2020 Summer Global Leadership Seminar
Election 2020: U.S. Foreign Policy and the 2020 Election
Daily List of Resources

Monday, July 17th
British statesman Lord Palmerston famously said, “Nations have no permanent friends or allies; they only have permanent interests.” Agree or Disagree?

General Resources:
- Crash Course: U.S. Foreign Policy (9:30 video)
- How U.S. Foreign Policy is Made
- The Machinery of Foreign Policy Making: The Who and What

Questions:
1. List the various actors who contribute to making U.S. foreign policy. Now place them in order from most important to least important (this can reflect your subjective opinion, not necessarily an objective truth). Write a few sentences about why you arranged the various foreign policy actors in this order.
2. What checks and balances exist in U.S. foreign policy? Have these checks and balances gotten stronger or weaker since the end of WWII?
3. List the United States strategic foreign policy goals. Are these goals consistent over time? Or do they change based on the prerogative of the President?

Tuesday, July 18th
General Resources:
- U.S. Policy in the Middle East: 1945 to 2008
- U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East since the 19th Century
- The Paradoxes of U.S. Policy in the Middle East

Questions
1. What was the importance of US involvement in the Middle East in regards to the Cold War and the United States’ relations with the Soviet Union?
2. What three countries in the Middle East became the main focus of the United States during the mid 1900s? Choose one of these countries and briefly explain how the United
States’ relations with said country has evolved over time.

3. In your opinion, what is the biggest U.S. National Interest issue regarding the Middle East and why? Briefly explain the issue, current approaches to mitigating this issue, and whether you think it has been successful.

4. What do you believe to be the biggest reason for the US’s continued involvement in the Middle East (oil/resources, terrorism, advancement of democracy, or something else)?

**Wednesday, July 15**

**General Resources:**
*U.S. Relations with China (1949-2020)*
*U.S. Versus China: A New Era of Great Power Competition, but Without Boundaries*

**Questions**
1. Describe the current relationship between the United States and China. Are they competitors or allies?
2. Do you believe that China’s rise as a potential competing superpower to the United States poses a threat for the U.S. in the international system?
3. China has created competing organizations like the Asian Development Bank to counter established Western organizations such as the World Trade Organization. Do you believe that these competing institutions will be beneficial to countries who don’t have good relations with the West? How do you see this relatively new development transforming global power dynamics?

**Thursday, July 16**

*Note: This is the Crisis Simulation Day. The resources provided are a general overview, and more information can be found in the Crisis Simulation Briefing Paper.*

**General Resources:**
*Will COVID-19 Transform the Global World Order* (start video at 4:00)

**Questions**
1. Try to identify some key themes and talking points that are discussed in this video regarding the impact of COVID-19 on international relations and how countries are interacting with one another.
2. How do your personal viewpoints and opinions compare to those of the featured speaker in the video? What do you agree and disagree with? What did you find most interesting or what was something new that you have not heard of/thought of before?

**Friday, July 17**

**General Resources:**
*Why the United States Will Need a New Foreign Policy in 2020*
*The United States Will Be Shocked by it’s Future*
*4 trends that will define the future of US foreign policy*
Questions
1. In your opinion, what is the emerging foreign policy issue that should be of the greatest concern for the United States and why?
2. Do you think that the United States should pursue a strategy of isolationism, or should the United States continue being a key figure in the international system? Explain.
3. Of the four trends that will define the future of US Foreign Policy outlined by the World Economic Forum (3rd source in list), which do you think is the most important and warrants the greatest amount of focus by the United States and why? Which of these do you believe the United States has historically focused on improving?