

# Study Guide



## Chapter 7, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 175–178

### Making Foreign Policy



#### KEY TERMS

- foreign policy** a nation's overall plan for dealing with other nations (*page 175*)
- national security** the ability to keep the country safe from attack or harm (*page 175*)
- treaty** a formal agreement between the governments of two or more countries (*page 177*)
- executive agreement** an agreement between the president and the leader of another country (*page 177*)
- ambassador** an official representative of a country's government (*page 177*)
- trade sanction** effort to punish another nation by imposing trade barriers (*page 177*)
- embargo** an agreement among a group of nations that prohibits them all from trading with a target nation (*page 177*)

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

In what ways is the United States involved with other countries? Which nations is it friendly with? Which nations is it in conflict with? Why?

The last section discussed the roles that the president fulfills. This section describes the roles that the president and Congress play in forming the nation's foreign policy.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram on the next page to help you take notes. The United States has several goals in carrying out its foreign policy. List these goals in the diagram.

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## Chapter 7, Section 3 (continued)

**Goals of American Foreign Policy**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### READ TO LEARN

• **The President and Foreign Policy** (*page 175*)

A nation's **foreign policy** is its overall plan for dealing with other nations. The basic goal of American foreign policy is **national security**, or the ability to keep the country safe from attack or harm. Another goal is international trade. Trade with other nations helps the nation prosper. Trade creates markets for American products and jobs for American workers. A third goal of American foreign policy is promoting world peace. A fourth goal is to promote democracy around the world. Promoting world peace and democracy helps protect our nation's own national security.

The president and various White House assistants work with a foreign-policy bureaucracy in the executive branch. The bureaucracy includes the State Department, the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Council. These agencies give the president information and can carry out presidential decisions around the world. However, presidents often have to choose among conflicting advice from these agencies.

The power to conduct foreign policy is divided between the president and Congress. The president is the commander in chief and chief diplomat. Congress, however, has the power to declare war and to spend or withhold money for defense. The executive branch and the legislative branch tend to compete for control of foreign policy.

The president and Congress use several tools to carry out foreign policy. They create **treaties**, or formal agreements between the governments of two or more countries. One of the most important treaties for the United States is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This

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is a mutual defense treaty between the United States, Canada, and European nations. The Senate must approve a treaty. The president, however, can bypass the Senate by making an **executive agreement**. This is an agreement between the president and the leader of another country. These agreements usually deal with routine matters.

An **ambassador** is an official representative of a country's government. The president appoints ambassadors, who must be approved by the Senate. The president sends ambassadors only to countries where the United States recognizes the government. The president does not send an ambassador to a country where the government is holding power illegally.

The United States sends foreign aid, which is money, food, military assistance, or other supplies to help other countries. The president also makes agreements with other nations about what products to trade and about the rules for trading. Sometimes **trade sanctions**, or efforts to punish another nation by imposing trade barriers, are used. At other times nations agree to an **embargo**, which is an agreement among a group of nations that prohibits them all from trading with a target nation. Congress also regulates tariffs and membership in international trade groups, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Sometimes the president, as commander in chief, uses the military to carry out foreign-policy decisions. For example, in 2001 President George W. Bush used the armed forces for a struggle against terrorism.

5. What two branches carry out the nation's foreign policy?

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