National Security Policymaking
American Foreign Policy: Instruments, Actors, and Policymakers

• Instruments of Foreign Policy
  – Three types of tools:
    • Military
    • Economic
    • Diplomatic
  – Military is the oldest and still used
  – Economic is becoming more powerful
  – Diplomatic is the quietest of the tools
American Foreign Policy: Instruments, Actors, and Policymakers

• Actors on the World Stage
  – International Organizations (UN)
  – Regional Organizations (NATO, EU)
  – Multinational Corporations
  – Nongovernmental Organizations
  – Individuals
American Foreign Policy: Instruments, Actors, and Policymakers

• The Policymakers
  – The President
  – The Diplomats (secretary of state)
  – The National Security Establishment (secretary of defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, NSC, CIA)
  – Congress
American Foreign Policy: An Overview

• Isolationism:
  – Foreign policy where the U.S. tries to stay out of other nation’s conflicts, particularly in Europe.

• Monroe Doctrine:
  – U.S. official statement of isolationism

• World War I:
  – Basically ended the policy of isolationism
American Foreign Policy: An Overview

• The Cold War
  – Containment Abroad and Anti-Communism at Home
  – The Swelling of the Pentagon (arms race)
  – The Vietnam War
American Foreign Policy: An Overview

• The Era of Détente
  – Détente: a slow transformation from conflict to cooperation
  – Strategic Arms Limitations Talks: effort to limit the growth of nuclear arms
  – Originally applied to the Soviet Union, and then to China
  – Not favored by everyone
American Foreign Policy: An Overview

• The Reagan Rearmament
  – Defense budget had been declining since the mid-1950’s.
  – Reagan added some $32 billion to the defense budget in his first term in office to oppose the Soviet buildup.
  – Strategic Defense Initiative: using computers and other equipment to defend against Soviet missiles from space ("Star Wars").
American Foreign Policy: An Overview

• The Final Thaw in the Cold War.
  – George H.W. Bush proposed to move beyond containment to integrate the Soviet Union into the community of nations.
  – Leadership of the Soviet Union supported the ending of communism and split into separate nations.
  – East and West Germany united.
American Foreign Policy: An Overview

• The War on Terrorism
  – War on terrorism became highest priority of George W. Bush administration after 9/11.
  – Bush supported preemptive strikes against terrorists and hostile states.
  – International relations has entered an era of improvisation.
The Politics of Defense Policy

• Defense Spending
  – Currently takes up about one-fifth of the federal budget.
  – Conservatives argue against budget cuts that would leave the military unprepared.
  – Liberals argue for budget cuts to provide more money for programs here in the U.S.
  – Military spending is hard to cut since it means a loss of jobs in congressional districts.
The Politics of Defense Policy

• Personnel
  – 1.4 million active and reserve troops
  – More reliance on National Guard and reserve troops.

• Weapons
  – Reliance on nuclear triad (ICBMs, SLBMs, and strategic bombers) is expensive.
  – Treaties (START) were signed to reduce some nuclear missiles.
  – High-tech non-nuclear weapons are becoming more important.
The New Global Agenda

• The Decreasing Role of Military Power
  – Military power is losing much of its utility in resolving many international issues.
  – Economic Sanctions
    • Nonmilitary penalties imposed on foreign countries as an attempt to modify their behavior.
    • Generally the first “shot” in a crisis.
    • Can be effective, but critics argue they only hurt U.S. businesses and provoke a nationalist backlash.
The New Global Agenda

• Nuclear Proliferation
  – Only a few countries have known nuclear weapon capabilities.
  – Fear is that other “rogue” countries will have nuclear weapons capabilities and use them against their neighbors or the U.S.
  – U.S. will focus on discouraging the deployment of developed nuclear weapons.
The New Global Agenda

- The Spread of Nuclear Weapons (Figure 20.3)
The New Global Agenda

• The International Economy
  – Interdependency: Mutual dependency, in which the actions of nations reverberate and affect one another’s economic lifelines.
  – International Trade
    • Tariffs (a tax on imported goods) are used to protect American business.
    • NAFTA and GATT are ways to lower tariffs and increase trade.
  – Balance of Trade: The ratio of what is paid for imports to what is earned for exports.
Figure 20.4 Exports and Imports

Since 1975, the United States has imported more than it has exported, resulting in a mounting trade deficit.

The New Global Agenda

• The International Economy (continued)
  – Energy
    • America depends on imported oil, but not as much as other nations.
    • Much of the recoverable oil is in the Middle East which is often the site of military & economic conflicts.
    • OPEC controls the price of oil and amount its members produce and sell.
The New Global Agenda

• The International Economy (continued)
  – Foreign Aid
    • Foreign aid is used to stabilize nations friendly to the United States.
    • A substantial percentage of foreign aid is military.
    • Foreign aid has never been very popular with Americans.
Understanding National Security Policymaking

• National Security Policymaking and Democracy
  – Americans are more interested in domestic than foreign policy.
  – The opinions of the people are rarely ignored.
  – Pluralism is pervasive in foreign policymaking.

• Foreign and Defense Policymaking and the Scope of Government