

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Foreign policy	National interest
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

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. 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.
2. Should America follow a realist or idealist foreign policy? Isolationist or internationalist? Do these terms have any real meaning in 2007?
3. What two theoretical forces does Krauthammer see as “converging” in the contemporary era? Do you support his logic of supporting undemocratic dictators?
4. What does Ferguson mean by the term “apolarity”? How does this differ from uni-, bi-, multi-polarity? Do you agree that it constitutes a more dangerous world condition?
5. Examine Parenti’s argument. What is he stressing that we take into account when analyzing any chosen foreign policy of the United States? Do you agree/disagree this provides a more “fruitful” analysis?
6. How does Selfa’s analysis conflict with that of Krauthammer? What would Selfa’s primary objection be to Krauthammer’s thesis? Of the two, who gave the other author a spanking?
7. Michael Burns’ documentary focuses mostly on the differences between *preemptive* versus *preventive* war. Which do you think is at the heart of the U.S. National Security Strategy of 2006, and is it the proper strategy to adopt?

**Readings:**

Krauthammer. “The Neoconservative Convergence.” *Commentary*, July / August 2005.  
Ferguson. “A World Without Power.” *Foreign Policy*. July / August 2004.  
Parenti. “The Logic of U.S. Intervention.” *Masters of War*. 2003.  
Selfa. “U.S. Middle East Policy: Democratic Illusions.” *ISR*. May / June 2005

**Video:**

*Preventive Warriors*, a documentary film by Michael Burns.