international order by establishing treaties. A treaty between two or more nations has the force of international law.

*The United States Constitution and International Order*: The U.S. Constitution provides a legal framework to support international order. It empowers the president to negotiate treaties with other countries. However, the treaty does not become national law unless the Senate approves it. According to the Constitution's Supremacy Clause international treaties supersede domestic law.

Key Words

* **ad hoc tribunals** – the courts created on a temporary basis to address potential international criminality
* **Biological Weapons Convention** – a treaty banning the use of all biological weapons by the signatory nations of the United Nations as of 1975
* **Chemical Weapons Convention** – a treaty banning the use and elimination of all chemical weapons by the signatory nations of the United Nations as of 1997
* **Kyoto Protocol** – a treaty mandating reductions in greenhouse emissions by 5.2 percent in all signatory nations as of 1990
* **Paris Agreement** – a treaty mandating a stop to the global average temperature rise as of 2015

**Objective 3:** Critique the impact of treaties and agreements on the maintenance of international order.

**Big Ideas:** Countries often sign a treaty or agreement with another country. Countries always evaluate the treaty or agreement through the lens of domestic politics. To the degree that the treaty or agreement supports national goals, the country will honor the terms of the treaty. However, when the treaty or agreement conflicts with these goals, a country may break the treaty or agreement, disrupting international order.

Treaties and agreements create international law. Countries sign treaties and agreements through their own sovereignty. Without a treaty governing an issue between countries, either one or more countries may defer to military power to protect their national interests. This would create instability and undermine international order. Another source of instability is the nonbinding nature of treaties for third-party countries that do not sign the treaty.

Treaties and agreements fall into two categories – solemn and simplified. In solemn treaties, diplomats initially engage in negotiations. Once the diplomats have completed drafting the treaty or agreement, it is ratified by the country’s legislature. In the simplified treaty, no ratification of the treaty or agreement is necessary.

Several factors contribute to stability and instability for treaties and agreements.

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**Quick Check**

Question 1: Two nations have been at war and agree to a cease fire. However, there is a concern that neither side may keep the cease fire without the presence of peacekeeping soldiers. Identify the function and UN agency that would address this issue.

* social welfare, the World Health Organization
* international security, the General Assembly
* **international security, the Security Council (p. 3)**
* economic welfare, the Economic and Social Council

Question 2: Cite the evidence that describes the United States’ role in the United Nations during the early period, prior to the Cold War.

* The United States sought to contain Communism and the Soviet Union and used the United Nations as a tool for this purpose.
* The United States pursued a strategy of promoting the growth of democracies throughout the world by promoting this goal in the United Nations.
* The United States employed the United Nations as a tool to unilaterally roll back terrorism by addressing nonstate sponsors of terrorism such as Al Qaeda and ISIS.
* **The United States provided 40 percent of the United Nations’ budget and supported peacekeeping operations initiated by the organization. (p. 10)**

Question 3: *Read the following excerpt from the Constitution.*

“He [the President] shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur. . . .”

Analyze the impact of the Constitution on the maintenance of international order.

* The Constitution provides the major principles and rules for all nations to protect the liberal international order.
* The Constitution settles legal disputes between member nations in accordance with international law and treaties.
* The Constitution provides an enforcement mechanism if nations do not follow international treaties.
* **The Constitution supports international order by providing legal procedures for approving international treaties. (p. 18)**

Question 4: In 1916, the Sykes-Picot Agreement between France and England divided Middle Eastern countries by imposing a series of new borders that divided ethnic groupings that had existed, which led to a higher incidence of civil wars and instability. Critique the Sykes-Picot Agreement by selecting the type of factor that most contributed to international instability.

* military factors
* informational factors
* **diplomatic factors**
* economic factors

Question 5: Which of the following statements is true regarding treaties and international law?

* Countries rarely evaluate the treaty or agreement through the lens of domestic politics.
* State laws in the United States supersede international treaty law.
* **There is no international power that can enforce treaty obligations. (p. 23)**
* Even if a country does not sign a treaty, it is obligated to follow it if other countries have signed it.

**Lesson 14 – Role in International Policy**

**Objective 1**: Investigate how American foreign policy influences other nations, and how other nations influence American policy and society.

**Big Ideas**: Foreign policy is a nation’s strategy, goals, and agreements when dealing with the governments of other nations. Foreign policy deals with political, social, economic, and military relations. U.S. foreign policy is the job of the President and their advisors in the Department of State.

