

The Globalization of Politics: American Foreign Policy for A New Century

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Abstract: In the present political era of transformative shifts in international relations, this research delves into the intricate dynamics shaping American foreign policy amidst globalization's challenges and opportunities. Rooted in profound analysis of scholarly literature, policy documents and theoretical framework, his research attempts to explore multifarious responses from the United States—the global superpower—in an international landscape of 21st century. In particular, this paper endeavours to overhaul the enduring tension between realism and idealism at the core of foreign policy decision-making. Policymakers face the nuanced task of pursuing national interests while championing democratic values and human rights globally. Besides, the paper highlights American exceptionalism's evolving nature in the globalized world. Adaptation becomes paramount for this national identity to remain influential. The research also assesses the pivotal role of multilateral diplomacy and cooperation with international institutions in addressing transnational challenges. Public diplomacy emerges as an essential tool for shaping global perceptions, bolstering the nation's soft power, and expanding global influence. This research offers an exhaustive exploration of American foreign policy in the 21st century, providing insights into globalization's impact, making it relevant for policymakers, scholars, and international relations practitioners.

Key Words: *Globalization, American foreign policy, United States, Ethical dilemmas, Multilateral diplomacy*

Introduction

In an era teeming with unprecedented connectivity and interdependence among nations, the globalization of politics has emerged as a defining feature of the 21st century. This conceptualization has not only redefined the way nations interact but has also transformed the very essence of foreign policy formulation and execution. At the heart of this global shift lies the United States, a nation that has historically played a pivotal role in shaping international relations. As one stands on the precipice of a new century, the examination of American foreign policy within the context of globalization becomes not only a scholarly endeavor but a pressing imperative. Globalization, in its multifaceted dimensions, has transcended traditional boundaries, blurring the lines between domestic and international affairs. Economic globalization, attributed by the free flow of capital, goods, and information, has created an intricate web of dependencies among nations. In turn, this has forced countries to recalibrate their foreign policy strategies to adapt to the evolving global landscape (Drezner, 2008).

Inextricably linked to economic globalization is the proliferation of technology and digital communication, which has amplified the speed at which information travels and diplomacy unfolds. These developments have reshaped the nature of power and diplomacy on the world stage. Simultaneously, the rise of non-state actors, including multinational corporations, civil society organizations, and transnational networks, has added complexity to the global political arena. These actors exert influence and shape policy outcomes,

often in collaboration with, or in opposition to, nation-states (Haass, 2018). The United States, as a global superpower, finds itself navigating this intricate web of actors and interests while striving to protect its national security, promote its economic interests, and uphold its values on the world stage.

Keeping in view the above perspectives, this research paper attempts to critically examine the American foreign policy in the context of globalization, a task that requires navigating the intricate interplay between domestic politics, international relations, and evolving global dynamics. It seeks to unravel the complexities of how globalization has influenced the goals, strategies, and execution of American foreign policy as the world ushers in a new century.

Research Background

In assessing the relationship between the globalization of politics and American foreign policy, it is imperative to traverse the historical landscape that has shaped the United States' approach to international affairs. To critically analyze the subject, one must delve into key historical milestones, ideologies, and foreign policy doctrines that have steered America's course in global politics. The roots of American foreign policy can be traced back to the nation's founding principles, encapsulated in George Washington's farewell address of 1796. Washington cautioned against entangling alliances and advised a policy of neutrality (Croucher, 2018). However, this doctrine proved malleable in the face of changing circumstances, as exemplified by the Monroe Doctrine

of 1823, which asserted American dominance in the Western Hemisphere.

Fast forward to the 20th century, a period of immense global upheaval. World War I marked the United States' entry onto the world stage, albeit with a reluctance to commit to international entanglements. The aftermath of World War II, however, brought a significant shift. The United States emerged as a superpower, largely unscathed by the ravages of war. The post-war era witnessed the birth of the United Nations and the formation of an intricate web of alliances, notably the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union dictated much of American foreign policy during this period. The Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and containment strategies shaped the nation's global outlook (Ruggie, 2013). Critics argue that this era saw America prioritize its interests in combating communism over fostering democratic values, leading to alliances with authoritarian regimes.

