

**THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE HALIFAX ROUNDTABLE  
ON AMERICAN FOREIGN (SECURITY AND TRADE) POLICY  
Friday, June 15, 2001**

The Department of Political Science at Saint Mary's University, in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, on June 15, 2001 held a Roundtable on American Foreign Policy. This session, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was one in a series of roundtables which surveyed the international implications of recent changes in the US administration. Although the focus was on trade and security issues, the main objective was to identify broad patterns and elements of continuity and change, and implications, challenges and opportunities for Canadian and international foreign policymakers. Participants were encouraged to explore the following themes and questions:

- **Conceptualizing US Foreign Policy and the US View of the World.** Is there evidence of a trend in US foreign policy toward realism, idealism, neo-liberalism, unilateralism, multilateralism, bilateralism, or isolationism?
- **The Changing Role and Influence of American Institutions, Processes and Actors.** To what extent is (or will) US foreign policy formulation be shaped by public opinion, the media, Congress, think-tanks, corporations, pressure groups, and other domestic forces?
- **Defining and Defending US National Interests and Foreign Policy Objectives.** Is there any evidence of a U.S agenda or prioritizing in security, economic, environment, human rights, or other global issue areas or particular regions or groups?
- **U.S. Foreign Policy Capacities and Resources.** To what extent is the US relatively powerful or powerless in responding to, or preventing, military and non-military challenges? What will be the impact of domestic conditions - budgets, tax cuts, political will or other such factors - on the nature and exercise of US power and influence?
- **Changing World Order(s)?** What new relationships and alliances are being formed? Who are the new adversaries? Are there new opportunities and constraints for international organizations, non-governmental organizations, or "middle powers"?

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