Foreign Policy From Independence Through World War I

• As stated in George Washington’s Farewell Address, for the next 150 years the United States practiced a policy of isolationism.

• The Monroe Doctrine (1823) warned Europe to stay out of the affairs of North and South America and established the United States as the hegemonic power of the Western Hemisphere.
Throughout the 19th century, the US expanded across the North American continent through both land purchases and acquisitions through war.

As the US expanded commercially in the late 19th century, so did the reach of its foreign policy, as seen in the Good Neighbor policy in effect in Latin America during the early 1900s, and the Open Door Policy for China during the same time.
World War I

• The US entered WW I after continued disruptions of American commerce due to German submarine warfare.

• After the defeat of Germany and the Central Powers, the nation retreated to a policy of isolationism.
World War II

- The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 signaled the United States entry in WW II, joining the Allies (Russia, Great Britain, and China) fighting against the Axis Powers (Italy, Japan, and Germany).
- WW II led to a historic shift away from isolationism to an increased role in global affairs by the United States.
Two New Principles

• **Collective security** approached by the US following WW II, involves a world community in which most nations would agree to act together against any nation that threatened the peace.

• **Deterrence** is the policy of making America and its allies so militarily strong that their very strength will deter—discourage, or even prevent—any attack.
Resisting Soviet Aggression

The cold war was a period of more than 40 years during which relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were tense, but did not result in direct military action between the two.
The Truman Doctrine

The Truman Doctrine established the policy of *containment*, an effort to “contain” the spread of communism throughout the nations of the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Berlin Blockade</th>
<th>The Cuban Missile Crisis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 1948, the Soviet Union cut off all land transit to West Berlin. The United States responded with an airlift of goods to the city.</td>
<td>In 1962, it was discovered that the Soviet Union was building missiles on the island of Cuba. A heated stand-off between the Soviet Union and America ensued.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Korean War</th>
<th>The War in Vietnam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Korean War was fought under the auspices of the United Nations after the forces of communist North Korea invaded South Korea.</td>
<td>The United States dedicated thousands of troops in an effort to resist aggression by communist forces in Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Détente to the Present

• Following the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, the Nixon administration embarked on a policy of détente.

• Détente is a French term meaning “relaxation of tensions.”

• Nixon would become the first U.S. President to visit mainland China in 1972. He also visited Moscow during his administration.
• The cold war came to an end with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.
• January 1991 brought the Persian Gulf War, with American forces spearheading a multinational force to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.
• Since 9/11 the US has engaged in a War on Terrorism centered around fighting in the Middle East.