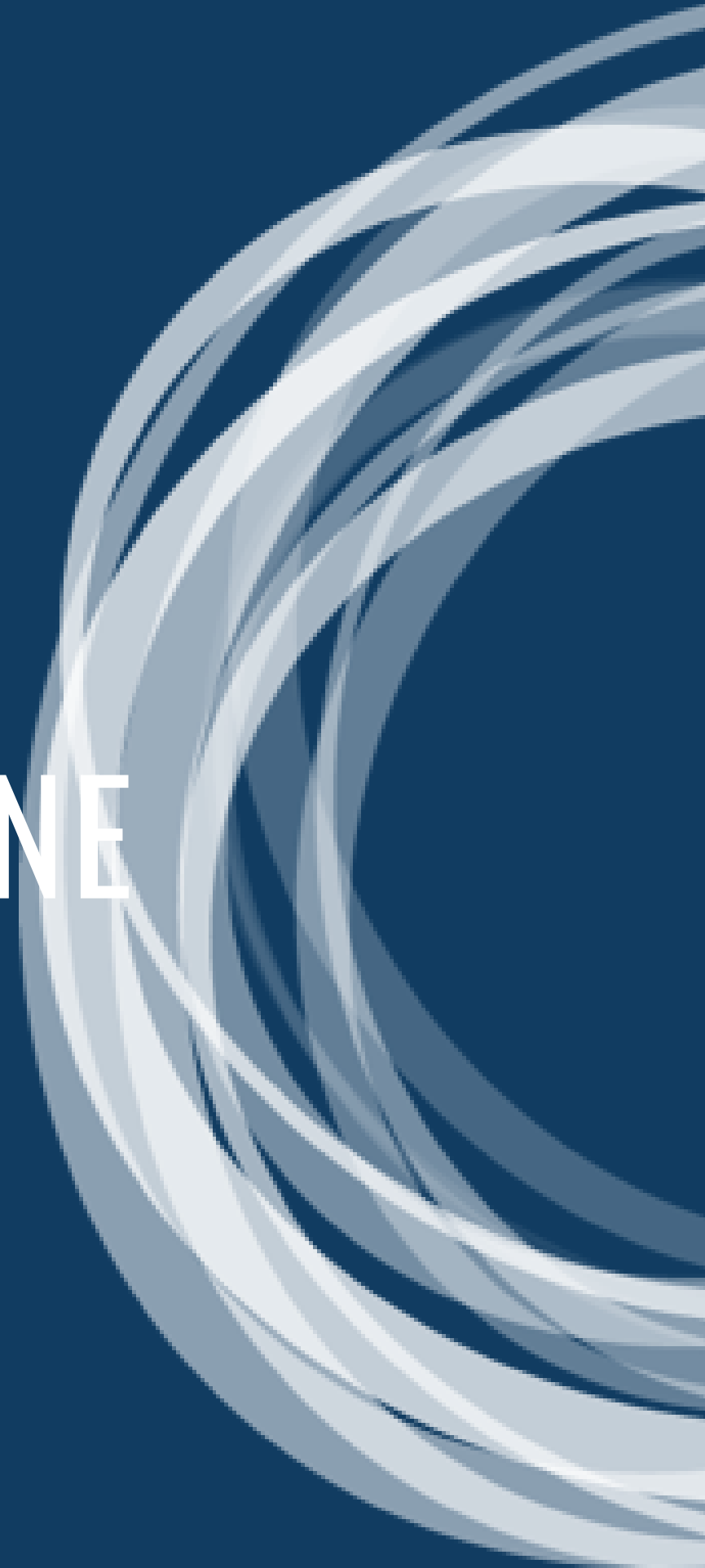


INFORM. INSPIRE. DEVELOP CIVIC LEADERS.

THE POLICY CIRCLE

FOREIGN POLICY: RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS



➤ WHAT IS FOREIGN POLICY? ◀

FOREIGN POLICY

- GENERAL OBJECTIVES THAT GUIDE RELATIONSHIPS AND INTERACTIONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT STATES (AKA COUNTRIES).

FOREIGN POLICY IS INFLUENCED BY

- DOMESTIC POLITICS
- GEOGRAPHY
- THE BEHAVIOR OF OTHER STATES
- EXTERNAL THREATS

ASPECTS OF FOREIGN POLICY INCLUDE

- DIPLOMACY
- MILITARY ALLIANCES
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRADE AGREEMENTS
- WAR

US FOREIGN POLICY IS MAINLY CONDUCTED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AMERICA'S CHIEF DIPLOMAT, LEADS THE US FOREIGN SERVICE THAT STAFFS AMERICA'S EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES AROUND THE WORLD.

