

Seeing the Big Picture: One Hundred Years of U.S. Foreign Policy 1920 – 2019

<i>Pre- World War II U.S. Foreign Affairs and Selected Domestic Occurrences</i>		<i>Domestic Events</i>
1920 - 1929	The U.S. pursues policies of Neutrality and Isolationism after World War I – avoiding active engagement in overseas conflict. * Note: the U.S. had avoided involvement in European wars until 1917 when it entered World War I. After World War I, the U.S. adopted policies that, again, distanced America from military commitments in European affairs. During the 1930's, however, the rise of aggressive powers such as Germany and Italy in Europe and Japan in Asia triggered the outbreak of World War II. The U.S. was thrust into the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. After the war, the U.S. sponsored the creation of the United Nations – headquartered in the U.S. – to help prevent future wars. And, in 1949, the U.S. formed NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) to oppose the now aggressive Soviet Union.	1920s -Model T cars revolutionize travel Radio broadcasting begins Jazz and Flappers Stock Market Crash 1930s- The Great Depression
1935 - 1939	The origins of World War II can be traced to Japan's attacks on China that began in 1931. The war started in Europe in 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The U.S. avoided direct military involvement in the war until 1941.	By 1942, the U.S. is engaged in total war involving all elements of society
1940 - 1944	The 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii brought the U.S. into World War II. From 1941 – 1945, U.S. fought in Europe and Asia to defeat Germany, Japan and their allies. (The U.S. fought as a member of an alliance called the United Nations that included many nations, but the major powers allied with the U.S. were the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.)	“Rosie the Riveter” represents women's work in war industries

Selected Post- World War II Foreign Affairs Actions and Topics Involving the U.S. and the United Nations (Dates are approximate unless specified)

	<i>United Nations Actions (Included as examples of what international agencies do.)</i>	<i>United States Foreign Policy Divided into Geographic Areas</i>	<i>Domestic Events</i>
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<i>Column Topics</i> →	<i>Column United Nations Military Action</i>	<i>United Nations Humanitarian Action (UNICEF – as an example)</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Asia</i>	<i>Other Areas of the World</i>	<i>In the United States</i>
Row Dates ↓ 1945-1949	U.S. is a founding member of the United Nations, headquartered in New York	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is founded	Pres. Truman enacts a foreign policy called “containment” designed to stop Soviet expansion into Europe 1948 Communist seize power in Eastern European countries starting the Cold War 1948 Germany is divided. Soviets blockade Berlin 1949 NATO is formed	U.S. World War II ally, China, is divided by a civil war between Nationalists and Communists 1949 China falls to communists The Cold War starts in Asia as communists gain influence in several countries.	1948 Israel is formed 1948 1 st Arab-Israel War	1945 Harry S. Truman becomes president GI's return home and the baby boom starts
1950-1954	War in Korea – UN fights invasion (U.S. troops play a leading role in the war.)	UNICEF aids mothers and children in Asia and Palestine UNICEF assistance in Africa south of the Sahara begins		1950 Communists attack in Korea 1954 U.S. takes a leading role in supporting South Vietnam (U.S. economic and military support continues until 1975)		Suburban America is developed 1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President TV becomes commonplace 1954 Elvis Presley's first Rock and Roll hit
1955- 1959	Peace keeping in Lebanon	UNICEF is now assisting projects in 92 countries and territories	U.S., NATO, & Soviets all have nuclear missiles. NATO relies on missiles to counter the Soviet threat		1956 2nd Arab-Israel War 1959 Cuban leader Fidel Castro establishes a communist government	Fallout shelters are built across the U.S. Interstate Highway System is started
1960-1964	Peace keeping in Congo and New Guinea	UNICEF programs aid more than 56 million children and nursing and pregnant mothers	1961 The Berlin Wall is built by the Soviets in Germany 1963 Nuclear test ban treaty is signed by the U.S. and the Soviets	The U.S. continues to support South Vietnam with advisors 1964 North Vietnamese torpedo boats attack U.S. naval ships in Gulf of Tonkin.	1961 Anti-Communist Cubans unsuccessfully attack at Bay of Pigs with limited U.S. support 1962 Soviet Missiles discovered in Cuba – Cuban Missile Crisis threatens to start a world war	1960 John F. Kennedy is elected President The “Space Race:” begins: U.S and Soviets compete to land a man on the moon 1963 Civil Rights Marches in the U.S. – especially in Birmingham, AL and Washington, DC 1963 President Kennedy is assassinated 1964 Civil Rights legislation is passed
1965 -1969	Peace keeping in India & Pakistan	The 1965 the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to UNICEF	1968 Soviets crush a pro-democracy movement in Czechoslovakia	1965 U.S. troops enter Vietnam; the number of troops will grow to over 500,000 1968 communist offensive raises questions if U.S. policy in Vietnam is succeeding	1967 3rd Arab-Israel War	1965 – 1973 Anti-Vietnam War protests in the U.S. 1968 Richard Nixon is elected President 1969 Moon landing by U.S.