The U.S. interacts with most other nations through friendly, diplomatic relations. Ambassadors and leaders around the globe discuss shared goals and economic ties. Nations hoping to receive aid or support from the U.S. are motivated to have diplomatic relationships with policy makers.

How Other Nations Influence American Policy and Society:

* American foreign policy can be influenced by confrontation or aggression from other countries.
* Immigration is another way that the policies of other nations affect the U.S. Situations may cause large numbers of people to leave at once. The U.S. creates foreign policy to deal with large-scale migrations.

Impact of American Foreign Policy on Other Countries

* Foreign aid is the money, goods, or services that one nation sends to another. The U.S. is the greatest contributor of foreign aid worldwide. This financial assistance can influence other nation’s policies and behavior.
* Protecting democratic ideals and human rights is another important foreign policy goal. This includes protecting civil liberties, religious freedoms, and workers’ rights. The U.S. gives money to some countries to support fair elections and to resist authoritarian leaders. One foreign policy tool the U.S. can use to influence the actions of other countries is economic sanctions, such as fines or boycotts of a nation’s products.
* The U.S. also influences other nations by being an active member and leader in global organizations, such as:
* United Nations (UN): works to preserve world peace, protect human rights, and develop international cooperation
* World Bank: supports economic and stability in the developing world
* International Monetary Fund: regulates banking and currency to promote international business
* World Trade Organization: promotes free trade and enforces global trade agreements.
* G7 (short for the Group of 7): a group of the largest developed nations (U.S., France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Canada) whose goals include solving global economic issues

**Objective 2**: Draw conclusions about the role the United States plays in global affairs by examining a number of international institutions.

**Big Ideas**: Historically, the U.S. has been looked to as a global leader. People and nations around the world consider the U.S. to be at the forefront of solving global issues. In taking on this role as a world leader, the U.S. is actively involved in several international organizations.

**United Nations (UN)**

* Founded in 1945; headquarters in New York, United States
* Committed to international peace and security, friendly relations among nations, improved living standards, and protecting human rights as established under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
* Governed by Security Council, which consists of 15 members – five permanent and 10 non-permanent
  + United States is a permanent member of the Security Council and the largest financial contributor to the UN

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

* Founded in 1949; United State is a founding member and one of the top two contributors to NATO
* Military alliance formed after WWII to protect the security of its members through political or military means
* political goals include promoting democratic values, while its military goals include promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts

**World Trade Organization (WTO)**

* Founded in 1995, replacing its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
* United States is a founding member
* Purpose is to promote free trade and enforce global free-trade agreements, including modern trade such as telecommunications and banking services

**Objective 3**: Synthesize strategies that civic-minded individuals employ to gather and analyze information from multiple sources to make educated decisions about domestic and foreign policy.

**Big Ideas**: In addition to competition and shifts in formatting, news has become yet another venue for political divisiveness. News coverage on the same topic can be dramatically different depending on which outlet you get your news from. Specific news outlets provide more favorable coverage for one political party’s message over the other. We have also witnessed politicians in recent years intentionally stoking mistrust in the media. With so many challenges, Americans find it difficult to access reliable, unbiased news.

How can we be sure the information we find is reliable?

* Start by having a clear idea of what topic you want to investigate.
* You might do a preliminary search using the mainstream news media outlets.
* Begin your investigation with close-reading strategies.
* Check that your source is reliable by looking at the date of the article and examining the URL to be sure the information is current and from a recognizable, reputable site.
* Examine the source of any quotes or data you find.
* Additionally, you want to be sure that the evidence is presented and analyzed by someone considered a reputable expert in the field.
* Conduct a reverse image search to ensure the image featured is legitimate.
* After examining your first source, next seek out additional sources to corroborate the information it offered.

**Quick Check**

Question 1: After investigating the involvement of the U.S. in international economic organizations, which of the following conclusions is best supported by the evidence?

* **The U.S. is heavily involved in organizations that shape the global economy. (p. 5-6)**
* The U.S. sees international economic organizations as a threat to its economic supremacy.
* The U.S. only joins organizations focused on trade and tariffs.
* The U.S. sees international economic organizations as unnecessary in the modern world.

Question 2: Which document guides some of the actions and decisions of the United Nations?

* Declaration of Independence
* North Atlantic Treaty Organization Charter
* U.S. Constitution
* **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (p. 11)**

Question 3: After investigating U.S. involvement in international organizations, which of the following conclusions is best supported by the evidence?