THE CONSTITUTION ALSO GRANTS CONGRESS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FOREIGN POLICY

- CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR

- THE SENATE RATIFIES TREATIES AND CONFIRMS AMBASSADORS

➤ WHAT IS FOREIGN POLICY? ◀

FOREIGN POLICY IS THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES THAT GUIDE THE ACTIVITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF ONE STATE IN ITS INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER STATES. THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY IS INFLUENCED BY DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS, THE POLICIES OR BEHAVIOUR OF OTHER STATES [AND POSSIBLE EXTERNAL THREATS] OR PLANS TO ADVANCE SPECIFIC GEOPOLITICAL DESIGNS. DIPLOMACY IS THE TOOL OF FOREIGN POLICY, AND WAR, ALLIANCES, AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE MAY ALL BE MANIFESTATIONS OF IT.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS CRAFTED PRINCIPALLY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. AT THE CABINET LEVEL, THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE PLAY KEY ROLES IN SHAPING POLICY, DETERMINING PRIORITIES, AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGY. THE U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE, UNDER THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TRAINS AND EMPLOYS DIPLOMATS WHO ARE POSTED AT U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO CARRY OUT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS HAVE CONSTITUTIONALLY-MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



➤ FACTS TO KNOW ◀



IN 1991, AFTER THE SOVIET UNION COLLAPSED, 15 DIFFERENT SOVIET REPUBLICS, INCLUDING RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, BECAME INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES. SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR, MANY COUNTRIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET BLOCK LIKE POLAND AND THE BALTIC STATES HAVE FORGED CLOSER TIES WITH THE WEST BY JOINING NATO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.

SINCE 2014, THE US AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES HAVE INSTITUTED A VARIETY OF SANCTIONS AGAINST KEY INDIVIDUALS IN RUSSIA'S GOVERNMENT AND RUSSIAN COMPANIES. AN INVASION OF UKRAINE COULD LEAD TO SWEEPING SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA'S OIL AND GAS EXPORTS. THIS WOULD LIKELY INCREASE GLOBAL ENERGY PRICES AND AFFECT THE WIDER WORLD ECONOMY.

AFTER A PROTEST MOVEMENT OVERTHREW UKRAINE'S PRO-RUSSIAN PRESIDENT IN 2014, RUSSIA OCCUPIED THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA, THE LOCATION OF A KEY RUSSIAN NAVAL BASE. RUSSIA ALSO BEGAN SUPPORTING SEPARATIST GROUPS IN RUSSIAN-SPEAKING AREAS OF EASTERN UKRAINE.

SINCE 2014, 14,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE THE CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE BETWEEN THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT AND RUSSIAN-BACKED SEPARATISTS. IN 2015, FRANCE AND GERMANY FACILITATED A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE CALLED THE MINSK AGREEMENT WHICH FAILED TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT.



MAPS



Nato members in Europe



- ① Estonia
- ② Latvia
- ③ Lithuania
- ④ Poland
- ⑤ Slovakia
- ⑥ Hungary
- ⑦ Romania

*Russia annexed Crimea in 2014



➤ GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND SPENDING ◀

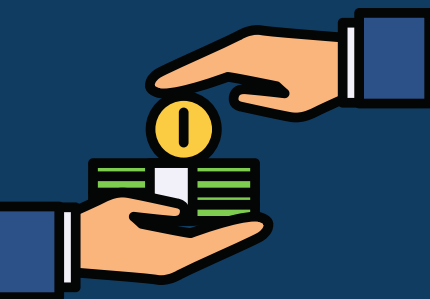


SINCE 2014, THE US HAS GIVEN UKRAINE \$2.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY AID TO HELP THE COUNTRY DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST RUSSIAN AGGREGGION, AND DEPLOYED AROUND 150 NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS TO UKRAINE TO TRAIN AND ADVISE ITS MILITARY. AS OF FEBRUARY 2022, THE US HAS WITHDRAWN US ADVISORS FROM UKRAINE AND EVACUATED THE US EMBASSY'S STAFF.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAS REINFORCED THE 80,000 US TROOPS REGULARLY STATIONED IN EUROPE WITH 4,700 ADDITIONAL US TROOPS IN NATO COUNTRIES THAT BORDER UKRAINE SUCH AS POLAND AND ROMANIA.

ALTHOUGH THE US HAS NO FORMAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH UKRAINE, A RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE WOULD SEVERELY THREATEN AMERICA'S NATO ALLIES THAT BORDER RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, SUCH AS POLAND AND ROMANIA. NATO'S COLLECTIVE DEFENSE PROVISION, ALSO KNOWN AS ARTICLE FIVE, MEANS THAT AN ATTACK ON ONE MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE WILL BE TREATED AS AN ATTACK AGAINST ALL MEMBERS. FOR THIS REASON, A MAJORITY OF UKRAINIANS WANT TO EVENTUALLY JOIN NATO, AND RUSSIAN DEMANDS INCLUDE A GUARANTEE THAT NATO WILL NOT ALLOW UKRAINE TO JOIN.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE'S ANNUAL DEFENSE SPENDING AMOUNT TO AROUND DEFENSE BUDGET, AROUND \$62 BILLION PER YEAR, AND \$6 BILLION PER YEAR. EVEN WITH US AID, UKRAINE IS AT A MAJOR MILITARY DISADVANTAGE.





