

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Foreign policy	
Realist – Idealist dichotomy	Revisionism
Status Quo	Unilateralism
USAID	Alliance for Progress
“Dollar Diplomacy”	“Good Neighbor Policy”
Isolationism / Internationalism	Monroe Doctrine
Marshall Plan	Truman Doctrine
Military-Industrial Complex	Bush Doctrine
The “5 Components”	Trump Doctrine
National interest	Biden Doctrine?

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. According to Ben Norton, what are the various ways the concept of “multipolarity” are defined? Why do countries like the United States and China have such different ways of approaching the concept? Which approach seems to be the more likely way humanity will move into the future? What are you hoping for?
2. What is America’s “national interest”? Of the list of 5 given earlier, rank them in order of importance and explain why they should be ranked in that order. Feel free to add any you feel are important and remove any that are not.
3. Should America follow a realist or idealist foreign policy? Isolationist or internationalist? Do these terms have any real meaning today?
4. Lauria notes at the end of the article that “Cecil Rhodes spirit is revived. But it is a very different world than his.” What do you think he means by this? Is he correct?
5. Hunt believes that the recent discussion with four former Middle East diplomats revealed that “...basic U.S. policy was to maintain a U.S.-led system of regional order so the U.S. [can continue to] influence how all parts of the world gained access to the region’s oil.” What do you think? A good idea?
6. Bellamy-Foster argues that “[t]he billionaire ruling class of the [U.S.] has...shifted it’s support from liberal democracy to neofascism, or at best to a neofascist-neoliberal alliance.” Is he correct, and why or why not in your opinion?
7. How does Selfa’s analysis conflict with that of neoconservatives? What would Selfa’s primary objection be to their thesis that America is surrounded by enemies?

**Readings:**

WEB – Readings from the “US Foreign Policy” links.

**Video:**

*In Whose Interest?*