

- The US will always intervene when its vital interests are threatened. Where possible, it will try to do so with the support of allies. But when 'push comes to shove,' the US is prepared and willing to go it alone.
- The Bush Administration will be occupied with safeguarding US primacy in global affairs and is interested in further extending America's hegemony and comparative advantage in terms of relative power capabilities. However, a number of prominent foreign policy failures in the post-Cold War era has led to a coupling of primacy with frustration.
- The isolationist term is an inappropriate characterization of contemporary US foreign policy. As the Bush team pulls back from a number of issues (such as the Middle East peace process, global climate change negotiations, etc.), it is more a question of degrees of interventionism and engagement than a dramatic move across the ideological spectrum towards isolationism. There is a sometimes subtle, sometimes blatant, distinction in the US between two types of internationalism—militant internationalism versus liberal internationalism. The new administration will emphasize the former.
- US foreign policy under the Bush Administration will witness a high degree of ideological activism married with exceptionalism. Under this approach, issues will increasingly be seen in more black and white terms with the implication that responses to international problems will come quickly and with little consideration of possible long-term consequences or impacts on allies. Such an approach can also lead to highly confrontational policy stances.
- It is questionable whether the US government can actually set priorities in the post-Cold War era. Instead of pursuing a set foreign policy agenda as many have been led to believe, the Bush Administration could easily find itself in response mode.
- On the other hand, to assert at this time that US foreign policy under the Bush Administration will be in "response mode" is simply premature. Former governors often take time to establish their foreign policy priorities, and this administration has clearly stated that policy reviews are taking place on most issues. In addition, the top members of the Bush team are individuals with a public record of setting long-term objectives based on clear policy direction. As a result, now, rather than later, is the time for Canada to communicate to Washington issue concerns and potential Canadian contributions to US objectives.
- The foreign policy continuities (such as a commitment to the Balkans in the short-term, further reductions in nuclear warhead levels, reinvigorated Iraqi sanctions, support for trade regimes) between the Clinton and Bush Administrations should not be underestimated and overlooked. Moreover, US ties to global and regional interests and this administration's close links with the business community will serve to moderate international policy. Interdependence will pull the US into multilateral contexts.