

# HANDOUT 1: ROLES AND GOALS

## **FOREIGN POLICY AIMS: POSSIBLE GOALS & ROLES**

Keep our nation and people safe from enemies

Protect our allies from enemies and domestic terror

Promote U.S. economic prosperity

Encourage international free trade

Protect the poor and weak from exploitation and human rights abuses

Protect our military and security interests around the world

Protect the global environment

Advance human rights around the world

Cooperate in maintaining international laws governing the behavior of nations

Maintain our status as the most militarily powerful nation

Promote capitalism and free markets

Protect our economy from unfair trade

Maintain international peace

Promote democracy and political freedom

# HANDOUT 2: NATIONAL INTEREST AND TOOLS OF FOREIGN POLICY CHARTS

## National Interest Breakdown Chart: A Partial List

Things that may be essential to the survival and wellbeing of the nation as a whole.

Security Interests include such things as:	Economic Interests include such things as:	Ideological Interests Include such things as:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting national borders</li> <li>ensuring the safety of citizens from harm by foreign enemies</li> <li>protecting allies</li> <li>protecting areas of military importance (military supply routes, allies that host military bases, etc.)</li> <li>protecting bases and sources of national power</li> <li>preventing foreign intrusions into your national territorial regions</li> <li>maintaining military power and capacity to project power where and as needed to protect national sovereignty and security interests</li> <li>maintaining knowledge regarding potential threats to national security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting and/or promoting an adequate standard of living for domestic citizens</li> <li>protecting and/or promoting adequate levels of domestic employment</li> <li>ensuring economic development and growth</li> <li>establishing trade relations with other nations</li> <li>protecting economic investment abroad and at home</li> <li>protecting the means and routes of trade</li> <li>protecting the competitiveness of key domestic industries</li> <li>maintaining economic power to ensure economic self-determination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting and/or promoting a just/moral way of life</li> <li>protecting and/or promoting a just/moral system of politics, law, and government</li> <li>protecting and/or promoting a just/moral economic system</li> <li>protecting and/or promoting the cultural and/or religious values of a nation or a people</li> <li>advancing and protecting a universal conception of freedom, justice, progress and/or human dignity</li> </ul>

## Tools of Foreign Policy

### Tools of Intelligence and Information:

- Information and intelligence gathering
- Dissemination of information, analysis, and ideas
- Dissemination of propaganda and misinformation

### Tools of Diplomacy:

- Cultural and scientific exchanges
- Offering diplomatic recognition. Expelling/recalling diplomats. Holding or withdrawing from diplomatic exchanges and discussions
- Joining or withdrawing from negotiations, treaties, summit meetings
- Offering or joining alliances, membership in international and regional organizations
- Suspending or withdrawing from alliances, membership in international and regional organizations

### Tools of aid, economic development, and trade:

- Provision or withholding of humanitarian aid, technical/engineering/scientific/professional assistance

- Economic and trade relations inducements, development aid, trade treaties, creation of trade zones, help in attracting investments
- Economic and trade sanctions, tariffs, quotas, restrictions on investment, trade restrictions, bans on specific imports, general import bans, seizure of bank accounts and financial assets

### Tools of military influence, power, or force

- Joining or offering military alliances or security pacts, provision of military foreign aid or military technical assistance and training. Withdrawing from military alliances or security pacts, suspending or ending military foreign aid, or military technical assistance and training
- Secret paramilitary operations, assassinations (e.g. Navy Seals, drone strikes, etc.)
- Military buildups, mobilizations, troop movements, test weapons firings, shows of strength
- Blockades, armed intervention
- War

