

Week 5: Alliances & Foreign Policy Today

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:29 AM

Name: _____ Class Period: _____

Learning Goals:

1. Describe three main types of alliances and provide examples.
2. Evaluate the two primary candidate's positions on different foreign policy methods.

Lesson 1: Alliances

An alliance is simply an agreement by two or more countries to cooperate to each other's benefit. Most countries do not enter into alliances unless each country feels they will get something out of the deal. There are three basic types of alliances.

1. **Military Alliance:** focused on the security. Countries mutually agree to support and protect each other in times of crisis. Or sometimes, it can be an agreement where two rival countries simply promise not to attack the other (hint: one always ends up attacking the other).
2. **Economic Alliance:** focused on money and improving the global economy. It often includes agreements by countries to buy each other's goods or not to tax certain goods imported into one country or another.
3. **Political Alliance:** focused on policies that do not fall under the military or the economy. For example, policies on climate change. Certain countries may agree to a plan to reduce carbon emissions and all sign the same treaty. Many types of agreements can fall under the term 'political alliance'.

Q1: It should be easy enough to remember the different types of alliances. Come up with one word per alliance that you might use to remember it:

Military	Economic	Political

Since the end of World War II, the United States has led the way in forming numerous alliances that are believed to increase our national security. The fundamental idea is that the more connected we are to other countries, the less likely those countries will come into conflict with us or our allies. It hasn't always worked. Let's look at some examples.

Military Alliance:

NATO – the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an alliance entered into following World War II. The Soviet Union (Russia and the 'satellite' countries it controlled) were the only other "Super Power" nation left other than the United

States. We were a republic and capitalist. They were autocratic communists. We did not mix and both countries wrestled for control and influence over Europe and the world (more on that later). NATO was initially established as a defensive alliance. If the Soviet Union were to attack or invade any NATO country, all other NATO countries would come to their aid. In this way, the Soviet Union was less likely to attack. (Yes, they formed their own military alliance called the Warsaw Pact that said the same thing about the United States and its allies).

ALBANIA (2009)	GREECE (1952)	NORWAY (1949)
BELGIUM (1949)	HUNGARY (1999)	POLAND (1999)
BULGARIA (2004)	ICELAND (1949)	PORTUGAL (1949)
CANADA (1949)	ITALY (1949)	ROMANIA (2004)
CROATIA (2009)	LATVIA (2004)	SLOVAKIA (2004)
CZECH REPUBLIC (1999)	LITHUANIA (2004)	SLOVENIA (2004)
DENMARK (1949)	LUXEMBOURG (1949)	SPAIN (1982)
ESTONIA (2004)	MONTENEGRO (2017)	TURKEY (1952)
FRANCE (1949)	NETHERLANDS (1949)	THE UNITED KINGDOM (1949)
GERMANY (1955)	NORTH MACEDONIA (2020)	THE UNITED STATES (1949)

NATO Members

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in the very early 1990's, NATO has struggled to find its identity. How can you be a defensive military alliance against the Soviets if they aren't there anymore? However, following the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, NATO for the first and only time in history called on its members to aid the United States in its initial war on terror. NATO since then has been focused on peacekeeping missions and continues to protect its members from threats of Russian aggression.



Q2: Over the last few years, President Trump has questioned NATO's value. Here is a link to an article that discusses the recent NATO meeting. Read the article and answer the following questions: [Link to News Article](#)

According to the article:

What is President Trump's concern about NATO?	
What event prompted member nations to increase their defense spending?	
According to Nicholas Burns and Douglas Lute, what is NATO's biggest threat?	
According to the chart, how many countries actually spend the minimum 2% of their GDP in 2018?	
President Trump has threatened to pull out of NATO altogether. Based on what we have learned, what do you think?	

****For those of you who do not have access to the above article (I have a list, I know. So those that do have access don't do this) complete this alternate assignment:

Q2 Packet Alternative: 1) in your own words, describe what NATO is and it's history in a short paragraph. 2) Think: how does this type of alliance benefit the United States even though most all the member countries are in Europe.

BREAK

Lesson 2: Economic & Political Alliances

Economic Alliances

- ◇ Foreign competition has led the U.S. to seek ways to **improve** its position in the global economy.
- ◇ The U.S. has joined a few international efforts that support trade and promote peaceful interaction among nations:
 - ◇ The U.S. signed the **North American Free Trade Agreement** (NAFTA) , which allows free trade among the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.
 - ◇ WTO (**World Trade Organization**)- Supervises international trade

NAFTA is the biggest economic alliance the United States is in. It allows for the (mostly) free flow of goods between the borders of the three North American countries. Recently, NAFTA has been tweaked and renamed by President Trump the USMCA, or the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Here’s a brief overview of what’s in it:

- **Country of origin rules:** Automobiles must have 75 percent of their components manufactured in Mexico, the US, or Canada to qualify for zero tariffs (up from 62.5 percent under NAFTA).
- **Labor provisions:** 40 to 45 percent of automobile parts must be made by workers who earn at least \$16 an hour by 2023. Mexico agreed to pass new labor laws to give greater protections to workers, including migrants and women. Most notably, these laws are supposed to make it easier for Mexican workers to unionize.
- **US farmers get more access to the Canadian dairy market:** The US got Canada to open up its dairy market to US farmers, a big issue for Trump.
- **Intellectual property and digital trade:** The deal extends the terms of copyright to 70 years beyond the life of the author (up from 50). It also includes new provisions to deal with the digital economy, such as prohibiting duties on things like music and ebooks, and protections for internet companies so they’re not liable for content their users produce.
- **Sunset clause:** The agreement adds a 16-year sunset clause — meaning the terms of the agreement expire, or “sunset,” after 16 years. The deal is also subject to a review every six years, at which point the US, Mexico, and Canada can decide to extend the USMCA.

Trade deals are complicated. Each nation is trying to balance economic growth with the ability to keep high employment. When a factory in Mexico can make a part much cheaper than one in the United States, then most manufacturers will buy the part in Mexico.

Q3: Which detail about the new USMCA deal listed above might make car factories in America less likely to buy parts from Mexico over the next 3 or more years? It's tricky – ask your parents. I know they love questions about economic trade policy. I will be doing a video on this and sending it out. No worries.

BREAK

Lesson 3: Other organizations that help with our foreign policy

Q4: Use your online resources to tell me the name of the alliance or organization below (first column) and then the purpose and important details of that organization (third column). The only information I have given you is the initials of the organization.

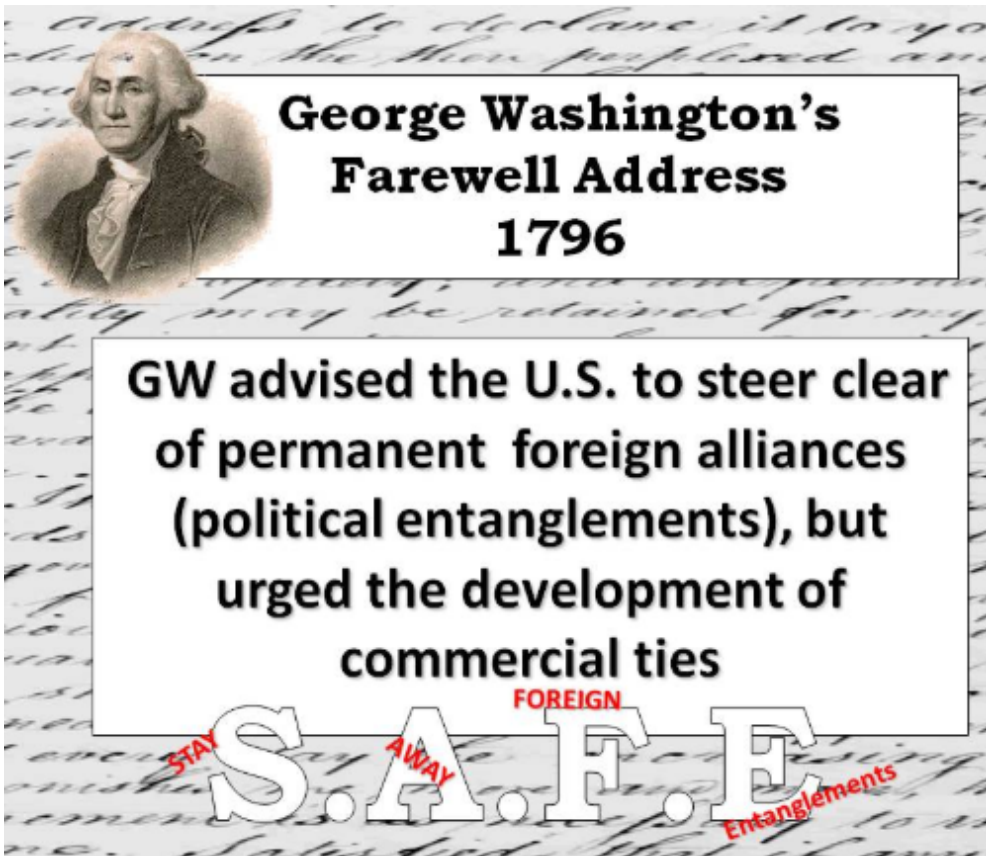
	NAFTA	
	NATO	

	IRC	
	UN	
	UNICEF	
	ICJ	
	WTO	

BREAK

Lesson 4: Isolationism vs. Internationalism

Many of our foreign decisions today have been reduced to us v.s. them. Or, isolationism v.s. internationalism. Isolationism is exactly what it sounds like. It is the basic belief that America should come first. Our resources, energy, money, and ingenuity should be for us. Our first President, George Washington, and our current President, Donald Trump, are isolationists. President Trump has re-popularized the saying "America First".



