

GREAT DECISIONS

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Continuity and change in American foreign policy

Annotated bibliography

Daalder, Ivo and James M. Lindsay, **America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy**. New York: Wiley, 2005. The authors suggest that George W. Bush fomented a revolution in American foreign policy by being willing to act alone in pursuit of core objectives. But they caution that risks accompany unilateral action when key allies fail to follow U.S. leadership.

Fisher, Marc, “Today’s Presidency offers almost unchecked power,” **The Washington Post**, July 31, 2016, p. A1. This article reports views of presidential scholars arguing that Presidents Obama, George W. Bush, and their predecessors established powers in the executive office that may prove immune to constitutional checks and balances.

Gaddis, John Lewis, **Strategies of Containment**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Foreign Affairs called this book, “A perceptive and illuminating historical analysis...An important book, both for understanding history and for thinking about the present and the future.”

Goldberg, Jeffrey, “The Obama Doctrine,” **The Atlantic**, April 2016. This 20,000-word essay consists of the President’s view of American foreign policy and its place in the world, a view that might accurately be described as “selective engagement.”

Haas, Richard N., “The Isolationist Temptation,” **The Wall Street Journal**, August 6-7 2016, p. C1. In this opinion piece, Dr. Haas, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, expresses concern about, and warns against, an isolationist path in American foreign policy.

Hook, Steven W. and John Spanier, **American Foreign Policy Since World War II**. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010. One review of this book, now in its eighteenth edition, states that it “stands out for the way in which it couples a serious, informed, and yet accessible treatment of major events and crises in U.S. foreign policy with a thoughtful treatment of the underlying controversies and debates about America’s world role.”

Kissinger, Henry, **Does America Need a Foreign Policy?** New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001. The answer from this dean of

American diplomacy is “of course,” and he advises the incoming G.W. Bush administration that it will take a mix of idealistic goals with realistic methods to wield American power effectively in a troubled world.

National Security Strategy, 2006. www.georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/nsc/nss/2006. This version of a series of strategy documents issued by the White House lists American security objectives in the second George W. Bush administration.

Neustadt, Richard, **Presidential Power**. New York: Wiley, 1960. In this classic work, likened to Machiavelli’s **The Prince**, Neustadt advised John Kennedy—and other presidents—that presidential power was the power to persuade.

Posen, Barry and Andrew Ross, “Competing Views for U.S. Grand Strategy,” **International Security**, Vol 21, No. 3 (Winter 1996-1997) pp. 5-53. In this classic article the authors inquire into four grand strategies competing to guide American foreign policy in a post-Cold War world. They describe and explain the four: neo-isolationism, selective engagement, cooperative security, and primacy, concluding that an ad hoc approach is inevitable until a crisis impels a choice.

Rose, Gideon, “What Obama Gets Right,” **Foreign Affairs**, September-October 2015. Rose, the editor of Foreign Affairs, argues that the key to Obama’s success abroad has been his grasp of the big picture—his appreciation of the liberal international order that the United States has nurtured over decades. To preserve that order, the U.S. had to pull back from its misguided adventures in the Middle East. But the president was better at strategy than at implementation.

Schlesinger, Arthur M. **The Imperial Presidency**. New York: Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2004. The eminent historian authored this book in response to the perceived extremes of the Nixon administration. The imperial presidency was created in response to foreign policy issues, resulting in a presidency that was out of control and that had exceeded its Constitutional limits.

Stephens, Bret, “What Obama Got Wrong,” **Foreign Affairs**, September-October 2015. Wall Street Journal columnist Stephens rebutted Rose’s essay in the same issue of Foreign Affairs. The re-

balance that Rose celebrates created power vacuums filled by ISIS, Russia, China and North Korea. America's retreat spurred global disorders; only an expansive vision of American power can begin to repair the damage.

Tocqueville, Alexis de, **Democracy in America**, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. This book, first published in 1835, was intended to help the French understand the evolution of a democratic order and government. Tocqueville saw democracy as an equilibrium balancing liberty and individual equality.

Wolfers, Justin, "Presidents have Surprising Power to End Trade Deals," **The New York Times**, September 20, 2016, p.A3. According to this opinion piece, a new president could quickly and easily renege on America's trade deals and treaties, concluding that "trade liberalization in recent decades sits on much shakier foundations than is commonly acknowledged."

Online resources

Articles

Donald Trump Is Choosing His Cabinet. Here's the Latest List.

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/us/politics/donald-trump-administration.html?ref=politics>

How Hard (or Easy) It Will Be for Trump to Fulfill His 100-Day Plan

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/11/21/us/politics/what-trump-wants-to-do-in-his-first-100-days-and-how-difficult-each-will-be.html?ref=politics>

Obama Reckons with a Trump Presidency

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/11/28/obama-reckons-with-a-trump-presidency>

The Knowns and Unknowns of Donald Trump's Foreign Policy

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/11/trump-foreign-policy-flynn-sessions-obama-isis-iraq-muslim/508196/>

Blogs

Center for Presidential Transition

<http://presidentialtransition.org/blog/index.php>

Forty Five: A daily diary of the presidential transition

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/donald-trump-administration>

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