The end of the Cold War witnessed a new era of unipolarity, where the United States stood as the sole superpower. Yet, this dominance was not without its challenges. Critics point to instances of unilateralism, such as the invasion of Iraq in 2003, as evidence of a departure from multilateral diplomacy and international consensus-building. This historical backdrop evinces fluctuations in American foreign policy decisions, often influenced by both ideological principles and realpolitik considerations (Brooks et al., 2015).

Problem Statement

In the political world where nations are increasingly interconnected and global politics are ever more intertwined, the United States faces a multifaceted challenge in shaping its foreign policy for the 21st century. The crux of this challenge lies in balancing its historical foreign policy principles and practices with the rapidly evolving dynamics of a world characterized by porous borders, the influence of non-state actors, and the transcendent nature of contemporary issues. At the core of this problem is the question of how the United States can adapt its foreign policy strategies to effectively navigate the complexities of global interdependence (Baylis et al., 2020). This entails assessing the nation's capacity to respond to pressing transnational challenges, such as climate change, terrorism, and pandemics, which necessitate collaborative approaches that extend beyond traditional diplomatic methods.

Moreover, the problem statement encompasses an exploration of the United States' role as a global advocate for democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law. This role often intersects with pragmatic considerations, leading to a delicate balance between pursuing strategic partnerships with non-democratic entities and upholding the nation's proclaimed

commitment to these foundational principles in a new century dominated by the forces of globalization (Kupchan, 2007).

Literature Review

Globalization's Impact on International Relations

The 21st century has witnessed a profound transformation in international relations due to the phenomenon of globalization. As nations have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent, the traditional paradigms of diplomacy and foreign policy have been challenged. This section of the literature review explores the impact of globalization on international relations and sets the stage for understanding how American foreign policy has adapted to this new global landscape.

Globalization Redefining International Relations

Globalization, having attributes of free flow of goods, capital, information, and people across borders, has reshaped the contours of international relations. Baumann et al., (2007) emphasize that this process has led to increased interdependence among nations, blurring the boundaries between domestic and international affairs. This interconnectedness has far-reaching implications for diplomacy and foreign policy, as states are no longer insulated from global events and influences.

Economic globalization, in particular, has been a driving force behind the shifting power dynamics in international relations. As trade and investment have become globalized, economic interdependence has grown. Studies like those of Drezner (2008) & Croucher (2018) argue that this interdependence can both constrain and enable states, impacting their foreign policy choices. The United States, as a major player in the global economy, faces intricate trade-offs between economic interests and geopolitical considerations.

The Rise of Non-State Actors

One of the hallmarks of globalization is the rise of non-state actors as influential players in international relations. Transnational corporations, civil society organizations, and global networks exert significant influence on global politics (Jervis, 2013). The implications of these actors for American foreign policy are multifaceted, requiring the U.S. government to engage with a diverse range of entities beyond traditional state-to-state diplomacy.

Historical Evolution of American Foreign Policy

To understand the characteristics of American foreign policy in the context of globalization, it is essential to delve into the historical evolution of how the United States has approached international affairs. The foundations of American foreign policy can be traced to the nation's founding principles. In his farewell

address of 1796, George Washington cautioned against entangling alliances and advocated for a policy of neutrality. This early isolationist stance reflected the desire to protect the nation's fledgling democracy and avoid involvement in European conflicts (Cox et al., 2018). However, this isolationism was not static but evolved in response to changing circumstances.

The Monroe Doctrine and Expanding Influence

In 1823, the Monroe Doctrine marked a significant departure from isolationism. It asserted American dominance in the Western Hemisphere and signaled a willingness to intervene in the affairs of neighboring nations. This doctrine laid the groundwork for an expanding American influence in the Americas.

Despite initial reluctance, the country's involvement in the war and the subsequent negotiations at the Versailles Conference signaled a shift towards international engagement. This period also saw the formation of the League of Nations, an early attempt at international cooperation.

The end of the Cold War in the late 20th century brought a momentous shift in the international system. The United States emerged as the sole superpower, facing new opportunities and challenges. The post-Cold War period saw debates about America's role in a unipolar world, with some advocating for a "peace dividend" and others emphasizing continued global leadership.

Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era

The end of the Cold War as a result of disintegration of the Soviet Union ensued a pivotal moment in international relations, profoundly impacting American foreign policy. The dissolution of the Soviet Union left the United States as the world's sole superpower. This "unipolar moment" brought both opportunities and challenges. American foreign policy during this period aimed to assert global leadership and shape the post-Cold War world order.

With the absence of a singular Cold War adversary, the United States underwent a shift in its foreign policy priorities. While maintaining vigilance in containing emerging security threats, there was an increased focus on promoting democracy, human rights, and free-market capitalism (Oyebade, 2014). The post-Cold War era witnessed a resurgence of multilateralism. The United States played a prominent role in international organizations and agreements, including the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Multilateralism was seen as a means to foster cooperation and address transnational challenges. The 1990s saw American involvement in humanitarian interventions, including the Balkans and Somalia. Additionally, the concept of nation-building gained prominence, with interventions in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Haiti (Sasse, 2018). These actions reflected an

evolving view of American responsibility in global security and stability.

Despite multilateral efforts, the early 21st century witnessed a shift towards unilateralism, exemplified by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. The Iraq War, launched under the banner of combating weapons of mass destruction, faced international criticism and raised questions about the justification and consequences of American military interventions. The post-Cold War period also brought challenges to American leadership. Rising powers such as China challenged U.S. dominance, and questions arose about the sustainability of unipolarity. Additionally, the global financial crisis of 2008 underscored the interconnectedness of the world economy and its implications for foreign policy.

Values vs. Realpolitik in American Foreign Policy

American foreign policy has often been characterized by the tension between its professed values and pragmatic considerations. This section explores how this tension manifests within the nation's approach to international relations and how it has evolved in the realm of globalization. American foreign policy has long been influenced by a set of core values, including democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. These values have played a role in shaping the nation's image and its commitment to promoting these principles globally. Pragmatic considerations, such as national security, economic interests, and the pursuit of stability, have at times taken precedence over idealistic values (Hook et al., 2018). This is exemplified by the United States' alliances with authoritarian regimes, often driven by strategic or economic imperatives.

Critics have pointed to instances where American foreign policy appears hypocritical, such as advocating for democracy while supporting autocratic allies. This perceived inconsistency has raised questions about the sincerity of American values-based foreign policy. The tension between values and pragmatism is evident in humanitarian interventions, where the United States has grappled with when and how to intervene in cases of mass atrocities. The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine has offered a framework for addressing these dilemmas (Kupchan, 2007). Despite challenges and critiques, the United States has continued to champion democracy and human rights on the global stage. Initiatives such as democracy promotion programs and sanctions against human rights violators reflect this commitment.

Furthermore, the globalization of politics has added complexity to the values vs. realpolitik debate. The interconnectedness of the world means that American foreign policy decisions can have far-reaching consequences, both for its values and its interests. When considering the concept of American exceptionalism, the belief that the United States has a unique mission in the world, has evolved in the

context of globalization. Debates continue about the extent to which exceptionalism should inform foreign policy choices.

Scholarly Debates and Perspectives

Within the realm of American foreign policy and globalization, scholarly debates and diverse perspectives play a vital role in shaping our understanding of the complexities involved. When it comes to the debate between neorealism and neoliberalism, it remains central in international relations scholarship. Neorealists emphasize power politics and the enduring relevance of state-centric approaches, while neoliberals emphasize cooperation, institutions, and the potential for peaceful conflict resolution through diplomacy.

Critical theories, including postcolonialism and dependency theory, critique Western dominance in global politics and economics. These perspectives emphasize the legacy of colonialism, unequal power structures, and global inequality (Keohane et al., 2020). Constructivist scholars focus on the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping foreign policy choices. They argue that non-material factors influence state behavior and international outcomes. Ethical frameworks like cosmopolitanism and just war theory inform discussions about the moral dimensions of foreign policy. Cosmopolitanism emphasizes global citizenship and ethical responsibilities beyond borders, while just war theory provides criteria for ethical military intervention (Haass, 2018). Scholarship on foreign policy decision-making explores the processes within governments that lead to foreign policy choices. Models such as the rational actor model, bureaucratic politics model, and governmental politics model offer insights into how decisions are formulated.

