

## Week Nineteen: American Foreign Policy Post 9/11

**Weekly Focus:** Response with Evidence  
**Weekly Skill:** Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

**Lesson Summary:** This week students will work to comprehend both written and visual material and then respond to this material using evidence to support their answers.

**Materials Needed:** Projector, United States' Foreign Policy Post 9/11, Research Findings: Graphs, Written Response, Video

**Objectives:** Students will be able to...

- Comprehend an article and answer and demonstrate comprehension by answering questions about it
- Comprehend and analyze graphic information
- Draw conclusions based on personal and textual evidence
- Construct an evidence-based response

**Common Core Standards Addressed:** [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1](#)

**Notes:** This week students will be focusing on the Response with Evidence portion of the CARE model. This will be a difficult task for many students. Be sure to explain that we will continue to practice gathering evidence and using it to support our claims throughout the class. Students are not expected to be experts in writing with evidence after this class. The first step is being able to **identify** appropriate evidence; this lesson focuses heavily on this skill. The next step is being able to incorporate that evidence into a response.

Please note that the second question in the last writing assignment is a bonus question because it requires students to be able to infer information from the graphics.

Also, you may choose to either focus solely on the reading or solely on the graphing activity for the entire class, depending on the level of your students. Questions 2 and 4 in the graph activity ask for prior knowledge. Feel free to let students look up answers to those questions.

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### Activities:

#### Activity 1: Reading Comprehension

Time: 40 minutes

- 1) Hand out the "United States' Foreign Policy Post 9/11" article.
- 2) Have students either work individually or in groups to answer the comprehension questions associated with each section of the article.
- 3) Go over the answers as a class.

**Note:** Even though this article has a slight biased presentation of the material, it still provides an overview of some key points about pre- and post-9/11 foreign policy.

**Break: 10 minutes**

#### Activity 2: Analyzing Research Findings

Time: 50 minutes

- 1) Ask students, "What types of things are important to pay attention to when reading a graph or table?" Students should respond with answers like: title, keys, axis titles, labels, etc.
- 2) Break students up into groups of three.
- 3) Hand out the "Research Findings" handout, and instruct the groups to study each graphic and answer the questions. Let students know that some questions are comprehension questions and the answers are directly on the page (what percentage, etc.). However, there are also analysis questions which will require them to infer the answer (why, what was happening during this time, etc.). The previous lessons of this unit should help students answer these analysis questions. For students who were not there, feel free to let them look up answers to their questions.
- 4) After about 35-40 minutes, go over the answers as a class.

**Notes: Below are answers to two of the following questions from the graphic worksheet. The answers may not be obvious at first.**

(Graph 1, Question 2): Using the knowledge you have of what was happening in America in 2004, why do you think that the perception of the importance of the United States' role has dropped significantly since 2004?

*By the year 2004, it had only been 3 years since the attack on the World Trade Center. It is possible that Americans were still in a defensive mindset, desiring America to play large role abroad to keep our homeland safe. There may have also still been a thought among some that it was necessary for us to be at war.*

(Graph 2, Question 4): There are three distinct intervals where the graph increases: from 1964 to 1976, 1979 to 1995, and from 2003 to 2013. Why do you think that is? (i.e. what was going on with foreign politics during those times that might reflect this trend?)

*1964-1979 is associated with the Vietnam War. 1979-1995 is associated with the Cold War. 2003-2013 is associated with the Iraq War. There was an increase in Americans who believed the U.S. should mind its own business during these time intervals perhaps due to war weariness and an irritation with the U.S. for getting involved in conflicts abroad.*

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**Wrap-Up: Written Response****Time: 20 minutes**

- 1) Show students the video.
- 2) Hand out the written response worksheet and have students write at least one paragraph in response to the question. The purpose of this activity is to give students a chance to consolidate and synthesize the information presented in the lesson today.

**Extra Work/Homework:****Time:**

Have students complete their written response.

## United States' Foreign Policy Post 9/11

**Directions:** The following table includes one, continuous article that has been broken up into sections. Complete the comprehension questions associated with each section.

<p align="center"><b>US Foreign Policy After 9/11: Obvious Changes, Subtle Similarities</b></p> <p align="center">By Steve Jones About.com</p>	<p align="center"><b>Questions</b></p>
<p>United States foreign policy changed in some very noticeable ways after September 11, 2001. In other ways, foreign policy after 9/11 has remained much the same. When George W. Bush assumed the presidency in January 2001, his major foreign policy initiative was the creation of a "missile shield" over parts of Europe. In theory, the shield would give added protection if North Korea or Iran ever launched a missile strike. In fact, Condoleezza Rice, then the head of Bush's National Security Council, was slated to give a policy speech about the missile shield on September 11, 2001.</p>	<p>Based on the first sentence of this article, what two things do you think this article will address?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
<p>Nine days later, on September 20, 2001, in a speech before a joint session of Congress, Bush changed the direction of American foreign policy. He made terrorism its focus.</p> <p>"We will direct every resource at our command -- every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war -- to the destruction and to the defeat of the global terror network," Bush said.</p> <p>The speech is perhaps best remembered for this remark. "[W]e will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism," said Bush. "Every nation in every region now has a decision to make: Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."</p>	<p>What shift in American foreign policy took place after 9/11?</p> <p>Speculative: what do you think other nations thought when they heard President Bush's comment?</p>

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The most noticeable change in U.S. foreign policy is its focus on preventive action, not just preemptive action. This is also known as the Bush Doctrine. Nations often use preemptive strikes in warfare when they know that an enemy action is eminent.