1970 -1974	Peace keeping in Egypt & Israel	UNICEF is now aiding 120 countries and territories	1972 SALT I Missile treaty between U.S. and Soviets	1970 U.S. troops enter Cambodia 1972 U.S. starts diplomacy with China 1973 U.S. troops withdrawn from Vietnam under a peace agreement	1972 Palestinian Liberation Organization Terrorists attack Olympic games in Germany 1973 4th Arab Israel War 1973 OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) oil embargo hits U.S. causing gas shortage	Anti-Vietnam War protests continue 1974 Watergate scandal causes Richard Nixon to resign. Gerald Ford becomes President
1975 -1979	Peace keeping in Egypt & Israel	UNICEF assisting 70 countries with village water supplies; UNICEF programs for preventing blindness in young children	1979 SALT II Missile treaty signed between U.S. and Soviets 1979 Soviet troops enter Afghanistan	1975 North Vietnam resumes attacks 1975 Vietnam War ends with the fall of South Vietnam to communists 1978 - 79 Vietnamese refugees, “Boat People,” land in the U.S.	Iran is a U.S. ally and a leading supplier of oil to U.S. 1977 U.S. grants control of the Panama Canal to Panama by treaty 1979 Camp David talks culminate in a treaty ending Israel – Egypt Wars 1979 Revolution in Iran; the end of U.S.-Iran ties; Revolution leads to embargo of Iranian oil to U.S. 1979 U.S. hostages seized at U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran	1976 Jimmy Carter is elected President 1979 Gasoline shortage in U.S. after revolution in Iran 1979 Nuclear plant accident at 3 Mile Island, PA sparks anti-nuclear protests
1980 -1984		UNICEF plays a key role in a \$634 million joint UN/Red Cross relief operation for crisis-hit Cambodia	1983 Missile tension renewed between the U.S. and the Soviets		1980 – 88 Iran vs Iraq war 1980 U.S. boycotts Olympic Games to protest Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 1981 U.S. opposes Soviet influence in Central America by covert funding of the Contras in Nicaragua 1982 – 84 U.S. troops engaged in peace keeping during civil war in Lebanon 1983 U.S. opposes Soviet influence in Caribbean by invading Granada	1980 Mariel Boatlift brings Cuban refugees to the U.S. 1980 Ronald Reagan elected President 1981 Anti-nuclear protests in U.S. Personal computers and cell phones become common in U.S.
