

- **Foreign Policy** – How one country interacts with another country or group.

Idealism

- People are naturally good
- World peace can be achieved
- War is not a natural part of politics
- A moralistic perspective
- League of Nations

Realism

- State as unit of analysis
 - States compete against each other
- State as unitary actor
 - State speaks with one voice
- Power dominates
 - Military power takes primacy

Meaning for US Foreign Policy

- Idealist
 - Humanitarian relief
 - Third world development
 - EX: Somalia
- Realist
 - Act in our self interest
 - Avoid international organizations
 - EX: Bosnia

Problems with Idealism and Realism

- Idealism
 - Too optimistic or moralistic
- Realism
 - Nation does not speak with a single voice
 - What is the national interest
 - There is interdependence in the world

FP: WWI Era

- U.S. not a world power
- Isolationism – Strategy designed to keep a nation out of foreign political or economic affairs.

FP: Post-WWI Era

- Debate over isolationism v. engagement.
 - Isolationism lost when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.
- League of Nations
 - Precursor to the United Nations

FP: Cold War

- **Cold War** – Continues conflict short of actual warfare between the U.S. and Soviet Union. Post WWII
 - 1945 – 1989
- **Bipolar** – two dominate world powers
 - U.S. and Soviets
- **Multipolar** – several dominate powers

FP: Origins of Cold War

- Soviet buffer zone after WWII
- Power politics (realism)
- Capitalism v. Communism





FP: Cold War

- Examples of Cold War Conflict
 - Berlin and the Berlin Wall
 - Korean War
 - Vietnam War
 - Cuban Missile Crisis
 - Third World Conflict

FP: Cold War

- Cold War Strategies
 - Role Back
 - Early strategy
 - Push communism back
 - Containment
 - Primary strategy
 - Prevent communism from spreading to other countries.

FP: Cold War

- Cold War Strategies
 - **Truman Doctrine** – The policy of the U.S. to help free peoples resist the spread of communism. Targeted toward third world.
 - **Marshall Plan** – A plan to help rebuild Europe after WWII.

FP: Cold War

- Cold War Security
 - **Collective Security** – States agree that aggression by one state or alliance against another will be met with a collective response.

FP: Cold War

- Cold War Security Institutions
 - NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - U.S. & West European democratic societies
 - Warsaw Pact
 - Soviet Union and East European communist societies

FP: Cold War

- Cold War Security Institutions
 - United Nations
 - Formed in 1945
 - Any nation may be a member
 - A world forum to discuss international issues and the promotion of world peace
 - Security council
 - 15 members
 - 5 permanent members

FP: Cold War

- Cold War Economic Institutions
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - Help nations monitor currency rates and manage debt
 - World Bank
 - Provides money to poor countries to help them develop
 - GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)
 - Promotes free trade between the world's countries

How IMF & WB Work

- Currency Devaluation
 - Fixed Currency
 - Floating Currency
- Monetary Policy
 - Monetary policy deals with the money supply or the amount of money in circulation.
- Fiscal Policy
 - The budget: how much you spend and how much you bring in.

FP: Post-Cold War

- Post Cold War Years
 - Economics take primacy
 - Interdependence
 - Unipolar world (US)
 - Spread of weapons of mass destruction
 - Iraq and the Gulf War

Cold War Institutions & the Post Cold War World

- Peace keeping institutions
 - NATO
 - United Nations
- Economic institutions
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - World Bank
 - World Trade Organization (WTO)

US Foreign Policy: Idealism or Realism?

- Marshal Plan
 - Assisted Europe after WWII vs.
 - Designed to stop Communism
- Korean & Vietnam War
 - Human rights vs.
 - Stop Communism
- Gulf War
 - Human rights vs.
 - Oil
