

Key players in framing US FP:-

The foreign policy of America is very significant for the entire world, for individual countries, different regions and also for organizations like UNO, WHO, WTO, NATO, APEC, G-8 etc. It affects the lives of the people all over the globe.

1. In fact the USA wants to play the role of the subject for herself and that of the object for others.
2. Moreover it has to deal with the entire world. So mostly it formulates region specific policies. For example - US policy for West Asia, for South Asia, for Europe etc.

Following institutions are key in determining the foreign policy of America -

White House:

It is the office of the President of the USA, one of the most prestigious building and power centers of the world. It coordinates among various offices and office bearers to frame foreign policy. As foreign office (State Department), Defence Department (Pentagon), bureaucracy, committees of the Congress. In making and implementation of foreign policy President, Foreign Secretary, Defence Advisor to President, play crucial roles.

Lobbying, after the second world war, emerged as a dominant factor in formulation of foreign policy. Lobbying means trying to influence a politician or a govt to do or not to do something specific. Here it means to persuade the president or bureaucracy with her ideas. Jwes have a very powerful lobby in the USA.

Secretary of State and National Security Council:

Next to the President, these office bearers are key to the task of foreign policy making. In the post war period Secretary of State **John Foster** said, "he who is not with us is against us".

The National Security Council advises the President on domestic, foreign, military and security issues. This Council comprises President, Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of defence. Director to CIA also attends its meetings. The meetings are chaired by the President

National Security Advisor:

He advises the President of foreign policy matters. He is also a member of the National Security Council. Henry Kissinger and Brezenski were such powerful office bearers who got an edge over even foreign secretary by virtue of their control over propoganda and public contacts.

State Department;

It is very crucial in framing of foreign policy. It is a kind of information centre which controls foreign policy. It ensures continuity in foreign policy instead of an abrupt break from the past.

CIA:

CIA was created under the National Security Act of 1947 which President Truman signed on 26 July 1947. It officially came into existence on 18 September 1947. The Office of Strategic Services was a predecessor to the CIA which was formed during the second world war with a view to gather information about the enemy states. CIA is well equipped with military and economic facilities. It is accused of fomenting political instability in weak countries in the name of strengthening democratic values. Its popularity has increased in America with its one time director George Bush gracing the office of White House.

Military Industrial Complex:

Every State secures her national interest. Maxwell says that ruling classes present their own interest as national interests. This is more true about America. President Eisenhower was the first one to introduce this term. It means - an informal alliance of the military and related govt departments with defense industries that is held to influence govt policy. It acts behind the curtain. The close relationship between military and industries was established during the first world war. In the war, America remained isolated and supplied arms and ammunition to the warring parties and thereby making hefty profits and mastering arms production technology. After the war these industrial houses were transformed into interpersonal corporations which were further transformed to multinational companies. After the second world war these multinational companies presented their own interests as the national interests of America. In cold war period the planes, arms and missiles with advanced technologies were sold to various countries specially of the third world, where these were used in regional or bilateral conflicts. Thus the military industrial complex wishes the international tension to mount, so that it could supply arms and gain earnings. Hence American foreign policy is aggressive and interventionist as well. American government and her academic institutions receive money from these military industrial complexes in the form of taxes and charity respectively.

Public Opinion:

In very few countries of the world public opinion plays such a significant role in formulation of foreign policy as in America. It checks presidential decisions many times. In the 1963 Cuban missile crisis president Kennedy acted under public pressure against the supply of these missiles by the USSR to Cuba. President Johnson agreed for military withdrawal from Vietnam despite loss of face for America under the public pressure.

Other factors:

Cultural imperialism: America and her European friends try to disseminate their culture elsewhere in the world. They are democracies, capitalist economies and Christianity based societies. It avails them the market to earn profit. Sometimes in cases of failure, they march for adventurous or interventionist policies.

Market factors: America also keeps in mind availability of markets to export her products to various countries and accordingly shapes her foreign policy. That's why it cherished the policy of containment of communism in cold war years.

Role of saviour of liberal values and traditions: Being the oldest republic and democracy of the world, USA presents herself as the champion of democracy and liberal values. As her opposition to terrorism, extremism and religious orthodoxy or violation of human rights. Humanitarian intervention is a corollary of this mindset.

Power Vacuum: Once the second world war was over, Britain, a mighty country, was not powerful enough to wield her old prestige and power. New countries got independence due to the process of decolonization. Even British economy was not so robust. Thus America tried to fill this power vacuum created by British weakening.

Thus America, the sole surviving superpower of the world still wields tremendous clout and enormous potential to affect the entire world even today. In international politics, its role sprang after the second war and continues to shine till day. It is no exaggeration to say that the 20th century belonged to America.



Sanjay Baranwal
Associate Professor Political Science
VRAL GOVT GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE
BAREILLY.