

## US Foreign Policy between Discord and Collaboration

### السياسة الخارجية للولايات المتحدة بين الخلاف والتعاون

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#### ABSTRACT:

#### RÉSUMÉ

#### ملخص البحث

Foreign policy is one of the ideological steps that any intelligent country can take. US foreign policy is an amazing strategy that is fruitful in making international relations ; keep peace in all nations and provide prosperity in all the area. It has different department and division . it has impacted the economical and political position for the US in the entire world.

The aim of this article to shed light to the US foreign policy strategies and the adoption of the new policies and the world challenges.

Keywords: US- Policy- Nations- Strategy- Foreign

السياسة الخارجية هي إحدى الخطوات الأيديولوجية التي يمكن لأي دولة ذكية أن تتخذها. السياسة الخارجية للولايات المتحدة هي استراتيجية رائعة ومثمرة في بناء العلاقات الدولية. حفظ السلام في جميع الدول وتوفير الازدهار في كل المنطقة. لديها قسم وأقسام مختلفة. لقد أثرت على الموقف الاقتصادي والسياسي للولايات المتحدة في العالم بأسره.

ويهدف هذا المقال إلى إلقاء الضوء على إستراتيجيات السياسة الخارجية الأمريكية وتبني سياسات جديدة وتحديات العالم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الولايات المتحدة- السياسة- الدول- الاستراتيجية- الخارجية

## 1. Introduction:

Foreign policy is how a government interacts with other countries and international groups to protect itself and achieve its goals. It involves things like diplomacy, trade, and military intervention. Factors like national security, economics, and culture affect foreign policy. The goal of foreign policy is to keep a country safe, respected, and prosperous (Council on Foreign Relations, 2022). Foreign policy plays a significant role in shaping a country's relations with other nations, especially for the US. The US has a history of foreign policies that have been criticized both at home and abroad. Many things like geography, money, and ideas affect these policies, making them complicated. It is crucial to understand the complexities of US foreign policy because it can affect global peace and security. This essay aims to analyze the criticisms and controversies surrounding US foreign policy in historical context. The essay will provide an overview of US foreign policies throughout history and examine the criticisms and controversies that have emerged in response to these policies. The analysis will shed light on the factors that have influenced US foreign policy decisions and their impact on domestic and international affairs. This essay's main idea is that US foreign policy is complex because it depends on many things, like what happens inside and outside the US. People have criticized US foreign policies for being unfair, inconsistent, and only about the US. But they have also been praised for their commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, and global stability. By examining the criticisms and controversies surrounding US foreign policy in historical context, this essay aims to provide a brief understanding of the complexities of US foreign policy.

By the beginning of the 21st century, an age overhauled by internalization and globalisation USA found itself engaged in a new wave policy concerning the international affairs and crisis . today, everything affects everything else. Globalisation affects regions and countries in different ways.

### 2. 1. Historical Context of US Foreign Policies

The early foreign policies of the US were marked by territorial expansion and a quest for global dominance. The Monroe Doctrine, which was introduced in 1823 by President James Monroe, declared that the US would not tolerate European intervention in the Americas. It became a cornerstone of US foreign policy and was used to justify interventions in Latin America. However, it was also criticized for promoting US dominance and violating international law (Monroe Doctrine (1823), 2021). Another significant foreign policy of the US during this period was the Manifest Destiny, which held that the US had a God-given right to expand its territory from coast to coast. The policy led to the acquisition of Texas, California, and other territories but also fueled conflicts with Mexico and Native American communities (Manifest Destiny, n.d.)

Another early foreign policy adopted by the United States was the Open Door Policy, which was introduced in 1899 by Secretary of State John Hay. The Open Door Policy was a response to the European powers' efforts to carve up China into spheres of influence. The United States feared that it would be left out of the economic benefits of trade with China and sought to ensure that all countries had equal access to Chinese markets. The Open Door Policy became a cornerstone of American foreign policy in Asia (Open Door Policy , n.d.).

### 2.2. US Involvement in World War I and World War II :

In World War I, President Woodrow Wilson said that the United States should "make the world safe for democracy." He believed that the US should share its democratic values with other countries and work together to prevent wars. This led to the League of Nations, which aimed to promote peace and cooperation.

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Although the US did not join the League of Nations, Wilson's ideas influenced American foreign policy for a long time: (Wikipedia, 2011).

The US joined World War I in 1917 to protect its interests and support democracy. Although the US played a crucial role in the war, it was criticized for acting alone and not committing to the League of Nations. After World War I, nationalist movements, economic instability, and the rise of totalitarian regimes set the stage for World War II. The US entered the war in 1941 after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The war made the US a global superpower but raised ethical concerns about the use of atomic bombs and the treatment of prisoners of war. (ibid).