There is no denying the fact that globalization has spurred debates about the role of regionalism in international relations (Oyebade, 2014). Scholars analyze the influence of regional organizations, such as the European Union or ASEAN, on global politics and American foreign policy. The impact of globalization on conflict and cooperation is another area of scholarly inquiry. Researchers explore whether globalization reduces the likelihood of conflict or intensifies competition. In this regard, this section provides scholarly debates and perspectives that inform our understanding of American foreign policy in a globalized world. These debates and theories offer valuable frameworks for analyzing the intricate dynamics of international relations and foreign policy decision-making.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for this study involves a secondary qualitative (content) analysis. This approach allows for a comprehensive examination of existing scholarly literature, policy documents, and other relevant sources. The foundation of the research

methodology is an extensive literature review. This phase involves identifying and collecting relevant scholarly articles, books, reports, and policy documents related to American foreign policy and globalization. The sources are selected based on their academic rigor, relevance to the research topic, and publication date. A content analysis approach is employed to systematically review and analyze the collected materials. This analysis involves identifying key themes, trends, and patterns within the literature and policy documents. It will also involve examining the language used in these sources to discern underlying ideologies, values, and policy directions. This also involves examining historical developments, policy shifts, and changes in American foreign policy strategies in response to globalization.

The theoretical frameworks outlined in the theoretical framework section serve as lenses through which the data is interpreted. This entails assessing how the data aligns with or challenges the theories of realism, liberalism, constructivism, ethical frameworks, and foreign policy decision-making models. By systematically analyzing existing literature and policy documents, applying relevant theoretical frameworks, and upholding ethical standards, this paper seeks to contribute to an understanding of the complex dynamics at the intersection of American foreign policy and the forces of globalization.

Analysis and Results

Globalization's Impact on American Foreign Policy

The analysis of the literature and policy documents reveals that globalization has significantly transformed American foreign policy. The interconnectivity brought about by globalization has necessitated a shift in the nation's diplomatic strategies. The United States has increasingly engaged in multilateralism, recognizing that many global challenges, such as climate change and pandemics, require collaborative solutions. This finding aligns with liberal and constructivist perspectives that emphasize cooperation and international institutions. Realist perspectives continue to influence American foreign policy decisions. The pursuit of national interest and power politics remains a crucial aspect of U.S. engagement in a globalized world. For example, strategic alliances with non-democratic regimes are often justified by realist calculations of stability and security. This finding evinces the relevance of realist principles even in the face of globalization's challenges.

Ethical Dilemmas in American Foreign Policy

The tension between American values and pragmatic considerations is evident in foreign policy choices. While the United States promotes democracy and human rights, it has faced criticism for aligning with authoritarian allies. This ethical dilemma is particularly pronounced in cases of humanitarian interventions, where the responsibility to protect collides with realist

considerations. The discussion highlights the complexity of maintaining ethical principles in a globalized world.

International Institutions and Multilateralism

International institutions play a vital role in shaping American foreign policy. The United States actively participates in organizations such as the United Nations and engages in international agreements to address global challenges. This reflects a neoliberal perspective that emphasizes cooperation and institutions in global governance. However, the analysis also reveals instances where the U.S. has pursued unilateral actions, illustrating the ongoing tension between multilateralism and unilateralism.

Implications for American Foreign Policy

American exceptionalism has evolved in the context of globalization. While the belief in a unique American mission remains, there is a recognition that the United States must navigate a globalized world with interdependent interests and responsibilities. This finding underscores the need for American exceptionalism to adapt to the complexities of the 21st-century global landscape.