When the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003, however, it broadened its policy to include preventive warfare. The Bush administration told the public (erroneously) that Saddam Hussein's regime had nuclear material and would soon be able to produce atomic weapons. Bush vaguely tied Hussein to Al Qaeda (again erroneously), and he said the invasion was, in part, to prevent Iraq from supplying terrorists with nuclear weapons. Thus, the Iraqi invasion was to prevent some perceived -- but not clearly evident -- event.

U.S. humanitarian assistance has become more subject to foreign policy demands, and in some cases it has become militarized. Independent Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working through USAID (a branch of the U.S. State Department) have typically delivered worldwide humanitarian aid independently of American foreign policy. However, as Elizabeth Ferris reported in a recent Brookings Institution article, U.S. military commands have begun their own humanitarian assistance programs in areas where they are conducting military operations. Therefore, army commanders can leverage humanitarian assistance to gain military advantages.

NGOs have also increasingly fallen under closer federal scrutiny, to ensure that they comply with U.S. anti-terrorism policy. This requirement, says Ferris, "made it difficult, indeed impossible, for U.S. humanitarian NGOs to claim that they were independent of their government's policy." That, in turn, makes it more difficult for humanitarian missions to reach sensitive and dangerous locations.

What is the difference between preventive action and preemptive action?

According to the article, what was the Bush administration's reason for invading Iraq?

How has U.S. humanitarian assistance changed since 9/11?

Some things, however, have not changed. Even after 9/11, the U.S. continues its tendency to forge questionable alliances.

The U.S. had to secure Pakistan's support before invading neighboring Afghanistan to fight the Taliban, which intelligence said was an Al Qaeda supporter. The resulting alliance with Pakistan and its president, Pervez Musharraf, was awkward. Musharraf's ties with the Taliban and Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden were questionable, and his commitment to the War on Terror seemed halfhearted.

Indeed, in early 2011, intelligence revealed that bin Laden was hiding in a compound in Pakistan, and apparently had been for more than five years. American special ops troops killed bin Laden in May, but his mere presence in Pakistan cast more doubt on that country's commitment to the war. Some members of Congress soon began calling for an end to Pakistani foreign aid.

The U.S. has also found an uneasy ally in Hamid Karzai, president of post-invasion Afghanistan. Karzai is known to be corrupt, but he tolerates American presence in Afghanistan.

Those situations are reminiscent of American alliances during the Cold War. The United States supported such unpopular leaders as the Shah of Iran and Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam, simply because they were anti-Communist.

What about American foreign policy has not changed since 9/11?

George W. Bush warned Americans in 2001 that the War on Terror would be long, and its results might be hard to recognize. Regardless, Bush failed to remember the lessons of the Vietnam War and to understand that Americans are results-driven.

Americans were encouraged to see the Taliban virtually driven from power by 2002, and could understand a brief period of occupation and state-building in

What would be an appropriate title for this section of the article?

- a. Lessons of Vietnam
- b. Taliban Driven Out in 2002
- c. War Weariness
- d. Obama Administration Affected

Afghanistan.

When the invasion of Iraq pulled resources away from Afghanistan, allowing the Taliban to become resurgent, and the Iraqi war itself became one of seemingly unending occupation, Americans became war-weary. When voters briefly gave control of Congress to Democrats in 2006, they were in fact rejecting Bush's foreign policy.

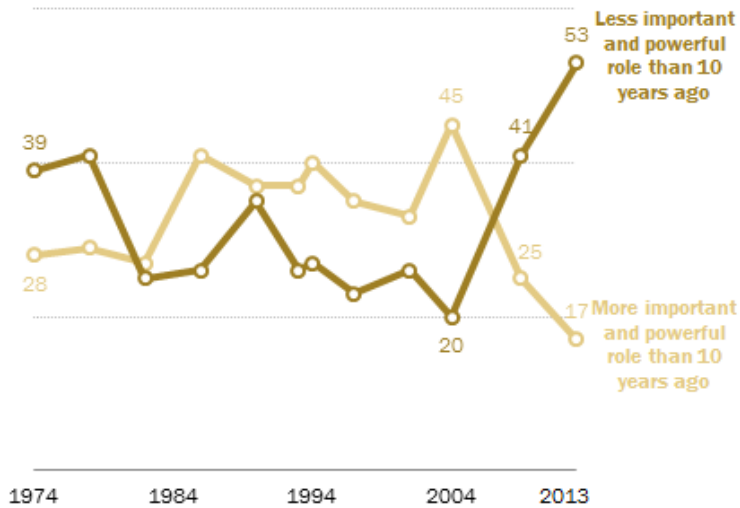
That public war weariness effects the Obama administration as the current president wrestles with withdrawing troops from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as allocating funds for other military ventures, such as America's limited involvement in the Libyan civil war.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM PewResearch: Center for the People and the Press

Directions: Use the graphs and tables to answer the corresponding questions.

