

In negotiates treaties
with other nations,
negotiates
agreements

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In the United States, the President and the executive branch play a pivotal role in foreign policy and the global interstate system.

The President and the Secretary of State administer the foreign policy of the country, however, "less formal foreign policy is also conducted through exchanges of citizens and other government officials, through commerce and trade, or through third party states and organizations" (New World Encyclopedia, 2017, p. 1). Therefore, foreign policy is usually a response to global or regional affairs.

Foreign policy is defined as "a policy pursued by a nation in its dealings with other nations, designed to achieve national objectives in world politics" (Squadrin, 2017). The Foreign Policy Agenda of the Department of State in the U. S., preserves the objective of making the world democratic, secure, and prosperous. The foreign policy achieves its goals by adhering to, "protecting the safety and freedom of American citizens within the U. S.

and abroad, protecting alliances and security agreements with other countries, having membership and involvement of multilateral bodies like the United Nations, and following practices of international laws and conventions. Moreover, "the goals of the foreign policy are also to promote peace, and freedom, in all regions of the world, providing aid to developing countries and furthering free trade and capitalism to foster economic growth" (New World Encyclopedia, 2017). Under the Constitution, both the president and Congress have been given powers and responsibilities for foreign affairs (Lecture, Nov.

30). The President is titled Commander-in-Chief and Chief Diplomat. As Commander-in-Chief, the president commands the armed forces and is obliged to defend and protect the country from attack. Congress, however, has the power to declare war and provide money for defense. Since, the president is given the duty of decision-making, the president negotiates treaties with other nations, negotiates agreements on foreign commerce, and can veto legislation. In his role of Chief Diplomat, the President also appoints ambassadors, and establishes American foreign policy.

The president acts as the main spokesperson in the U. S., as well as in other countries (Lecture, Nov. 30). Congress can approve or ratify treaties by 2/3 majority in the Senate, and can also "approve president's nominees for ambassadorial and cabinet positions". "The functions of Congress were designed to act as a check on presidential power" (CliffsNotes, 2016, p. 1). The President has limited foreign powers, since he or she cannot do anything without Congress agreeing to their decisions first.

Foreign policy, however, differs from domestic policy in many ways. Domestic policy, refers to the decisions made by a government regarding issues and needs that occur within a country. Unlike foreign policy which is more sensitive, and is only decided by the executive government, domestic policy is more visible and is created by the federal government. The goals of domestic policy are to address issues among the nation's citizens, therefore it is mostly influenced by public opinion. For instance, domestic policy deals

with issues regarding “ healthcare, education, social welfare, taxation, public safety, and natural resources” (Longley, 2017, p.

1). The most important recent domestic policy matters that the country faces are immigration, gun control, and surveillance. Domestic policy in the U. S.

is divided into different categories, since each category of domestic policy deals with different issues. The four basic areas of Domestic policy are Regulatory policy, Distributive policy, Redistributed policy, and Constituent policy. The President’s role in domestic policy is to ensure that legislation created by Congress and the federal regulations created by the federal agencies are fairly implemented. The president also has control over the U. S. economy.

The president creates the national budget, proposes tax increase or cuts, and imposes tax on foreign trade. How well the president executes his or her power affects the economy and the lives of its citizens (Longley, 2017, p. 1).

The United States became a world power, due to its involvement in world affairs. The Spanish American War in 1898, gave the United States Pacific power. “ U. S. victory in the war produced a peace treaty that forced the Spanish to cease claims on Cuba and to cede sovereignty over Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the United States” (Office of the Historian, n. d.).

The integration of Pacific territory gave the country numerous economic privileges. In 1899, Secretary of State, John Hay, issued the Open Door Policy, which stated that all countries should be given equal access to trade with

China. The opening of Japan to the Western world in the 19th century was extremely beneficial to the United States. The opening of Chinese ports allowed for the creation of an American port on the Pacific, which “ensured the steady stream of maritime traffic between North America and Asia” (Office of the Historian, n. d.). After the U.

S. joined the allies in World War I and World War II, it has had the world’s strongest economy and military. Subsequently, it became a bipolar system following the Cold War. Towards the end of the 19th century, trade, politics, and similar interests connected the U. S. with other countries.

The United States is now considered a sole superpower because of its large economy, military and cultural influence (Lecture, Nov. 30). The military is one of the United States’ most important superpowers. Due to having a strong military, the U. S. has hard power that allows the country to reach its objectives.

As the world’s superpower, the U. S. spends more on national defense than any other country. “In 2014, the United States led the world in military spending at \$610 billion, according to the SIPRI” (Carroll, 2016, p. 1). Although, the U. S. spends more money on national defense among many other things, the money spent on the military is necessary.

Having a strong military allows the U. S. to protect its citizens as well as the country from territory threats. Furthermore, having a large and strong military force gives the country prestige and strengthens alliances with other countries.

America's national defense also gives us power in international relations and allows the country to have influence on other nations.