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The framers of the Constitution granted power to make foreign policy to the national government, not the states. They further divided authority for foreign policy between the president and Congress.

The president is commander in chief of the military, but Congress funds the military and formally declares war. The president appoints ambassadors and other key foreign policy officials, while the Senate confirms those appointments.

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The executive branch determines foreign and defence policy. The president relies on the expertise of the National Security Council and his cabinet. The Department of State is generally in charge of formulating foreign policy. The Department of Defence formulates military policy, and the Department of Homeland Security straddles both policies.

The intelligence community comprises all the agencies involved in the collection and analysis of information. The Central Intelligence Agency had been the head of the intelligence community until the Director of National Intelligence was created after the 9/11 attacks. The DNI is aided in its efforts by the FBI, The Department of Homeland Security, and the National Security Agency.

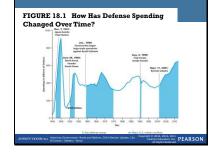


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Congress does not have as much influence over foreign policy as the president does. It can hold hearings to monitor agency actions and conduct "fact-finding" missions abroad.

Treaties require Senate approval, and it is rare that the Senate does not approve them. Presidents have used executive agreements when they want to avoid getting the Senate's approval.

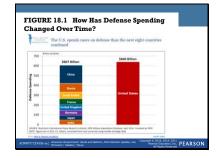
The Senate does approve key presidential foreign policy appointments, however, and it also controls financing, so it could, in theory, cut funding for a military operation.

In 1973, Congress passed the War Powers Resolution to place restraints on the executive branch in conducting military interventions in foreign countries. It requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours of most troop overseas deployment. Most presidents have ignored the resolution, but its constitutionality has not been tested in the courts.

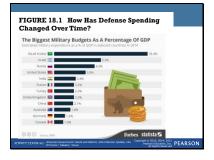
Defense spending was at its highest absolute levels during World War II. Today, as a result of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it continues to stand at relatively high levels, about \$644 billion constant dollars in 2010.

Source: Mackenzie Eaglen, "U.S. Defense Spending: The Mismatch Between Plans and Resources," The Heritage Foundation (June 7, 2010): www.heritage.org.





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The Judiciary's role in foreign and defence policy is limited. The Court tends to dismiss disputes over foreign policy as political in nature, and it tends to be deferential to the president in times of war or threats to security.

For example, during the Civil War, the Supreme Court allowed Lincoln to deploy troops without a Congressional declaration of war. And in World War II the Court upheld the internment of Japanese Americans for security reasons.

But in the case of Guantanamo Bay, the offshore detainment center in Cuba, rulings have been mixed, with some suggesting detainees cannot be kept indefinitely while other rulings have said they can.



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ATWAYS'LEARNING American Government	Pearson Update, 12e Pearson	016, 2014, 2011 n Education, Inc. Richts Reserved

The federal government isn't the only party involved in foreign policy. Interest groups are also very active. We can break down the foreign policy interest groups into four categories.

Business groups, especially those connected to the defence industry, are active in foreign policy. Ethnic interest groups, such as the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Cuban-American National Foundation, work to influence foreign policy.

The third group includes foreign governments and companies, which work to acquire foreign aid and prevent hostile legislation. Finally, there are ideological public interest groups, such as think tanks and nongovernmental organizations. Examples include the think tanks Brookings Institution and Heritage Foundation, as well as nongovernment organizations Amnesty International and Greenpeace.

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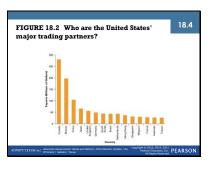


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When it comes to trade, countries tend to be protectionist, or engage in either strategic trade or free trade, although many countries mix some or all of these into their policies. Under protectionism, a country limits the import of foreign goods. Under strategic policy, governments target industries they want to see grow and support them using tax breaks or other benefits. Under free trade, there is limited government interference in trade.

The North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, is an example. Finally, there are global free trade agreements, such as the World Trade Organization.

In its bilateral trade relationship with the U.S., China has grown dramatically over the last three decades, but there are three issues of concern: the loss of American jobs, the trade deficit, and the safety of Chinese imports.

NAFTA Pros & Cons

The United States exports more goods to Canada than any other country. China, Mexico, and Japan also account for large shares of U.S. exports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics.



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