

The U.S. Role in a Changing World

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with discussion of the post-World War II international system that the United States helped to create.
- Examines the Cold War and how its end impacted U.S. foreign policy.

STUDENT TEXT

- Provides summaries of select issues: COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, malaria, hunger and malnutrition, climate change, Global North and Global South, economic instability, and globalization.
- Defines the roles of supra-national organizations like the United Nations, NATO, economic institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank, and the European Community/European Union.
- Examines several pressing issues facing the United States and the world today: the economy, public health and the environment, international relations, and human rights.
- Explores the effects of 9/11 on U.S. policy and the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.
- Examines current security concerns including global competition for power, nuclear weapons, terrorism, and cybersecurity.

CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

Question: What should be the U.S. role in the world?

Setting: U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Compare** leading thinkers' views of the world system and the U.S. position.
- **Analyze** short quotations from American presidents about the U.S. role in the world and then compare and contrast diverse perspectives about the idea of American exceptionalism.
- **Evaluate** political speeches about the New World Order.
- **Analyze** political cartoons for perspectives.
- **Examine** three case studies of U.S. military interventions.
- **Analyze** the constitutional and legal basis for the War on Terror and consider the roles of the public as well as the executive and legislative branches.
- **Collaborate** with classmates to synthesize readings, lessons, and position profiles into class presentations.
- **Listen** actively and deliberate with peers about the complex viewpoints expressed.
- **Reflect** and write their own position paper and share it with their Congressional representatives.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).