SOLUTIONS



THE UNITED STATE'S RESPONSE TO ANY FUTURE RUSSIAN AGGRESSION WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN COORDINATED WITH AMERICA'S EUROPEAN ALLIES IN NATO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE US HAS VERY LITTLE DIRECT TRADE WITH RUSSIA AND DOES NOT DEPEND ON RUSSIAN OIL AND GAS EXPORTS. HOWEVER, MANY OF THE US'S EUROPEAN ALLIES SUCH AS GERMANY DEPEND MORE HEAVILY ON TRADE WITH RUSSIA. THEIR ECONOMIES COULD BE HARMED BY HIGHER ENERGY PRICES AND FURTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA IN RESPONSE TO A RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE.

A POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT COULD INVOLVE A GUARANTEE OF UKRAINE'S NEUTRALITY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND NATO. DURING THE COLD WAR, EUROPE WAS LARGELY DIVIDED BETWEEN NATO, LED BY THE US, AND THE SOVIET UNION'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, THE WARSAW PACT. HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES WERE ABLE TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN PART BY AGREEING TO TREAT SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRIA AND SWEDEN AS NEUTRAL BETWEEN BOTH BLOCS.

ALTHOUGH THE US AND ITS ALLIES WILL ENSURE THAT ANY RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE IS MET WITH DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES, US DIPLOMATS CAN STILL WORK TRY TO IMPROVE US-RUSSIA RELATIONS AND WORK TOGETHER IN AREAS WHERE THE US AND RUSSIA HAVE COMMON INTERESTS. AREAS OF COMMON US AND RUSSIAN INTEREST INCLUDE PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, FIGHTING TERRORIST GROUPS LIKE ISIS, AND NEGOTIATING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF US AND RUSSIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

➤ WHAT YOU CAN DO ◀

MEASURE -

FIND OUT HOW YOUR STATE AND DISTRICT ARE AFFECTED BY FOREIGN POLICY. ARE THERE MANY VETERANS IN YOUR CITY OR COMMUNITY? DOES YOUR CITY OR COMMUNITY HAVE A LARGE IMMIGRANT POPULATION? SEARCH ON YOUR STATE OR MUNICIPALITY'S WEBSITE FOR A COMMUNITY OR HUMAN SERVICES TAB, OR SEARCH FOR TERMS SUCH AS "IMMIGRATION," IN THE SEARCH BAR.



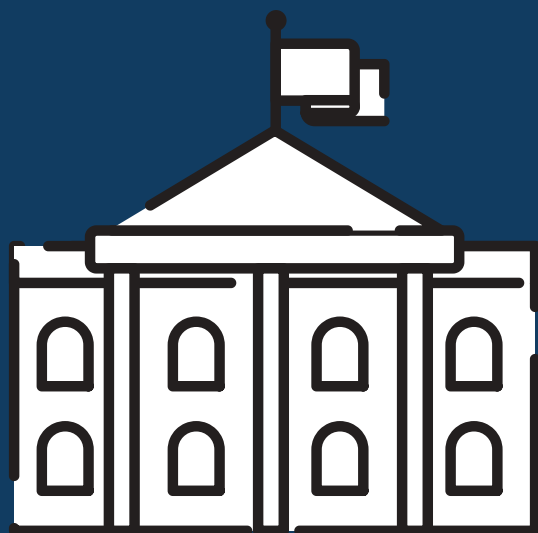
IDENTIFY -

WHAT STEPS HAVE YOUR STATE'S OR COMMUNITY'S ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS TAKEN? DOES ONE OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES SERVE ON ONE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ADDRESSING FOREIGN AFFAIRS?



REACH OUT -

FOSTER COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, YOUR LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.



PLAN -
SET MILESTONES BASED ON YOUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR OR LOCAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR.



EXECUTE -

KEEP TRACK OF BILLS IN CONGRESS RELATED TO THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT. KNOW WHO DECIDES POLICY TOWARDS EUROPE AND RUSSIA: STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH INFORMATION FROM THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS IS THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION. SEE IF YOUR CITY OR STATE HAS COMPANIES THAT ENGAGE INTERNATIONALLY. IF POSSIBLE, ORGANIZE A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ABOUT AID, FOREIGN POLICY, AND WHAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE GOING TO SUPPORT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