1985 -1989	Peace keeping in Iran & Iraq	UNICEF launches an international appeal for \$67 million) to support actions in 21 countries during an African drought and famine crisis	1986 Soviet reformer, Mikhail Gorbachev, introduces policy of Glasnost (openness) that lowers tensions with U.S. 1987 At Berlin Wall, President Reagan challenges Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall”	1986 Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping boosts "Open-Door" policy to encourage foreign Investments. 1989 Chinese government crushes pro-Democracy protest in Tiananmen Square	1986 U.S. bombs military bases in Libya 1989 U.S. troops are sent to Panama to oust a criminal leader, Manuel Noriega	1986 Space shuttle Challenger explodes 1988 George H.W. Bush is elected President 1989 Oil tanker Exxon Valdez spills 10 million gallons of oil in Alaska
1990 -1994	Peace keeping in Angola, Cambodia, & Somalia UN imposes an arms embargo against Haiti to force out an illegal government	UNICEF supports immunization activities in 100 developing countries -By the end of 1993, life expectancy in the developing world has increased by about a third since the end of World War II.	1991 The Berlin Wall is torn down and Germany is reunified 1991 Fall of the Soviet Union ends the Cold War 1993 The European Union is founded 1993 Russia signs the START treaty pledging missile reductions 1994 Russian troops enter Chechnya to stop and independence movement	1992 China introduces “market economy” reforms (a break with the previous communist economy) 1994 China connects to the internet	1990 Gulf War I: Troops from the U.S. and allies repel Iraq's invasion of Kuwait 1993 U.S. soldiers are killed by Somali militiamen 1993 Islamic fundamentalist terrorists attempt to bomb the World Trade Center in New York	1992 Bill Clinton is elected President 1994 the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is signed
1995 -1999	Peace keeping in Guatemala & Bosnia	UNICEF places human rights principles at the center of its work.	1996 President Clinton sends the first 8,000 of 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia 1999 Europe introduces a common currency, the Euro	1995 The U.S. and Vietnam normalize relations 1996 China creates a law to censor the internet 1997 Hong Kong passes from British to Chinese rule 1999 A U.S. congressional committee alleges Chinese theft of U.S. technology secrets	1998 Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists bomb the U.S. Embassy in Kenya; the U.S. responds with missile attacks 1998 The U.S. bombs Iraq because Iraq refuses to allow the UN to inspect for banned weapons	1999 School shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO 1999 The U.S. House of Representatives votes to impeach President Clinton; he is acquitted in a Senate trial.
2000 -2004	Peace keeping in Ethiopia 2004 uprising against Haitian President. UN Peace keeping force is sent (includes U.S. troops)	UNICEF and partners organize a rapid humanitarian response to a devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean.			2001 (911 attacks) Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon 2001 U.S. troops are sent to Afghanistan to fight Al-Qaeda, a terrorist group 2003 Gulf War II: The U.S. - Iraq War begins – (Operation Iraqi Freedom)	2000 George W. Bush is elected President Widespread worry about terrorism The Internet becomes widely used 2003 Space shuttle Columbia explodes
2005 -2010	Peace keeping in Haiti	UNICEF launches the “Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS” campaign to accelerate action for children vulnerable to HIV and AIDS.	2014 Russia invades Ukraine	2005 China has 103 million internet users 2005China sends an astronaut into space 2006 China passes the U.S. in greenhouse gas emissions	The U.S. - Iraq War continues 2010 Surge in U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan 2010 “Arab Spring” revolts against several authoritarian governments in Middle East and North Africa	2008 U.S. economy declines 2008 Barack Obama is elected President
2010 -2014	Peace keeping in East Timor	UNICEF leads the international response to a major earthquake in Haiti		2011 China overtakes Japan as the world's 2 nd largest economy	2013 Syria is engulfed in a civil war causing a refugee and humanitarian crisis	2010 Deepwater Horizon - Gulf of Mexico oil rig explosion, the largest oil spill ever
2015 -2019	Peace keeping in Syria	The upheaval of the Arab Spring and the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic pose major challenges for UNICEF and other humanitarian agencies.	2016 The U.K votes to leave the European Union	2018 A trade war starts between the U.S. and China 2019 Pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong	2015 Islamic Republic of Iran and several world powers, including the U.S., reach an agreement on Iran's development of nuclear technology	2016 Donald Trump is elected President