After World War II, the United States became a very powerful country and adopted a policy called containment towards the Soviet Union. This policy aimed to prevent the spread of communism and the Truman Doctrine, introduced in 1947, promised military and economic support to any country facing the threat of communism. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was also established to counter Soviet influence in Europe (Wikipedia, 2022). This policy of containment played a big role in American foreign policy during the Cold War and its effects lasted for many years.

### 2.3. The beginnings of the Cold War and the US's role in containing communism

The end of World War II marked the start of the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. The US tried to stop the spread of communism because it believed it would undermine democracy and capitalism. The Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the Korean War were some of the policies implemented by the US during this time, but they were criticized for being interventionist and imperialist (ibid). The Cold War dominated US foreign policy for many years and had a significant impact on both domestic and international affairs.

After the Cold War, the United States changed its foreign policy to become more involved in the world. The new policy was focused on spreading democracy, human rights, and free trade to other countries. The President at that time, Bill Clinton, called this policy "Engagement and Enlargement", and it involved using diplomacy, economics, and military power to achieve these goals. The United States carried out some military interventions, like the war in Bosnia and the intervention in Somalia, to put this policy into action in other words, the United States started getting more involved in other countries' affairs. This meant sending military forces to places like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya (American History and Politics, 2018). The idea behind this policy was that the United States needed to help promote democracy and human rights in the world, even if that meant using military power. However, some people have criticized this policy, saying that it has caused problems that weren't intended and has hurt America's reputation in the world.

## 3. Current US Foreign Policies

### 3.1. Focus on national security and economic interests

The US foreign policy is mainly influenced by two things: making sure the country is safe and protecting its economic interests. The US is working to stop terrorism, keep weapons of mass destruction from spreading, and make sure there's peace in different parts of the world. At the same time, the US is trying to make good economic deals with other countries like China, the European Union, and North America.

### 3.2. US involvement in the Middle East

Since the 20th century, the US has been very involved in the Middle East, especially after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. During the presidency of George W. Bush, the United States followed a more assertive foreign policy that emphasized preemptive warfare. The policy stated that the US could use military force to stop any hostile power that could threaten its national security, as mentioned in the 2002 National Security Strategy.

This resulted in the war in Iraq, which sparked debate as many believed that it had unintended consequences and damaged America's reputation in the world. The US went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq to fight terrorism and encourage democracy. However, these wars have faced criticism for causing great human and financial losses and making the region more unstable. The US has also worked on diplomatic solutions for conflicts in the region, such as the Israeli-Palestinian issue and the civil war in Syria (CSIS, n.d.) . As mentioned earlier in ( The beginnings of the Cold War and the US's role in containing communism ) , the United States carried out some military interventions and started getting more involved in other countries' affairs help promote democracy and human rights in the world but it was criticized for causing unintentional unpleasant consequences.

### **3.3.US's relationship with China and its Impact on Foreign Policy**

The US views China as a strategic competitor and has taken steps to limit its influence in the area. These actions include economic policies like tariffs and export controls and military actions like increasing military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The US-China relationship is also known for competing in areas like technology, trade, and human rights, which has consequences for the international community(America and China's Strategic Relationship, n.d.).

### **3.4. Present day US Foreign Policy**

In the last few years, the United States has been more careful and cooperative in its foreign policy. This was influenced by President Barack Obama's approach, known as "smart power". This policy tried to find a balance between military strength and other ways of achieving foreign policy goals, like using diplomacy, economic incentives, and working with other countries. As a result, the US was able to negotiate a deal with Iran to limit its nuclear program and also improved relations with Cuba. (Smart Power, n.d.)

During his time as president, Donald Trump followed a foreign policy that emphasized putting America's interests first, rather than working cooperatively with other nations. Trump's policies included taking the US out of the Paris climate agreement [The Paris Climate Agreement is an international treaty that was adopted in 2015, with the aim of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The agreement sets out targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with each country submitting their own targets known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The agreement also includes provisions for financial assistance to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The United States was a signatory to the agreement, but in 2017, the Trump administration announced its intention to withdraw from it, a move that was completed in 2020 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change , 2015) ], imposing tariffs on Chinese imports, and renegotiating trade agreements like NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement, which was a trilateral trade agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The agreement, which came into effect in 1994, aimed to eliminate barriers to trade and investment between the three countries, thereby promoting economic growth and increasing competitiveness. Under NAFTA, tariffs on many goods traded between the three countries were eliminated, and rules were put in place to protect intellectual property and ensure fair competition. In 2020, the agreement was updated and replaced by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) (Office of the United States

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Trade Representative) J. He also put a lot of effort into building a relationship with North Korea, meeting with its leader Kim Jong Un and engaging in diplomatic talks: (Trump's Foreign Policy Moments, 2022).

