American Foreign Policy

What is “foreign policy”? What are some of the major “hot spots” around the world for the US?
What is “foreign policy”?

- Foreign policy is how one country interacts with another country / group of people – United States
- How are we (the US) viewed in the world today?
Why is foreign policy important?

- Number of reasons:
  - Trade / Economics
  - Military
  - Security
  - Crime / Punishment
  - Disasters
What is the goal of US foreign policy?

• “To create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people...”

• The US State Department
What branches / individuals control US foreign policy?

- Three (3) major parts:
  - The President
  - The Executive Officers
  - The Congress

- Each has an important role in developing US foreign policy
What does Congress do?

• Three (3) jobs:
  – Ratifying treaties
  – Declaring war
  – Funding

• Congressional committees:
  – Senate Foreign Relations
  – House International Affairs
What does the Executive Officers do?

- The Cabinet offers advice to the President on foreign affairs
- Major Officials
  - Sec. of State
  - Sec. of Defense
  - Joint Chiefs
  - CIA
  - Homeland Security
What is the President job for foreign affairs?

- Major jobs:
  - Chief Diplomat
  - Chief Spokesman
  - Commander-in-Chief

- The President sets the tone for the other branches of government
Are there other groups outside the government who influence foreign policy?

- There are a number:
  - Interest Groups
  - Business / Corporations
  - The Media
  - Private Citizens
What is America’s history in foreign policy?

- Prior to the Revolution:
  - Olive Branch Petition (1775)

- Post-Revolution
  - Monroe Doctrine (1823)
  - Manifest Destiny (1840’s - 1850’s)
The Monroe Doctrine (1823)
Manifest Destiny (1840’s - 1850’s)
What is America’s history in foreign policy?

- The 20th Century:
  - “Gunboat Diplomacy” (1900’s)
    - Alfred T Mahan
  - Roosevelt Corollary (1904)
    - Spanish American War
  - “Self-Determination” (1918)
    - World War I
  - Lend Lease (1940’s)
    - World War II
  - Containment (1950’s)
  - Truman Doctrine (1950’s)
    - Cold War
  - The New World Order (1990’s)
    - First Gulf War
“Gunboat Diplomacy” (1900’s)
Roosevelt Corollary (1904)
“Self-Determination” (1918)
Lend Lease (1940’s)
Containment (1950’s)
Truman Doctrine (1950’s)
The New World Order (1990’s)
What is American foreign policy since 9/11?

• Since 9/11, American foreign policy has revolved around two (2) competing doctrines:
  – The Bush Doctrine
  – The Obama Doctrine
What is the “Bush Doctrine”

- Invented by the media during the presidency of George W. Bush
  - 2001 - 2008
- The US “goes solo”
  - Conducting war
  - “pre-emptive strikes”
  - Regime change / “state building”
“Cowboy Diplomacy”
What is the “Obama Doctrine”

- Created by the media during the presidency of Barrack Obama - 2008 - ?
- The US “works well with others”
  - Collective Security (UN)
  - Diplomacy
  - No more nukes
  - More aid / education
“Modern Appeasement”
What are the current “hot spots” around the world for US foreign policy?

• Several major areas:
  – Middle East
    • Israel / Palestine
    • Iran
    • Iraq
    • Afghanistan
  – Asia
    • North Korea
    • China
  – Africa
    • Sudan / Darfur
  – Latin America
    • Venezuela