# HANDOUT 3: FOREIGN POLICY CASE STUDIES

## FOREIGN POLICY CASE STUDIES

- 1. The crisis in Syria:** The current crisis in Syria began on March 15, 2011 with nationwide demonstrations demanding an end to nearly 50 years of Ba'ath Party rule and the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad, the current leader who inherited his father's one-party regime. In April 2011, al-Assad ordered the Syrian Army to put down the uprising; the army opened fire on demonstrators. Al-Assad's action sparked armed rebellion and some rebel groups received military aid from foreign countries. Reports circulated of up to 28,000 civilians missing; allegedly, many of those missing were forcibly abducted by government troops or security forces. Also alleged by multiple sources was widespread torture in state prisons where tens of thousands of protesters were incarcerated. The United Nations has labeled the conflict with the legal definition of civil war and in January 2013 put the death toll at over 60,000. Meanwhile, some rebel groups have also been accused of human rights abuses and in February, 2013 an unidentified rebel group exploded three car bombs in the capital killing dozens of civilians. Assad's use of violence has been condemned by the Arab League, United States, European Union, and Arab Gulf States. The US and its NATO allies have insisted that al-Assad's regime must go and al-Assad himself must step down. Russia and China have consistently blocked any United Nations resolutions that would impose sanctions on Syria to force al-Assad out. Al-Assad along with his domestic and foreign supporters claim that al-Assad's removal from power would not only fail to end the civil war but would in fact make it even worse as Syrian factions long hostile to one another would fight to fill the vacuum left in the absence of Ba'ath Party rule.
- 2. Cuban-U.S. relations:** The commercial, economic, and financial embargo that the U.S. imposed on Cuba in the wake of the island's successful 1962 Communist revolution against the anti-communist dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista was supposed to undermine the totalitarian rule of Fidel Castro and, according to the U.S. State Department, "promote a peaceful transition to a stable, democratic government and respect for human rights in Cuba"; in the 50 years since, the embargo has failed to achieve its intended goal. The communist government of Cuba under the leadership of Fidel Castro and his designated successor, bother Raul Castro, is a one-party regime that denies basic political freedoms and rights to Cuban citizens. Cuba imposes tightly restricted avenues for political expression; political dissent is quickly silenced and often harshly punished. Political parties opposed to Castro's Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) are outlawed by the Cuban constitution—would-be organizers and leaders of parties other than the PCC are imprisoned as criminals. Although the Cuban government has helped the tiny Caribbean nation achieve one of the highest rates of literacy in the world and has established health care and advanced medical research surpassing all other Caribbean nations, Cubans enjoy no guarantees of freedom of the press or freedom of association and they can be dismissed from their jobs if they express dissident political views. However, the United Nations has denounced the U.S. embargo on Cuba; all other countries have established normal relations with Cuba. Some foreign policy experts say it is time to for the U.S. to end the embargo and negotiate normal trade agreements; others say we must not reward a communist dictator with the benefits of trade with the U.S.
- 3. The use of drones:** The Obama administration has taken credit for successful attacks on al-Qaeda hideouts and bases and killing individual leaders of terrorist cells in Somalia, Yemen and especially Pakistan—successes achieved through stepping up the use of Reaper and Predator drones. Drones are used for these operations because they are unmanned aerial weapons that are operated remotely and can strike with great accuracy but little or no warning for the targets. But a 2012 report by legal experts at Stanford and New York University harshly criticizes the drone program for its affect on non-combatant civilians. Under international law, nations at war must take great precautions to make sure that civilians are not killed. According to the numbers in the 2012 report, U.S. precautions to prevent the killing of civilians are failing. The report claims that over the past eight years more than 345 strikes have hit Pakistan's tribal areas, but barely 2 percent of the strike victims were known militants. Contrary to the report, the Obama administration claims that civilian casualties and deaths are rare and that the drone program has been a success. Outgoing Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta argues that the military has been "very successful at going after the leadership" of al Qaeda. While supporters of the drone program assert that it is necessary to allow the U.S. to take out threats to our security without risking the lives of military personnel, opponents say that the drone program sets a bad precedent for extra-judicial killings and violence against civilians—unintended though it may be—at a time when many nations are building up their own arsenals of unmanned weapons.

Read your group's assigned scenario then discuss the questions on the back.

## FOREIGN POLICY CASE STUDIES (QUESTIONS AND SOURCES)

### Questions to consider:

1. What issues involving U.S. interests were raised in the case study you read?
  2. Imagine that you could make U.S. foreign policy recommendations to the President; what would you say to explain your idea of National Interest and how it relates to this case? What goal would you recommend the President pursue in addressing the issues raised in the case you read?
  3. Looking at the Tools of Foreign Policy, what tools do you think would be most effective in achieving your goal? What tools would you recommend the President use in addressing the issues in this case?
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### ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

#### “The crisis in Syria”

“Syria — Uprising and Civil War,” *New York Times, Times Topics* (nytimes.com/pages/topics), “World” section.

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/syria/index.html>

“Car Bomb in Damascus Kills Dozens, Opposition Says,” by Anne Barnard and Rick Gladstone in *New York Times* (nytimes.com), February 21, 2013.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/22/world/middleeast/car-bomb-in-damascus-kills-dozens-opposition-says.html?pagewanted=all>

#### “Cuban-U.S. relations”

“U.S.-Cuba Relations,” *U.S. State Department Archive* (2001-2009.state.gov) Fact Sheet, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, May 1, 2001. <http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/2001/2558.htm>

“U.N. urges end to U.S. Cuba embargo for 21st year,” by Louis Charbonneau in *Reuters News Service* (www.reuters.com), November 13, 2012.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/13/us-cuba-embargo-un-idUSBRE8AC11820121113>

#### “Use of drones”

“New Stanford/NYU study documents the civilian terror from Obama’s drones,” by Glenn Greenwald in *The Guardian* (guardian.co.uk), September 25, 2012. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/sep/25/study-obama-drone-deaths>

*Living Under Drones: Death, Injury, and Trauma to Civilians from US Drone Practices in Pakistan*, Report by the International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic (Stanford Law School) and the Global Justice Clinic (NYU School of Law), September, 2012.

(PDF copy available at [http:// livingunderdrones.org/](http://livingunderdrones.org/) )

“Predator Drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs),” *New York Times, Times Topics* (nytimes.com/pages/topics), [http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/u/unmanned\\_aerial\\_vehicles/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/u/unmanned_aerial_vehicles/index.html)