



FOREIGN POLICY

1. In the previous video on domestic policy, we learned that we can organize issues into two major groups: domestic issues (or domestic affairs) and foreign issues.
2. The U.S. government makes policies about both domestic issues and foreign issues. Domestic policy? Foreign policy? What does it all mean?!?
3. In these videos we will explore the differences between domestic and foreign policy, some of the key people involved in making policy and some of the issues related to both domestic and foreign policy.
4. After watching these videos, you will be able to:
 - ◆ Recognize the difference between domestic and foreign policy
 - ◆ Identify some of the issues related to domestic and foreign policy.
 - ◆ And define the national interest and identify the means available to the national government to pursue our nation's national interest.We've got some work to do... so let's get started!
5. Before we learn about foreign policy, let's recap what we know about domestic policy. Domestic policy is the nation's plan for making rules and laws that affect people in the United States.
6. The main goal of domestic policy is to help and protect the people within our country.
7. Domestic policy covers a wide range of areas, including education, the economy, taxes, social welfare, and health care.
8. The legislative and executive branches work together to address domestic policy.
9. What about foreign policy? How does the U.S. relate to other countries?
10. The federal government is also concerned with international relations, or relationships with other nations. The federal government makes foreign policy to decide how it will interact with nations around the world.
11. In foreign policy, the U.S. pursues what is known as the national interest.
12. The national interest focuses on policies and actions that are good for or intended to benefit the United States.
13. Here are four goals of United States foreign policy and the national interest:
 - ◆ National security: This means keeping the United States safe, especially at its borders.

- ◆ Promoting peace: This means creating diplomatic relationships and alliances with other nations,
- ◆ Spreading democracy: This means talking with other nations about the benefits of democratic government systems,
- ◆ Promoting international trade: This means encouraging the buying and selling of goods between countries.

14. Let's check in- Question: Can you define the goals and objectives of foreign policy?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

15. So, who is involved with foreign policy? Let's look again at the U.S. Constitution.

16. Remember that Article II outlines the powers of the executive branch – the president, vice president and executive departments.

17. One of the executive departments is the Department of State and is led by the Secretary of State.

18. The president and the secretary of state are the main leaders in charge of foreign policy and pursuing our national interest.

19. The Department of State plays the lead role in developing and implementing the president's foreign policy and our national interest.

20. This means that the Secretary of State represents the United States in other countries, provides assistance to other countries, and provides a wide assortment of services to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals seeking entrance to the U.S.

21. The U.S. maintains diplomatic relations with approximately 180 countries as well as with international organizations.

22. 'Diplomatic' or 'diplomacy' means managing international relations.

23. The U.S. government has to create a plan for diplomacy in order to keep good relationships with other nations. Ambassadors and diplomats, as well as the secretary of state, work all around the world on these relationships. Ambassadors are the chief representative of the United States for a specific country, live in that country, and work in an embassy.

24. Sometimes secretaries of state have to solve problems that come up in relationships with other countries. This includes deciding which countries with which to form an alliance. The alliance might include military agreements with other nations.

25. Finally, the government also makes treaties, or formal agreements, with other nations on such issues as trade and defense. U.S. leaders hope that their foreign policy in pursuit of our national interest will create a safer and more peaceful world through cooperation with other countries.

26. Let's check in- Question: What is the role of the U.S. State Department?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

27. Although the president and secretary of state are the main leaders in charge of the United States foreign affairs, Congress also plays a role.
28. Article I of the U.S. Constitution outlines the powers of Congress. Part of these powers relate to foreign policy. For example, only Congress can declare war, Congress finances (pays for) the military, Congress can set taxes which fund domestic and foreign policy programs and the U.S. Senate has the power to ratify treaties the president makes with other countries, but it takes two-thirds to ratify. If the Senate doesn't ratify, the treaty isn't enacted.
29. Many times, United States foreign policy is related to domestic policy. For example, Congress has the power to raise taxes and increase funding to support the military as outlined in Article I, Section 8, of the U.S Constitution.
30. As a threat from a foreign country increases, it is likely that Congress will increase military spending. This increase in spending can often take funding from other programs, like domestic policies, or come from an increase in taxes.
31. An example of this occurred after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The U.S. government increased its military spending and spent less on domestic programs because of threats to the safety of Americans and U.S. allies. Foreign policy also influenced domestic policy because new legislation was passed that affected domestic and international security.
32. Let's recap what we learned:
- ◆ International Relations: deal with relationships with other nations.
 - ◆ Foreign policy deals with how the U.S. government will interact with nations around the world.
 - ◆ Four goals of foreign policy: National security, Promoting peace, Spreading democracy, and Promoting international trade.
 - ◆ This is done in pursuit of the National Interest: Policies and actions that are good for or intended to benefit the United States.
 - ◆ Remember that foreign policy can impact domestic policy and domestic policy can impact foreign policy, so it's important that we understand both!