

B-2 U.S. Foreign Policy: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives

Chair: **Jim Seroka**, Auburn University jseroka@auburn.edu

Marvin Lester Astrada, Florida International University mastr001@fiu.edu

U.S. Power in a Post-Cold War, 9/11 World: Unipolarity, Conflict, Resistance, & the Postulation of Global Security

Abstract:

The advent of US global supremacy has resulted in the establishment of a unipolar global security (UGS) framework to define and implement global security measures. Since 1990, the US has unilaterally defined, implemented, and managed systemic security policy. This practice fundamentally differs from the previous bi-polar, Cold War framework of world politics, wherein the US was balanced by the USSR. This paper seeks to expound upon UGS in a post-Cold War, post-9/11 world by posing the following questions: How is post-Cold War, post-9/11 global security defined, and has it eclipsed previous notions of security based upon a system of states? If US security is the basis for global security, what are the effects on the structure, organization, and management of world affairs? To probe these questions in depth, this paper will draw upon philosophy, history, culture, political theory, and sociology to expound upon UGS and its impact on world affairs. The US engages in UGS, which elevates its national security interests to a global level. Consequently, global security is effectuated via a discrete set of US values/interests, finding empirical expression in the concepts of rogue states and hostile non-state actors. These actors therefore provide test cases to clarify the breadth, depth, and consequentialness of UGS in world affairs. UGS in theory and practice merits analysis because it forms the singular, ubiquitous basis of global securitization measures. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, US foreign policy has placed a preemptive, offensive, military-based global security policy at the forefront of its agenda. This has profound consequences for the conceptualization, organization, and management of world affairs.

Kyunghee Shin, University of Wisconsin-Madison khshin@wisc.edu

Reviewing World War II from an Asian Perspective in the American Context

Abstract:

Recently, the U.S. has shown great interest in addressing the issue of Japan's sexual enslavement of Asian women during World War II. This political activity in Washington D.C. might lead to great changes in international relations between the U.S. and Japan as well as other Asian countries. This marks the first time since WWII that the U.S. will be deeply involved in investigating Japan's war crimes against Asian countries. This involvement raises complicated and multi-layered issues, even putting the U.S. into an awkward position. The U.S. that had once dropped bombs on Japan now defines Japan as an oppressor rather than a victim. This complex situation offers great opportunities to explore international conflict, resolution and negotiation. My study approaches this current situation by examining how this issue has been dealt with in U.S. education, specially secondary schools. Examining the curriculum of high school history courses and how the relationship between Japan and its neighbors is discussed can offer us rich data, demonstrating how U.S. perspectives are currently constructed from Eurocentric perspective. In order to juxtapose the current political agenda with its relevant school curriculum topics, I survey world history teachers at high school for inquiring how they have taught about WWII. In this presentation, I represent the survey results in two different forms: visual and verbal forms. Through the visual format, my study demonstrates what American students learn about Asia during the War. Through the verbal one, I propose that teachers as well as students need to understand these historical facts from the Asian perspectives.

Inhan Kim, University of Virginia lk7z@virginia.edu

The Challenge to the U.S. Attempt at Economic Democratization during the Cold

War

Abstract:

The occupation of the Axis states and their colonies after the end of the Second World War presented the U.S. with unprecedented opportunities to promote democracy abroad. In addition to democratic institution building, with a belief that economic equity provides solid foundation for democracy, the U.S. considered embarking economic reforms for promoting the wide distribution of the ownership of the means of production. The U.S. sponsored zaibatsu dissolution and the land reform in Japan was good example in point. However, in most cases, the U.S. had rarely put the plan on promoting socio-economic equity into practice with exceptions including land reform in Japan, and, if it did, it had often undercut the original scale of reform. This project investigates what produced this variation: what enabled the U.S. to implement its original intention for economic reform and what compromised it? The conventional wisdom to this question was the U.S. unwillingness to conduct economic reforms because of its ties with conservative economic elites in its competition against the Soviet. However, throughout the Cold War the alleged friendship with elites had not always been seamless. Thus, placing the conventional wisdom under scrutiny, this project argues that the U.S. found them its useful allies under limited condition. More specifically, it was when the communism was strong enough to amount the U.S. concern of communist overthrow in target states. Examining the U.S. occupation in Japan and South Korea, this paper will show how the variations in the threat of communist takeover impeded or encouraged the U.S. plan for socio-economic equity to be put into practice. The subversive ideological foes in the target states were unuseful adversaries to the U.S. occupation and its vision for new order.

David J. Long, Georgia Southern University dlong40@gmail.com

To the Ends of the Earth: A Narrative Analysis of President Taft's "Dollar Diplomacy," and the Precarious International Relations Implications of Modern Day Perpetuation

Abstract:

President Taft's 1912 speech on "dollar diplomacy" is an excellent example of narrative being used from a policy maker's standpoint. Through narrative analysis, influenced by Gergen and Fisher, Taft's discourse was examined. Most importantly, the explication of the narrative relativity of the speech displayed the U.S.'s foreign policy under Taft as a quiet exploitation of Latin America. Furthermore, with globalization in full swing and markets expanding, the U.S. has increased "its backyard" to include the Middle East. However, Taft's narrative, when applied to the Middle East, is fruitless and ultimately leads to the quagmire that is Iraq. To address issues in the Middle East, a fundamentally new narrative, focusing on an Arab standpoint, must be applied to policy making.

John P. Miglietta, Tennessee State University jmiglietta@Tnstate.edu

The Development of the U.S. Intelligence Community and Its Influence on American Foreign

Policy Toward the Arab World: Egypt and Iraq, 1945-1958

Abstract:

Intelligence studies is an emerging component of the international relations field. It is related to international security as well as foreign policy decision making. A greater understanding of the importance of intelligence studies as well as the consequences of intelligence failures are an important component of the study of foreign policy. The aim of this project is to examine the development of the U.S. intelligence community after World War II and its impact on American foreign policy in the Middle East. This paper focuses on Washington's foreign policy in regards to Arab nationalism, specifically examining the cases of Egypt and Iraq from 1945-1958. The major research question is to examine to what extent was the U.S. dependent on the British for intelligence gathering in the region during this period. If this was the case did this represent a specific policy of American decision makers or was it due to a flawed system of intelligence gathering. My initial hypothesis is that political decisions and the biases of decision makers operating in the environment of the Cold War resulted in the failure of the U.S. to adequately respond to the growth of Arab nationalism after World War II.

Discussant: **Jim Seroka**, Auburn University