

US Grand Strategy

The class focuses on the ideological and organizational debates that influenced American foreign policy. The ideological influence of the Enlightenment and the role it played during the War of Independence and the establishment of the United States is discussed within the context of 18th century international politics. The class also focuses on the major debates that defined the institutional outlook and the politics of the young Republic. Debates between free traders and protectionists, as well as the issue of slavery and the territorial expansion of the United States on the North-American Continent represent a major focus of the course. At the same time, the classes will try to analyze the importance of the Monroe Doctrine, as well as the drive towards imperialism that underpinned American foreign policy at the turn of the 19th century.

The class also discusses the internal debate between isolationists and the partisan of a global role of the US in the context of American involvement in the Second World War, as well as the strategic pursuit of containment during the Cold War. The dynamics of US foreign policy in the post-Cold War period, marked by globalization, the War on Terror, the reaction to the Chinese growth of power and current US actions also feature prominently, within the larger chronological organization of the class.