TEXT SUMMARY

For over 150 years, Americans were more interested in domestic affairs—what is happening in this country—than in foreign affairs—events involving other countries. During that time, the United States practiced a policy of isolationism, or a refusal to become engaged in foreign affairs. World War II, however, convinced Americans that the well-being of the United States required their involvement in world affairs.

A nation's foreign policy is every aspect of its relationships with other countries—military, diplomatic, commercial, and all others. The President takes the lead in making and carrying out U.S. foreign policy.

The State Department, headed by the secretary of state, is the President's right arm in foreign affairs. International law gives all nations the right of legation—the right to send and receive diplomatic representatives. The President appoints ambassadors who each represent the nation and head an embassy in a country recognized by the United States. They and other embassy workers have diplomatic immunity—they cannot be prosecuted for breaking their host country's laws.

The Defense Department provides for the nation's defense by unifying the management of the armed forces. The secretary of defense is the head of the Defense Department and advises the President. The five Joint Chiefs of Staff serve as the principal military advisors to the secretary of defense. The three military departments—the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force—are major units within the Defense Department.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Key Players in U.S. Foreign Policy

In the United States, the President makes and carries out foreign policy with the help of key departments.

- President
  - State Department
    - Secretary of State
      - Ambassadors
  - Defense Department
    - Secretary of Defense
    - Joint Chiefs of Staff
      - Department of the Navy
      - Department of the Army
      - Department of the Air Force

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What event made Americans realize the United States must take a role in foreign affairs?

2. Diagram Skills By what two departments is the President advised on foreign policy?
TEXT SUMMARY

In addition to the Departments of State and Defense, several government agencies are closely involved with U.S. foreign and defense policy. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has three major tasks. First, it coordinates the information-gathering activities of all State, Defense, and other federal agencies involved in foreign affairs and defense. Second, it analyzes that data. Third, it keeps the President and the National Security Council informed on intelligence matters. The CIA also conducts worldwide intelligence operations through espionage, or spying.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) enforces immigration laws and requirements. It also administers to immigrants benefits such as work permits, naturalization, and political asylum—safe haven for those persecuted in their home country.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency created by Congress to oversee the U.S. space programs. NASA's work ranges from exploration of outer space and the development of space stations to research on the origin and structure of the universe.

The Selective Service System manages the draft, or required military service. The first national draft occurred in 1917 when the Selective Service Act drafted men to fight in World War I. Between 1940 and 1973 the draft was a major source of military manpower in the United States. Although the draft ended in 1973, young men still must register for the draft soon after their 18th birthday.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)</td>
<td>• gathers, analyzes, and distributes intelligence information&lt;br&gt;• conducts worldwide intelligence operations through espionage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)</td>
<td>• enforces immigration laws and requirements&lt;br&gt;• administers immigration benefits such as political asylum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)</td>
<td>• oversees the U.S. space programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective Service System</td>
<td>• manages the draft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of these federal agencies performs a function related to U.S. foreign and defense policy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How is the draft implemented today?

2. Chart Skills From which federal agency could a person receive political asylum?
SECTION 3 AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY OVERVIEW

TEXT SUMMARY

For its first 150 years, U.S. foreign policy was based on isolationism. In 1823 the Monroe Doctrine stated that the United States would keep itself out of European affairs as well as that European nations should stay out of the affairs of North and South America.

The United States was active in the Western Hemisphere, however. In the 1800s it began expanding its territory. By winning the Spanish-American War in 1898, the United States gained colonial territories and began to emerge as a world power.

In the early 1900s, the United States began forming more international relationships, such as that with China. World War II brought a final end to U.S. isolationism. Most nations at that point turned to the principle of collective security, by which they agreed to act together against any nation that threatened the peace. The United States also took up a policy of deterrence—building military strength to discourage attack. This policy began during the cold war—more than 40 years of hostile relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

During the cold war, the United States supported a policy of containment, which said that if communism could be contained within its existing boundaries, it would collapse under the weight of its internal weaknesses. As the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War, it began a policy of détente—"a relaxation of tensions"—that improved relations with the Soviet Union and China.

The end of the cold war began when Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the Soviet Union. U.S.-Soviet relations had improved significantly by the time the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Since then, some key events shaping U.S. foreign policy have occurred in the Middle East.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: The Changing Course of U.S. Foreign Policy

Isolationist

- Territorial expansion helps establish the United States as a world power.
- World War II ends isolationism and encourages a policy of collective security.
- The cold war brings about the policies of deterrence, containment, and finally détente.

World Leader

Certain events and policies have changed the United States from an isolationist nation into a leader in world events.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was the goal of deterrence?
2. Diagram Skills What was the effect of U.S. territorial expansion?
**TEXT SUMMARY**

For more than 50 years, a major tool of American foreign policy has been foreign aid—economic and military help for other nations. Foreign aid goes to countries that are the most crucial to meeting the United States’ foreign policy objectives—in recent years, these have been Israel, the Philippines, and Latin American countries. Most economic foreign aid must be used to buy American goods and services, so the program also helps the U.S. economy.

Since World War II, the United States has constructed a network of regional security alliances—pacts in which the United States and other nations agree to work together to meet aggression in a particular part of the world. For instance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) promotes the collective defense of Western Europe. In areas such as the Middle East, no alliance exists because of conflicting U.S. interests—the United States has historically supported Israel while relying on Arab nations for oil.

The United States first showed its willingness to act as a world power when, after World War II, it led 50 nations in forming the United Nations (UN). The goal of the UN is world peace. It sends armed peacekeeping forces from member nations to help countries in conflict. The UN also sponsors economic and social programs, works to improve world health and protect the environment, and promotes human rights. It is composed of six major organizations: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. The UN Security Council bears the UN’s major responsibility for maintaining international peace.

**GRAPHIC SUMMARY:** *Elements of U.S. Foreign Policy*

- U.S. Foreign Policy
  - participation in the United Nations
  - foreign aid
  - money
  - regional security alliances
  - military assistance

The United States’ foreign policy allows it to interact with and give aid to other nations.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What is the purpose of a regional security alliance?

2. **Diagram Skills** In what forms does the U.S. provide foreign aid?