* **The U.S. is actively involved, and holds a leadership position in, the world’s major international organizations. (p. 11-12)**
* The U.S. was an active member of the Warsaw Pact.
* The U.S. is resistant to participating in the world’s major international organizations.
* The U.S. has maintained a policy of isolationism since World War II.

Question 4: Which position does the U.S. hold in the United Nations?

* member of the League of Nations
* U.S. trade representative
* **member of the UN Security Council (p. 11)**
* the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Representative

Question 5: A civic-minded individual who wants to synthesize information on an issue of public concern would do which of the following?

* ask their friends what they thought and go with the majority opinion
* focus on government websites and publications
* choose one news source and rely on it exclusively
* **look for information from a variety of political perspectives (p. 18)**

**Lesson 15 – Relationship with Other Nations**

**Objective 1**: Differentiate world issues that affect United States foreign policy. Learn about different types of foreign policy.

**Big Ideas**: The U.S. has several different types of foreign policy available. The types most used include diplomacy, trade, economic sanction, and military force.

* **Diplomacy:** The Constitution empowers the president to make a treaty, to appoint an ambassador to another country, and to lead the military. All these powers are important tools in *diplomacy*. Diplomacy is the chief occupation of the secretary of state, the top cabinet official. The secretary of state leads the Department of State, which provides leadership in foreign policy and advises the president on international affairs. Diplomatic ties exist between nations when they send ambassadors. Sending an ambassador is one step toward officially recognizing a country as a legitimate state, which can give it greater power in international affairs.
* **Trade:** Two institutions lead international trade: Congress writes laws that regulate trade, and the president negotiates treaties about trade with other countries. The U.S. frequently enters into a free trade agreement (FTA) with another country to promote trade. This agreement lowers the cost of moving goods and services across national borders.
* **Economic Sanctions:** The U.S. can impose an economic sanction, or the restriction or limitation of trade, if diplomacy and normal trade relations do not produce the desired outcome. This is done to persuade the other country to change its behavior in specific ways.
* **Military Force:** The U.S. engages in military force to defend itself from foreign aggressors or when diplomacy, trade, and economic sanctions fail to create the change intended. Reasons for military force include human and strategic concerns, as well as access to natural resources.

**Objective 2**: Assess how ideas impact policies among nations.

**Big Ideas**: Many different ideas, issues, and policies can impact relationships among nations. Between the end of World War II and the early 1990s, the most significant division occurred because of economic differences. More recently, environmental, humanitarian, and terrorism issues have become more important than economic differences.

Theoretically, the primary reason that the USSR and the U.S. opposed each other was their different approaches to economic structure. The Soviet Union, which included Russia and 14 other republics, endorsed communism, in which property is publicly owned. The U.S. prefers capitalism, in which there is a free market and the means of production are privately owned. The USSR collapsed in 1991, and former parts of the republic are now independent nations. These new countries have turned to capitalist economies. Although tensions between Russia (the largest part of the former Soviet Union) and the U.S. remain high, the economic division between communism and capitalism no longer dictates world politics.

Countries across the globe take different approaches to climate change, which is the changes to the Earth’s environment that are largely caused by rising temperatures. Wealthier countries have signed international agreements to make changes that will decrease global warming and slow climate change. These agreements include commitments to invest in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, to reduce carbon emissions, and other goals. Many developing nations hold the perspective that the more advanced, industrial nations created most of the global environmental harm, so they should bear the responsibility to fix it. Second, developing nations have fewer resources to contribute to needed changes, and they argue their involvement will delay their economic development further.

When a humanitarian crisis emerges that threatens the health, safety, or lives of vulnerable populations, countries around the world differ in their response. Populations in crisis often need to leave their homeland for a better and safer life. This movement changes global migration patterns. Developed nations differ in their approach to acceptance of new populations.

Terrorism, the illegal use of violence to achieve political goals, affects relationships among countries. Terrorism is usually conducted by individuals or groups without a formal government connection. Acts of terrorism can work to unite or divide countries.

**Objective 3**: Learn how to predict how United States policies and ideologies will continue to affect relations with other nations.

**Big Ideas**: Policy in the U.S. is divided into two types: foreign and domestic. Foreign policy includes U.S. decisions about international affairs, and includes types of diplomacy, trade, and ways to support or oppose other countries. Domestic policy includes U.S. decisions about how to spend money, who to tax, and what ideas to support. Different types of ideologies are also present in the U.S.