### Views of U.S. Global Power Fall to 40-Year Low

*U.S. role today as world leader is ...*



Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public.  
"About as important a role as world leader" responses not shown. 1974-1990 data from Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

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1. What is the percentage of people who believe that the United States role as a leader is more important and powerful role today (2013) than 10 years ago?
2. Using the knowledge you have of what was happening in America in 2004, why do you think that the perception of the importance of the United States' role has dropped significantly since 2004?



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### Majority Says U.S. Should 'Mind Its Own Business Internationally'

*% agreeing that the U.S. should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own'*



Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public: PEW2d (Omnibus). 1964-1991 data from Gallup.

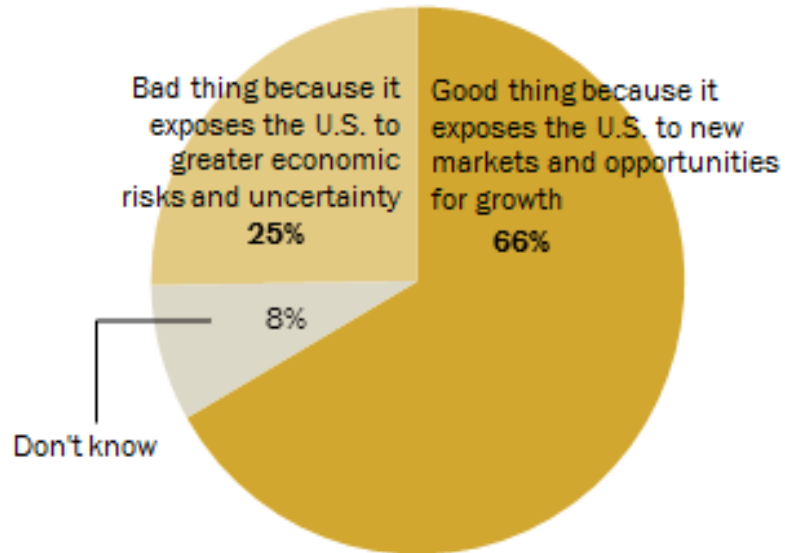
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3. What has been the overall trend in U.S. opinion about the United States "minding its own business internationally?"
4. There are three distinct intervals where the graph increases: from 1964 to 1976, 1979 to 1995, and from 2003 to 2013. Why do you think that is? (i.e. what was going on with foreign politics during those times that might reflect this trend?)

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## Two-Thirds Say Greater U.S. Involvement In Global Economy Is a Good Thing

*Greater U.S. involvement in global economy is a ...*



Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public: Q41.

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5. What is the majority opinion about greater U.S. involvement in the global economy?

**Many of Public's Top Foreign Policy Goals Reflect Domestic Concerns**

*% saying each should be a top policy priority ...*

	<b>General Public</b>	<b>CFR Members</b>
	%	%
Protecting U.S. from terrorist attacks	83	76
Protecting jobs of American workers	81	29
Preventing spread of weapons of mass destruction	73	81
Reducing dependence on imported energy sources	61	47
Combating international drug trafficking	57	17
Reducing illegal immigration	48	11
Strengthening the United Nations	37	17
Dealing w/ global climate change	37	57
Promoting and defending human rights in other countries	33	19
Helping improve living standards in developing nations	23	25
Promoting democracy in other nations	18	12

Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public: Q33. CFR: Q17.

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6. Looking at the table to the left, what types of policies do people think the United States should focus on?

7. What are the types of policies that people are reporting as less concerning to them?

### Why Has the Public Turned Inward? Many CFR Members Cite 'War Fatigue'

*What is the main reason Americans have become less supportive of the U.S. taking an active role in world affairs?*

	<b>CFR Members %</b>
War fatigue; Involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq	42
U.S. economy; Cost of involvement	28
Recent efforts have been ineffective	19
U.S. lacks political leadership	17
People don't understand the importance [of U.S. taking an active role]	8
Americans concerned about domestic priorities	7

Source: America's Place in the World November 2013. CFR members: Q15-16. Based on the 92% of CFR members who say the public has become less supportive. Open-ended question, multiple responses accepted.

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8. Why are Americans less supportive of the U.S. taking an active role in global affairs?

\*Note: CFR stands for Council on Foreign Relations.

## WRITTEN RESPONSE

According to the information presented in the graphs, what does the general public value? I.e. how do Americans, or the general public, feel about The United States' current foreign policy? *Use specific evidence from the graphs and tables to support your response.*

**BONUS:** What are some **values** of America's current foreign policy? I.e. what is the U.S. currently focusing on? *Use specific evidence from the graphs and tables to support your response.*