

# American Foreign Policy Since 1945

## Fall 2007

Professor Andrew J. Bacevich

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-4:00

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**Course objectives.** In this course we will do four things:

First, identify the overarching themes of the American diplomatic tradition.

Second, trace the evolution of U. S. foreign policy from the end of World War II to the present.

Third, assess the causes and consequences of the U. S. failure in Vietnam.

Fourth, examine the origins and evolution of U. S. relations with the Islamic world, culminating with the ongoing global war on terror.

**Course requirements.**

Class attendance (10%)

Pop quizzes (20%)

Book review (30%) **(due at the beginning of Lesson 14)**

Final exam (40%)

**Course administration.**

Attendance at all meetings of the course is required. Inform me if circumstances will prevent you from coming to class.

Students must submit written assignments on time. Late submissions are subject to penalties.

Students are expected to adhere to all provisions of the CAS Academic Code.

The last date for dropping the course is lesson 5, for withdrawing is lesson 8.

## Principal texts.

Andrew J. Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U. S. Diplomacy* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2002).

Peter L. Hahn, *Crisis and Crossfire: The United States and the Middle East Since 1945* (2005).

George Herring, *America's Longest War* (4th edition, New York, 2001).

Ralph B. Levering, *The Cold War: A Post-Cold War History* (2d edition, 2005)

Alan McPherson, *Intimate Ties, Bitter Struggles: The United States and Latin America Since 1945* (2006).

**On a daily basis, students should also read either the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, or *Boston Globe*, focusing on world and national news.**

### Lesson 1. Legacies of World War II

Levering, Prologue

Bacevich, Introduction and Chapter 1

### Lesson 2. Origins of the Cold War

Levering, pp. 14-25

Melvyn P. Leffler, "The American Conception of National Security and the Beginnings of the Cold War," *American Historical Review* 89 (April 1984), pp. 346-381, available at [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org).

### Lesson 3. Strategy of Containment

Levering, pp. 25-35

Harry S. Truman, "Speech Announcing the Truman Doctrine," March 12, 1947, [www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multi/texts/historical/truman.txt](http://www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multi/texts/historical/truman.txt)

Mr. X, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947), <http://www.historyguide.org/europe/kennan.html>

### Lesson 4. Into the Middle East

Hahn, Chapter 1 and Documents 1-3

## Lesson 5. The Cold War in Asia

Levering, pp. 35-46

Herring, Chapter 1

Dean Acheson, "The United States Position on China,"

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1949-acheson-china.html>

"NSC 68: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security,"

<http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsc-hst/nsc-68.htm> April 7, 1950.

## Lesson 6. Massive Retaliation and the New Look

Levering, pp. 47-75.

David Alan Rosenberg, "The Origins of Overkill," *International Security* 7 (Spring 1983), pp. 3-71, available at [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org).

Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Farewell Address," January 17, 1961,

<http://www.eisenhower.utexas.edu/farewell.htm>

## Lesson 7. From TPAJAX to the Eisenhower Doctrine

Hahn, Chapters 2-3 and Document 4

James Risen, "The CIA in Iran," sections I-VII,

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/06/20020601-3.html>

## Lesson 8. Colossus of the North

McPherson, Chapter 1 and Documents 1-2.

## Lesson 9. Camelot

Levering, pp. 75-90

John F. Kennedy, "Inaugural Address," January 20, 1961,

<http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres56.html>

McPherson, Document 4

## Lesson 10. Cuba

McPherson, Chapter 2 and Documents 6-10.

Lesson 11. Israel: Origins of a Special Relationship

Hahn, Chapter 4 and Documents 5-13

Lesson 12. Vietnam I

Herring, Chapters 2-3

Lesson 13. Vietnam II

Herring, Chapters 4-6

Lesson 14. Detente (**Book reviews due**)

Levering, Chapter 3.