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Most U.S. allies hold similar beliefs, and the U.S. tends to align itself with other wealthy nations that consider themselves to be democracies and believe in individual rights.

Americans’ commitment to the rights of the individual and limited government affects how we interact with other nations.

The U.S. has an incontrovertible history of using its international power to promote liberalism and individualism. However, it is less consistent in fighting for equality or justice. These issues arise in discussions, but they rarely incite the U.S. to change its approach to a specific issue. For example, the U.S. has never become involved in another country only to promote gender equality; there is always a secondary reason, often related to liberalism or capitalism.

The U.S. has room for improvement in its approaches to justice. It has signed international agreements guaranteeing human rights, yet it does not consistently abide by these agreements in domestic or foreign policy.

The U.S. is frequently motivated by capitalism when exerting its international powers. Capitalism, as an ideology, promotes the acquisition of resources for one’s own use. The U.S. does not use its power to control capital in other countries without extenuating circumstances.

While the U.S. does not have an official religion, it is deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian culture, and Americans as a whole are markedly religious.

**Objective 4**: Assess how economic sanctions and diplomacy affect American relationships with other countries.

**Big Ideas**: The United States uses foreign policy tools in its relationships with other countries. Diplomacy is the practice of using personal relationships and meetings among leaders to reach mutual agreements on international issues. Economic sanctions is the ability of a country to disrupt or cut off trade with another.

*Diplomacy, Russia, and Ukraine in 2022*

Russia used to be the leader of the Soviet Union, which included Ukraine and 13 additional republics. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Russia, Ukraine, and the other republics each became independent countries. Ukraine has sought an alliance with Europe and the U.S. Ukraine serves as a geographic connection between Europe and Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants Ukraine back under Russian domination and to end Western support of Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, elected in 2019, pursued entry to NATO as a member nation. However, Russian President Putin demanded an agreement from NATO that Ukraine never be allowed to join. The tension over whether Ukraine will be admitted into NATO is one of the issues that led Russia to amass troops at Ukraine’s borders in late 2021.

The U.S. and NATO countries used diplomacy to urge Russia to remove its troops and cease its threats to Ukraine. Russia demanded two terms from NATO:

* A guarantee that Ukraine will never be allowed to join NATO.
* The removal of NATO troops from any country that joined NATO after 1997.

Russia’s second demand would effectively move NATO dominance toward western Europe and leave newer nations, such as Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia, with less security. Neither the U.S. nor other NATO members were willing to agree to either of these terms.

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. The U.S. and other Western nations immediately responded by invoking economic sanctions against Russia.

**Quick Check**

Question 1: Which statement differentiates between a world issue currently affecting U.S. foreign policy and a world issue that affected U.S. foreign policy in the past?

* The Holocaust currently affects U.S. foreign policy, while climate change affected U.S. foreign policy in the past.
* Apartheid currently affects U.S. foreign policy, while cybersecurity affected U.S. foreign policy in the past.
* **Health care currently affects U.S. foreign policy, while apartheid affected U.S. foreign policy in the past. (p. 3, 5)**
* Weapons of mass destruction currently affect U.S. foreign policy, while terrorism affected U.S. foreign policy in the past.

Question 2: Why is diplomacy important?

* Diplomacy used to be important, but presidents no longer rely on it.
* The use of diplomacy negates the possibility of economic sanctions.
* **Diplomacy can lead to mutual decisions between nations and avoid the harm of economic sanctions or military force. (p. 6)**
* The use of diplomacy negates the possibility of military force.

Question 3: Which is the best piece of information to use to assess how issues impact global relationships?

* knowing whether a country is led by terrorists
* knowing whether a country has signed international climate change agreements
* knowing a country’s location
* **knowing a country’s economic approach (p. 10-11)**

Question 4: Which factor best predicts whether the U.S. will become involved in a global problem?

* a violation of international human rights agreements
* a preference for a particular religious group
* **an action that threatens the availability of resources (p. 6)**
* the mistreatment of people based on their gender

Question 5: What information would help you assess whether the U.S. would help an ally with military defense?

* **If the ally is a member of NATO, other NATO members (including the U.S.) will come to its aid. (p. 31)**
* If the ally was formerly part of the Soviet Union, the U.S. will come to its aid.
* If the ally is located in Europe, the U.S. will come to its aid.
* If the ally was formerly opposed to the Soviet Union, the U.S. will come to its aid.