George Washington's Farewell Address 1796

GW advised the U.S. to steer clear of permanent foreign alliances (political entanglements), but urged the development of commercial ties

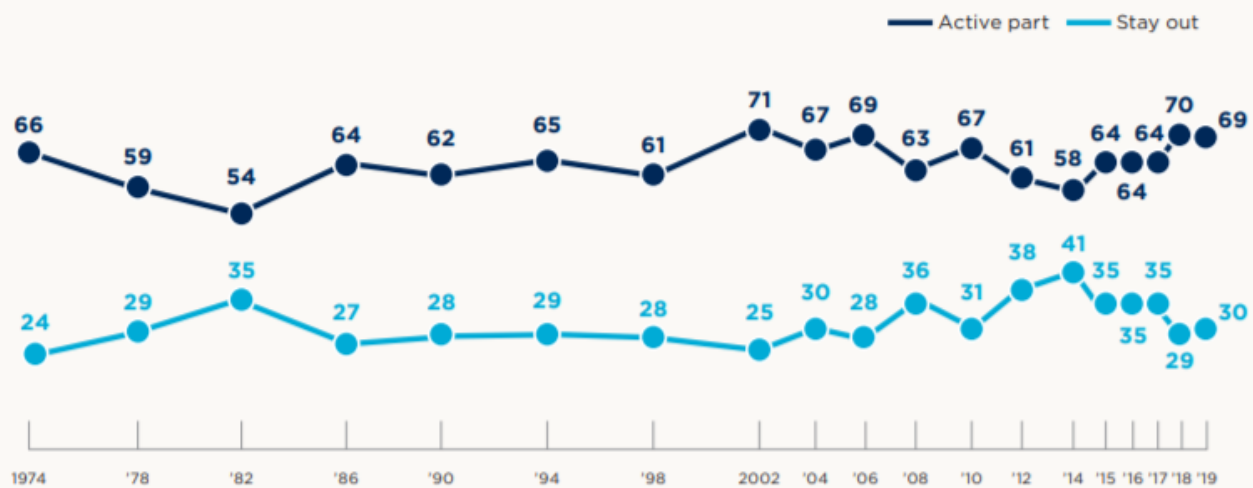
S.A.F.E. (Stay Away From Entanglements)

Q5) Opinion Question: The world has changed a lot since George Washington. Do you think he would hold the same views today given how much has changed globally? What new technologies might change his mind or perhaps reinforce his isolationist opinion?

Figure A: **US Role in World Affairs**

Do you think it will be best for the future of the country if we take an active part in world affairs or if we stay out of world affairs? (%)

n = 2,059



Note: Figures may not sum to 100 due to rounding, as well as the exclusion of "don't know" and other responses.

2019 Chicago Council Survey

Q6: What does the data in the chart above reveal about how American's feel?

Q7: Does the data show the American public support President Trump's "America First" policies? Why or why not?

Q8: Opinion: Given the global pandemic of Covid-19, do you think that is a reason to become more isolationist or do you feel that an international approach is required to beat the virus? Or both? Explain.

BREAK

Lesson 5: Review of Organizations

If you're doing the packet offline and can't access the video below, create a set of flashcards of organizations found on the last page.

Otherwise, watch the following video and complete your own flashcards for each of the organizations. There will be an assessment next week based on this week's lesson and this video.

[International Organizations Governmental and NGOs](#)

1. **European Union:** an organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members
2. **intergovernmental organization:** an organization formed with groups of governments for a specific purpose
3. **International Red Cross/Red Crescent:** an organization that helps people around the world respond to natural disasters and that checks on the conditions of prisoners of war
4. **non-governmental organization (NGO):** a voluntary citizens' group that is organized on a local, national or international level and perform a variety of humanitarian functions
5. **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA):** a formal agreement among the governments of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to form a free trade zone in North America and eliminate taxes on the buying and selling of each other's products
6. **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** a group of 28 countries that has agreed to protect each other militarily in case of attack
7. **United Nations (UN):** an organization founded in 1943 to keep the peace, develop friendly relationships among countries, and improve the quality of life for the world's poor people; consists of 193 member countries
8. **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF):** an agency of the United Nations established in 1946 to help governments improve the health and education of children and their mothers
9. **World Bank:** an organization whose goal is to limit poverty around the world. They do this by loaning developing countries money to invest in business and infrastructure
10. **World Court:** Court who handles cases where two or more nations are in conflict
11. **World Health Organization:** an organization that works to improve health throughout the world
12. **World Trade Organization (WTO):** an organization founded in 1995 to promote international trade and economic development