On the other hand, Joe Biden has adopted a more traditional foreign policy approach, which emphasizes multilateralism, global cooperation, and rebuilding alliances. He has sought to rejoin the Paris climate agreement, strengthen international institutions like the World Health Organization and NATO, and prioritize diplomacy and human rights in relations with countries like Russia and China. Biden has also taken a tough stance on Russia, imposing sanctions and expelling diplomats in response to their interference in US elections and human rights violations (Liebig, 2021). Overall, Biden's foreign policy aims to restore American leadership on the international stage and promote stability and cooperation.

### 4. The Main Criticism of U.S. foreign Policy

a. Support for authoritarian regimes: The U.S. has been accused of supporting authoritarian regimes in various countries, especially during the Cold War. This support has been viewed as hypocritical and damaging to the U.S. reputation as a defender of democracy and human rights (Amnesty International., 2021).

b. Unilateralism: Critics argue that the U.S. has pursued its foreign policy goals unilaterally, without considering the interests of other countries. This approach has been viewed as arrogant and disrespectful towards other nations and has weakened U.S. credibility and legitimacy on the global stage ( Council on Foreign Relations, 2021)

c. Ignoring international law: The U.S. has faced criticism for disregarding international law and norms in its foreign policy, especially when it comes to using force. The invasion of Iraq in 2003 was seen as a violation of international law and widely criticized ( International Committee of the Red Cross, n.d.)

d. Regime change: The U.S. has been accused of trying to change the regimes of other countries through military intervention or covert operations. This approach has been criticized for causing chaos and instability and for often failing to achieve its intended goals (International Crisis Group, 2019).

e. Military intervention: The U.S. has been criticized for its military interventions in various countries, which some see as aggressive and unnecessary. These interventions have often led to civilian casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and destabilization of regions (Center for Victims of Torture, 2021)

f. Human rights abuses: The U.S. has faced criticism for committing human rights abuses, such as torture of detainees during the "war on terror," as well as for supporting governments that violate human rights. This has damaged the U.S.'s credibility on human rights issues (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

g. Economic coercion: The U.S. has been accused of using its economic power to force other countries to comply with its foreign policy objectives. This includes imposing sanctions, manipulating currency values, and using trade agreements to gain an advantage over other countries (United States Department of State, 2021).

h. Double standards: The U.S. has been accused of applying double standards in its foreign policy, particularly when it comes to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Critics argue that the U.S. has been too supportive of Israel and has ignored Palestinian rights, which has contributed to instability in the region (Human Rights Watch , 2021)..

i. Environmental policy: The U.S. has been criticized for its stance on climate change, such as withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, and for prioritizing short-term economic gain over long-term environmental sustainability. This has been viewed as irresponsible and harmful to global efforts to address climate change (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2021).

The U.S. has faced a number of attacks and acts of violence that were motivated by opposition to its foreign policy over the years. Here are a few examples:

a. 9/11 attacks: The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were carried out by Al Qaeda, a group that opposed U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, particularly its support for Israel and its military presence in Saudi Arabia (History.com, 2021)

b. Embassy bombings: The U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed by Al Qaeda in 1998, killing over 200 people. This attack was also motivated by opposition to U.S. foreign policy in the region (Wikipedia, 2021)

c. USS Cole bombing: In 2000, the USS Cole, a U.S. Navy destroyer, was bombed in Yemen by Al Qaeda, killing 17 American sailors. This attack was also motivated by opposition to U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East (History.com, 2021)

d. Benghazi attack: In 2012, the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, was attacked by militants, resulting in the deaths of four Americans, including the U.S. Ambassador to Libya. This attack was motivated by a range of factors, including opposition to U.S. support for the Libyan government and U.S. military intervention in the region (Wikipedia, 2021)

These attacks demonstrate how U.S. foreign policy can cause tension and disputes with other nations and groups that are not run by a government, and serve as a reminder of the potential risks and challenges associated with U.S. foreign policy. It's essential to tackle these root complaints to promote stability and security in the international system.

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, The early foreign policies of the US were marked by territorial expansion and a quest for global dominance, while the Cold War dominated US foreign policy for many years. After the Cold War, the United States changed its foreign policy to become more involved in the world by spreading democracy, human rights, and free trade to other countries. Although US foreign policy has been criticized for being unfair, inconsistent, and only about the US, it has also been praised for its commitment to promote democracy, human rights, and international stability. The US needs to think about what might happen because of its foreign policies and how they could affect peace and safety in the whole world. In the future, the US should try to find a balance between what it wants and what other countries want so that the world can be more peaceful and stable.

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