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TOP SECRET

Unit Assessment: Create a U.S. Foreign Policy Strategy

Unit Questions

I. How and why does a nation determine foreign policy?

II. Is an isolationist or interventionist foreign policy best for the United States of America?

III. What role does diplomacy play in foreign policy?

Task: Your team will be presented with a situation involving a world crisis where the United States must choose a foreign policy. You will need to discuss the situation, study past foreign policy decisions and then write a proposed strategy for the U.S. President to consider during an emergency cabinet meeting.

Step 1: Read the classified foreign policy intelligence on the crisis situation, discuss/research, and then write your strategy. Follow the outline below and please type or write your plan on a separate document.

Foreign Policy Strategy Proposal Outline

SUMMARIZE your foreign policy plan and explain why it will be effective in this situation (Given the situation, our team recommends the following foreign policy strategy.... We suggest an isolationist policy of...)

Evidence #1:

Support your foreign policy strategy with **a first piece of evidence** from past U.S. Foreign policy decisions. What lesson learned from the early foreign policy decision can support your current plan?

Evidence #2:

Support your foreign policy strategy with **a second piece of evidence** from past U.S. Foreign policy decisions. What lesson learned from the early foreign policy decision can support your current plan?

Evidence #3:

Support your foreign policy decision with **a third piece of evidence** from past U.S. Foreign policy decisions. What lesson learned from the early foreign policy decision can support your current plan?

Conclusion: This is your last chance to explain why your foreign policy strategy will work.

Step 2: Orally present your Foreign Policy Strategy Proposal to “The President” during our emergency cabinet meeting.

Note: A cabinet meeting is more of a back and forth discussion and less of an official oral presentation. You will still need to be on your game, but in this format, your job is to convince the President your plan will be the best strategy for United States’ foreign policy.

U.S. Foreign Policy Options: Isolationist, Interventionist or something in the middle?

Interventionist Foreign Policy Strategies

War (What degree? A full-on ground troop invasion; a quick one-time military strike; military advisors, intelligence assistance)

Economic Pressure (embargos, trade sanctions, travel bans, freezing bank accounts)

Diplomacy: negotiating an agreement between nations or groups to resolve an issue.

Isolationist Foreign Policy Strategies

AMERICA FIRST: All policy decisions should benefit the United States. Limit military and economic help to nations in need. Does the decision benefit the United States?

Diplomacy: negotiating an agreement between nations or groups to resolve an issue. Leaving alliances, renegotiating treaties to have minimal involvement.

Include at least 3 supporting pieces of evidence from past U.S. Foreign Policy decisions.

What lesson learned from a past foreign policy decision can support your current plan?

Early U.S. Foreign Policy (Choose 2 as evidence for your proposal)

- Washington Presidency (Farewell Address: Jay Treaty)
- Adams Presidency (Undeclared War with France, XYZ Affair, Adam's diplomacy makes peace with France.
- Jefferson's Presidency (Barbary Pirates, Embargo against Britain)
- The Monroe Doctrine

Later U.S. Foreign Policy (choose 1 as evidence for your proposal)

- World War I
- World War II
- The Bay of Pigs
- The Vietnam War
- Operation Enduring Freedom/ The War on Terror
- Operation Iraqi Freedom/ The Iraq War

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Foreign Policy Crisis Option A

Since the end of World War II, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has joined the United States and 27 North American and European nations in a military alliance. Under Article 5 of the treaty, an attack against any NATO country “shall be considered an attack against them all.”

Yesterday, U.S. intelligence reported a British commercial airliner was shot down over the Pacific Ocean by the North Korean government. North Korean ruler, Kim Jong- Un, released a statement this morning explaining the British airliner had flown into North Korean airspace, and the attack was justified.

British Airways Flight 338
-136 people on board
-30 were U.S. Citizens

North Korea has long antagonized the United States and NATO nations. Although NATO intelligence reports say North Korea is far from developing nuclear weapons capability, they have ramped up their military exercises in recent months and they continue to display threatening behavior towards NATO nations.

Some realities to consider when drafting your foreign policy proposal:

- North Korea is a close ally of China. China is the U.S.’s largest trading partner and a peaceful relationship between our nations is crucial.
- North Korea is also a close ally of Russia. Russia and NATO nations have a history of tension. The original purpose of NATO was to defend against Russia’s spread of communism from 1945 – 1991. Since the 1990’s, NATO nations and Russia have enjoyed relative peace. However, in recent years, Russia has criticized NATO and the Russian President has pushed a more interventionist foreign policy in the Middle East and other regions of the world.
- The United States currently stations 28,500 American military troops across North Korea’s board in South Korea.
- Any foreign policy decision will need the support of the American people. Recent polls suggest Americans are weary of foreign interventions that cost both American lives and money. On the other hand, polls also show Americans want their government’s foreign policy to protect them against terrorist attacks.

Foreign Policy Crisis Option B

East Timor is an island located north of Australia in Southeast Asia. For many years, East Timor has been under the control of the regional power, Indonesia. Many people in East Timor have long desired being an independent nation free from Indonesia's political and military control. Many world powers, including the United States, have supported East Timor's push for independence. However, complicating the situation in East Timor are anti-independence militia groups loyal to Indonesia. These militia groups are heavily armed, well trained and they are willing to use violence to prevent any move towards independence.

Yesterday, East Timor held elections and a majority of the people voted to become an independent nation – separating from Indonesia's control. The vote was monitored by independent human rights groups, and it seems the results are legitimate – East Timor will be free!

This morning we received reports that immediately after the vote, armed anti-independence militias have retaliated by launching attacks against the East Timor people. Multiple reports verify gruesome massacres committed against innocent civilians and a wave of fear sweeping the nation. The militia groups warn of a continued "blood bath" if the East Timor people follow through with their independence from Indonesia.

The U.S.'s closest ally in the region, Australia, has requested our assistance in helping to stop this "blood bath" and guarantee Independence for the East Timor people.

Some realities to consider when drafting your foreign policy proposal:

- The anti-independence militias are most likely controlled by the Indonesian government. Any plan to deal with the militias should include the Indonesian government. Diplomacy will be a crucial part of the solution to this crisis.
- Australia is requesting the United States send troops for a peace keeping mission. The goal of this mission will be to disarm the militias, protect the East Timor people, and guarantee their independence. This mission will require some level of military assistance from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Central Intelligence Agency.
- Any foreign policy decision will need the support of the American people. Recent polls suggest Americans are weary of foreign interventions that cost both American lives and money. On the other hand, American foreign policy has long supported nations who seek independence and freedom.