Jimmy Carter, "Human Rights and Foreign Policy," 1977,

[www.civnet.org/resources/teach/basic/part8/55.htm](http://www.civnet.org/resources/teach/basic/part8/55.htm)

Lesson 15. China

Nancy Bernkopf Tucker, "China and America, 1941-1991,"

<http://fullaccess.foreignaffairs.org/19911201faessay6114/nancy-bernkopf-tucker/china-and-america-1941-1991.html>

Lesson 16. Vietnam III

Herring, Chapters 7-8

Lesson 17. Iran and Afghanistan

Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Reflections on Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan" (December 26, 1979),

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/episodes/20/documents/brez.carter/>

Jimmy Carter, "Crisis in Confidence Speech," July 15, 1979,

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/carter/filmmore/ps\\_crisis.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/carter/filmmore/ps_crisis.html)

Jimmy Carter, "State of the Union Address," January 23, 1980,

<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/documents/speeches/su80jec.phtml>

Lesson 18. Peace Process I

Hahn, Documents 14-16

## Lesson 19. Evil Empire

Levering, Chapter 4

Ronald Reagan, "Evil Empire Speech," June 8, 1982,  
<http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/resource/speeches/1982/60882a.htm>

Ronald Reagan, "Star Wars Speech," March 23, 1983,  
<http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/resource/speeches/1983/32383d.htm>

## Lesson 20. Reagan Doctrine in the Western Hemisphere

McPherson, Chapters 3-4 and Documents 11-19..

## Lesson 21. Winding Down the Cold War

Levering, Epilogue

John Prados, "Notes on the CIA's Secret War in Afghanistan,"  
<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/89.2/prados.html>

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," *Foreign Affairs* (America and the World, 1990-1991),  
<http://fullaccess.foreignaffairs.org/19910201faessay6067/charles-krauthammer/the-unipolar-moment.html>

## Lesson 22. Iraq

Stephen R. Shalom, "The United States and the Iran-Iraq War,"  
<http://www.zmag.org/zmag/articles/ShalomIranIraq.html>

## Lesson 23. Age of Globalization

Bacevich, Chapters 2-4

McPheerson, Document 20.

## Lesson 24. Pax Americana

Bacevich, Chapters 5-8

## Lesson 25. Peace Process Reengaged

Hahn, Document 17

## Lesson 26. Origins of the Global War on Terror

Norman Podhoretz, "World War IV," *Commentary* (September 2004)

Andrew J. Bacevich, "The Real World War IV," *The Wilson Quarterly* (Winter 2005)

## Lesson 27. War for the Imperium

Bacevich, Chapter 9

George W. Bush, "Speech at West Point" (June 2002),  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/06/20020601-3.html>

"The National Security Strategy of the United States of America" (2002)  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html>

Hahn, Documents 20-22

**Book review.** Using a maximum of 1000 words, review one of the following books. A book review requires you to do three things: 1) identify and “place” the author; 2) describe the contents of the book; 3) critically engage the argument that the author presents.

Anonymous, *Imperial Hubris*

Timothy Garton Ash, *Free World*

Peter Beinart, *The Good Fight*

Morris Berman, *Dark Ages America*

Patrick Buchanan, *A Republic Not An Empire*

Noam Chomsky, *Hegemony or Survival*

Ivan Eland, *The Empire Has No Clothes*

Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, *Cobra II*

Colin S. Gray, *The Sheriff*

Seymour M. Hersh, *Chain of Command*

Michael Hirsh, *At War With Ourselves*

Stanley Hoffmann, *Gulliver Unbound*

Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire*

John Judis, *The Folly of Empire*

Robert D. Kaplan, *Imperial Grunts*

Stephen Kinzer, *Overthrow*

Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong*

Robert Jay Lifton, *Superpower Syndrome*

James Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans*

Michael Mann, *Incoherent Empire*

Robert W. Merry, *Sands of Empire*

T. Christian Miller, *Blood Money*

William E. Odom and Robert Dujarric, *America's Inadvertent Empire*

George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate*

Clyde Prestowitz, *Rogue Nation*

Norman Podhoretz, *World War IV*

Thomas E. Ricks, *Fiasco*

Ron Suskind, *The One Percent Doctrine*

Emmanuel Todd, *After the Empire*

Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Decline of American Power*