In this age of globalization, the US foreign policy is contending with a set of implications that demand careful consideration. Firstly, there is the imperative to balance between realism and idealism. The U.S. must reconcile its realist pursuits, like national security and economic interests, with its idealistic values, such as democracy promotion and human rights. Striking this balance demands transparent ethical deliberation, especially in scenarios where pragmatism conflicts with principles. Moreover, the research underscores the pivotal role of multilateral diplomacy. Given the profound interconnections of contemporary global issues, such as climate change and pandemics, American foreign policy should prioritize active participation in international institutions, effective cooperation with allies, and support for collective efforts (Rochester, 2018). This approach bolsters America's capacity to influence global affairs positively and signals commitment to effective global governance.

Discussion

The above comprehensive analysis and discussion reveal a complex mixture of realist calculations, liberal ideals, ethical dilemmas, and evolving exceptionalism. Such an understanding is essential for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners as they navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization in the realm of international relations. Moreover, the research highlights the need for foreign policy decisions that strike a balance between pragmatic considerations and ethical principles.

In the face of globalization, American exceptionalism must evolve. While it remains a guiding principle, recognizing the necessity to share responsibilities with

other nations is paramount. Adaptability is the key to fostering international cooperation and addressing complex, cross-border challenges. More importantly, a transparent, ethical foreign policy, balancing American values and pragmatic interests, is a complex yet vital challenge. As a global power, the United States bears a responsibility to contribute to global stability. This extends to combating climate change, promoting global health, and responding to humanitarian crises. The notion of global responsibility goes beyond narrow national interests.

Conclusion

The globalization of politics has prevailed in a new era of complexity and interconnectedness in international relations, reshaping the landscape within which American foreign policy operates. This research has explored the multifaceted responses of American foreign policy to the forces of globalization, yielding several key findings and insights. Firstly, globalization has had a profound impact on American foreign policy, necessitating a shift towards greater multilateralism and cooperative diplomacy. The interconnected nature of contemporary global challenges, such as climate change and pandemics, underscores the imperative of collaborative solutions. Secondly, realist considerations continue to shape American foreign policy decisions, with the pursuit of national interest and power politics remaining central. Strategic alliances with non-democratic regimes illustrate the enduring influence of realist principles. Thirdly, the tension between American values and pragmatic considerations is a recurrent theme in foreign policy choices. Ethical dilemmas arise when promoting democracy and human rights collides with realist calculations, especially in cases of humanitarian interventions. Fourthly, international institutions play a vital role in shaping American foreign policy. Active participation in organizations like the United Nations reflects a commitment to neoliberal principles of cooperation and global governance. Lastly, American exceptionalism has evolved in response to globalization. While the belief in a unique American mission persists, there is a growing recognition of the need to navigate a globalized world with interdependent interests and responsibilities.

Recommendations

Multilateral Diplomacy as a Cornerstone:

First and foremost, American foreign policy should unequivocally embrace and prioritize multilateralism as a cornerstone principle. This necessitates not only continued efforts but also proactive leadership in cooperative diplomacy to address pressing transnational challenges, ensuring the stability and resilience of the international order.

Ethical Deliberation as a Guiding Principle:

Besides, policymakers must engage in rigorous and transparent ethical deliberation when navigating

foreign policy decisions. The careful balance between national interests and ethical principles, particularly in the context of humanitarian interventions, demands a meticulous and principled approach. The integration of ethics into decision-making processes is imperative for maintaining moral credibility on the global stage.

Strategic Alliances Aligned with Democratic Values:

Importantly, in the formation of strategic alliances, the United States should meticulously assess the long-term implications for its foundational values and global reputation. Pragmatic considerations must be weighed against an unwavering commitment to democratic principles. Upholding democratic values should not be compromised for short-term gains, ensuring consistency in American foreign policy.

Sustained Support for Global Governance:

Also, the United States should reaffirm its commitment to sustained and persistent engagement with international institutions, actively supporting global governance mechanisms. Recognizing the vital role of these institutions in fostering cooperation and promoting global stability, continued endorsement and collaboration are essential elements of an effective and responsible American foreign policy.

Adaptive American Exceptionalism in a Globalized Era:

Lastly, American exceptionalism should undergo a nuanced adaptation to the realities of an interconnected and globalized world. While embracing its unique role, the United States must dispel unilateral tendencies, acknowledging the imperative to collaborate and share responsibilities with other nations. This recalibration is crucial for fostering constructive international partnerships.

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