

## Articles

Gordon Brown, "[Gordon Brown on the Need for a New Multilateralism](#)," *Economist*, September 17, 2021.

In this article former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown argues for renewing multilateralism in order to face new challenges more effectively. (1,700 words)

Charli Carpenter, "[Game of Thrones as Theory](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, March 29, 2012.

Charli Carpenter applies foreign policy theory to the first season of the television show *Game of Thrones*, arguing, among other things, that the show's worldview is not realist, despite what many critics have said. (1,700 words)

Charles A. Kupchan, "[Isolationism Is Not a Dirty Word](#)," *Atlantic*, September 27, 2020.

Drawing on ideas from his book, Charles A. Kupchan argues that isolation should not be a dirty word—in fact, it has served the United States well at many points in history. (6,600 words)

Thomas Mallon, "[How the Promise of Normalcy Won the 1920 Election](#)," *New Yorker*, September 14, 2020.

In his history of the 1920 election, Thomas Mallon discusses, among other topics, a moment in U.S. history when the choice between isolationism and engagement was hotly debated. (4,250 words)

Tom McTague and Peter Nicholas, "[How 'America First' Became America Alone](#)," *Atlantic*, October 29, 2020.

In their article written on the eve of the 2020 election, Tom McTague and Peter Nicholas review the foreign policy of the Donald Trump administration, arguing that a shift toward unilateralism served in many ways to weaken the United States. (4,100 words)

# Approaches to Foreign Policy: Classroom Reading List

Alex Pascal, “[Against Washington’s ‘Great Power’ Obsession](#),” *Atlantic*, September 23, 2019.

In this article reacting to the foreign policy of the Trump administration, Alex Pascal briefly summarizes the triumphs of multilateralism over the last seventy-five years and defends its continuing importance as an approach to foreign policy. (1,000 words)

Stewart M. Patrick, “[The Four Contending Approaches to Multilateralism Under Biden](#),” *World Politics Review*, May 24, 2021.

Using policy questions currently facing the Joe Biden administration as illustrations, Stewart M. Patrick briefly defines four approaches to multilateralism and the advantages of each. (1,700 words)

Joshua Shifrinson and Stephen Wertheim, “[Biden the Realist](#),” *Foreign Affairs*, September 9, 2021.

Drawing on both the recent U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and Biden’s long record, Joshua Shifrinson and Stephen Wertheim argue that Biden takes a realist approach to foreign policy. (2,500 words)

Jack Snyder, “[One World, Rival Theories](#),” *Foreign Policy*, October 26, 2009.

Jack Snyder defines idealism, liberalism, and realism in this classic article, offering concise charts and examples from the first decade of the 2000s. (4,100 words)

## Books

Richard Haass, *Isolationism: War of Necessity, War of Choice: A Memoir of Two Iraq Wars* (2009).

Richard Haass examines the 1990–91 Gulf War and 2003 Iraq War, providing insight into how and why those two wars were fought—one for largely realist reasons and the other for largely idealist ones. (352 pages)

# Approaches to Foreign Policy: Classroom Reading List

G. John Ikenberry, *A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crises of Global Order* (2020).

G. John Ikenberry provides a history of and argument for liberal internationalism, an approach to international relations that rejects realism and isolationism. (432 pages)

Charles A. Kupchan, *Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World* (2020).

Kupchan explores isolationism in the United States, arguing that this idea has been influential throughout the nation's history. (386 pages)

Samantha Power, *"A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide* (2003).

In this prize-winning book, Samantha Power examines responses to genocide throughout the twentieth century, making a fundamentally idealist argument about how countries should respond. (620 pages)

## Multimedia

["Obama on the Goal of His Foreign Policy,"](#) Vox, February 9, 2015.

In this brief interview, former President Barack Obama briefly defines "realist" and "idealist" before rejecting both terms as descriptions of his foreign policy, citing examples from his eight years in office. (3 minutes)

["The History of U.S. Isolationism, With Charles A. Kupchan,"](#) *The President's Inbox*, October 27, 2020.

CFR fellow Charles A. Kupchan discusses his recent book on isolationism in American history. (32 minutes)