

FOREIGN POLICY BOOK

READING

SS.7.C.4.1 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will recognize the difference between domestic and foreign policy.

The U.S. Constitution lists several powers for Congress that deal specifically with **foreign** and **domestic policy**. Foreign policy is the nation's overall plan for dealing with other nations. Domestic policy is the nation's plan for making laws and policies that impact citizen and non-citizen behavior in the United States.

There are several different areas that the U.S. government focuses on when it comes to developing domestic policy. The U.S. government focuses on social programs, health care, and education when developing its domestic policy.

The U.S. government also has to think about several areas when developing its foreign policy plan. The government has to create a plan for **diplomacy**, which is ways to maintain relationships with other nations. The government needs to consider which countries to join in an **alliance** with, which is making military or defensive union with other nations. Finally, the government also considers making **treaties**, or formal agreements, with other nations for the purposes of trade, defense, and other reasons.





There are very clear goals that the United States has when it comes to developing domestic and foreign policy plans.

Domestic policy is any set of laws or actions that are related to government programs that impact the citizens and people within the borders of the United States. Domestic policy covers a wide range of areas, from education, to the economy, taxes, social welfare and health care. The main goal of any domestic policy plan is to make laws and rules that benefit and protect the citizens and people within U.S. borders.

Foreign policy is a nation's overall plan for dealing with other nations. There are some general goals to foreign policy plans in the United States which include: **(1)** national security (keeping U.S. borders safe), **(2)** promoting peace (creating **diplomatic** relationships and **allies** (friendships/protection) with countries around the world), **(3)** spreading democracy (teaching other nations about the benefits of democratic government), **(4)** promoting international trade (expanding the number of goods sold to other countries and good purchased from other countries) and finally **(5)** providing foreign aid (providing military, economic health and other assistance to other countries that are in need).

SS.7.C.4.2 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will describe the ways that individual citizens and government can seek participating in international organizations.

Both individuals and nations governments can participate in international organizations. Below are some examples of how people and governments can get involved.

Name of Organization	Short Form Name	Symbol	Purpose
International Red Cross/ Red Crescent	No short form name		<p>The International Red Cross is an international humanitarian organization with approximately 97 million volunteers, members and staff. It was founded to protect human life and health, to guarantee respect for all human beings, and to prevent and relieve human suffering.</p> <p>Individuals and governments can support this international organization by donating money, raising awareness, and volunteering.</p>
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs)	NGO/INGO		<p>NGOs/INGOs are types of organizations that work independent of any government. They are private organizations that work to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or assist with community development. These NGOs/INGOs operate independently from any government and maintain their non-governmental (no government is involved) position by not allowing government representatives to join their organizations.</p>
United Nations	UN		<p>An organization that was created to keep peace worldwide and develop friendly relationship among nations.</p> <p>193 nations (government) are members of the United Nations. Countries can join the General Assembly. Individuals can donate money to the UN, apply for internships with the UN or work for them directly.</p>
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF		<p>A United Nations program headquartered in New York City, which provides long-term help and care to mothers and children in developing nations. They work to benefit a variety of issues related to children such as education, vaccinations, nutrition, and other issues.</p> <p>Individuals can contribute to UNICEF by donating money, raising awareness, purchasing gifts, or signing up for social media alerts.</p>

The end of World War II, and more specifically the Holocaust, brought international attention to issues and problems of worldwide concern. People all over the world began to pay closer attention to human rights (rights that people have because they exist) and different organizations were created to support these concerns. Governments all over the world created and participated in a number of international organizations that protected human rights and focused on economic and trade related concerns.

Below are some examples of major international organizations in which governments participate.

Name of Organization	Short Form Name	Symbol	Purpose
North American Free Trade Agreement	NAFTA		Allows free trade among the United States, Canada and Mexico and has opened new markets, created jobs, and encouraged growth in the economies of its members. The governments of the United States, Mexico and Canada encourage the purchase and sale of each other's goods.
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	NATO		A group of 28 countries that have agreed to protect each other in case of attack; specifically started to protect themselves against aggression by the Soviet Union and its communist allies. It is a military and defense agreement among the governments of member nations.
United Nations	UN		Created to keep peace worldwide and develop friendly relationship among nations. 193 nations (governments) are members of the United Nations. Countries may join the General Assembly.
World Trade Organization	WTO		The WTO was created to promote trade and economic growth by lowering taxes and other trade limitations. Countries may join and make agreements related to trade and taxes.

The United States Constitution grants specific powers to **Congress** and the **president** when it comes to dealing with other nations, especially during conflicts.

Article I of the Constitution discusses the powers of the legislative branch (Congress) and grants the power to declare war, the power to approve spending (on the military) and the power to raise an army

1. **World War I**—declared war on Germany after German U-Boat sunk British submarines and merchant ships carrying U.S. citizens.

2. **World War II**—declared war on Japan after Japan bombed a naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Hawaii was a U.S. territory at the time.

Article II of the Constitution discusses the powers of the executive branch (president) and grants the president the title of Commander in Chief. This means that the president is in charge of the military and has the power to send troops overseas.

Presidents throughout history have been known to interpret their power as Commander in Chief to mean that they can send U.S. military troops into conflict or “war-like” situations without a formal declaration of war from Congress. Examples of this include U.S. involvement in the **Korean War** (1950-1953), the **Vietnam War** (1964-1975), **Gulf War I** (1990-1991) and **Gulf War II** (2003 – present).

3. **September 11, 2001** - On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked (took by force) four airplanes in the U.S. and flew them into the World Trade Center in New York City, NY and the Pentagon in

Virginia, near Washington, DC. Another plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Over 3,000 Americans lost their lives as a result of this attack.

The World Trade Center was a business center that included two 110 story buildings. The Pentagon is the headquarters of the U.S. military leadership. Terrorists are individuals who use violence to achieve political goals such as a change of government leadership or independence.

This attack killed several thousand innocent Americans. The terrorist group who did this was Al Qaeda (which was led by Osama bin Laden). Another group, the Taliban, who ruled most of the country of Afghanistan, allowed Al Qaeda to live in Afghanistan and train for the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

The U.S. military and its **NATO allies** responded by invading the country with the help of the Northern Alliance. Together, they took the Taliban out of power in Afghanistan (The Northern Alliance is an Afghan group that fought against the Taliban.) The battle to keep Afghanistan's new government stable was still going on as of 2014.