

CFR Resources

Eleanor Albert, "[China's Big Bet on Soft Power.](#)"

This piece briefly discusses China's use of soft power and its limitations. (2,300 words)

Andrew Chatzky and James McBride, "[China's Massive Belt and Road Initiative.](#)"

This CFR backgrounder summarizes China's Belt and Road Initiative and includes links to additional publications by CFR and others. (2,200 words)

Andrew Chatzky and Anshu Siripurapu, "[The Truth About Tariffs.](#)"

This article outlines how tariffs function and suggests some additional readings. (2,600 words)

"[Global Challenges and the Future of U.S. Diplomacy, With Ambassador Frank G. Wisner,](#)" *The President's Inbox.*

This podcast episode interviews a former ambassador about the role of diplomacy in addressing global challenges. (30 minutes)

"[Hyperventilating Over Hypersonics,](#)" *Why it Matters.*

This podcast episode on hypersonic missiles discusses the threat that these weapons pose and the new challenges they bring to calculations over arms control and deterrence. (27 minutes)

Jonathan Masters, "[Sea Power: The U.S. Navy and Foreign Policy.](#)"

This backgrounder on the U.S. navy discusses the role it can play in several foreign policy tools, including armed force, deterrence, and diplomacy. (2,100 words)

Jonathan Masters, "[What Are Economic Sanctions?](#)"

This backgrounder briefly illustrates different kinds of sanctions, along with suggested further reading. (2,600 words)

James McBride, "[How Does the U.S. Spend Its Foreign Aid?](#)"

This article summarizes U.S. foreign aid policy and includes recommended additional readings. (2,000 words)

"[Robots That Kill,](#)" *Why It Matters.*

This podcast episode discusses the questions raised by the development of lethal autonomous weapons and their potential use. (26 minutes)

"[Spying 101,](#)" *Why it Matters.*

This podcast episode is an introductory look at intelligence work. (33 minutes)

"[Tools of Diplomacy,](#)" *Model Diplomacy.*

Tools of Foreign Policy: Reading List

From Model Diplomacy, a collection of short videos features CFR experts discussing the tools of diplomacy. (28 videos)

[“U.S. Relations With China,”](#) CFR.org.

This timeline details pivotal moments in U.S.-China relations. (5,600 words)

Articles

Jason Burke, [“Louis Armstrong and the Spy: How the CIA Used Him As a ‘Trojan Horse’ in Congo,”](#) *Guardian*, September 12, 2021.

This article tells the story of a government-organized trip that sent Louis Armstrong on a trip to what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, in what was ostensibly an exercise of soft power but in fact also served as a cover for intelligence operations. (1,400 words)

Steve Coll, [“The Lessons of Defeat in Afghanistan,”](#) *New Yorker*, September 13, 2021.

This brief article, written shortly after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, reflects on the nation-building efforts in both Afghanistan and Iraq. (1,100 words)

Rick Gladstone, [“A Treaty Is Reached to Ban Nuclear Arms. Now Comes the Hard Part,”](#) *New York Times*, July 7, 2017.

This news story about a treaty negotiated in 2017 that hoped to ban all nuclear weapons illustrates some of the limitations of arms control treaties. (1,200 words)

Margaret MacMillan, [“The World That War Has Made,”](#) *Wall Street Journal*, October 2, 2020.

Adapted from the author's recent book, *War: How Conflict Shaped Us*, this fascinating essay discusses the many and varied consequences of wars throughout history. (2,500 words)

Chris McGreal, [“What’s the Point of Peacekeepers When They Don’t Keep the Peace?”](#) *Guardian*, September 17, 2015.

This in-depth article looks at the failures of UN peacekeeping in the 1990s that led the United Nations to begin discussing the responsibility to protect (R2P) norm. (3,800 words)

Jacob M. Schlesinger, [“How China Swallowed the WTO,”](#) *Wall Street Journal*, November 1, 2017.

A story, with some excellent graphs, about how the World Trade Organization (WTO) has changed since China joined. (2,900 words)

Tools of Foreign Policy: Reading List

Books

- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (2006).
This readable and concise history of the Cold War includes a discussion of the logic of deterrence that animated the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. (352 pages)
- Anand Gopal, *No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan Eyes* (2014).
A journalistic account of the U.S. war and nation-building in Afghanistan, told through the lives of three Afghans. (304 pages)
- Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families* (1999).
A moving and disturbing account of the genocide in Rwanda detailing one of the major incidents in the 1990s that led to a reassessment of peacekeeping policy and the rise of the responsibility to protect norm. (356 pages)
- Emma Sky, *The Unraveling: High Hopes and Missed Opportunities in Iraq* (2015).
Written by a former U.S. official, this account of the 2003 Iraq War and its aftermath is a close look at the failures of U.S. nation-building in that country. (400 pages)
- Brett L. Walker, *A Concise History of Japan* (2015).
A thorough history of Japan, including detailed coverage of U.S.-Japan relations after World War II. (359 pages)

Multimedia

- [“The Five Main Projects of the Belt and Road Initiative,”](#) *South China Morning Post*.
An excellent explainer of China’s Belt and Road Initiative.
- [“I Spy,”](#) *Foreign Policy*.
In this podcast, members of the intelligence community tell stories of their assignments.
- [“The Jazz Ambassadors,”](#) PBS, May 4, 2018.
This documentary tells the story of a twentieth-century U.S. soft power project: a government-organized global tour for a number of jazz greats. It also explores the tensions inherent in a project that valued artists who were mostly Black at a time when the country still practiced segregation.
- Kenny Malone and Sally Helm, [“Worst. Tariffs. Ever,”](#) *Planet Money*, March

Tools of Foreign Policy: Reading List

30, 2018.

This podcast episode sums up tariffs, tells the story of the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff, and draws a connection to the trade policies of the Donald Trump administration. (21 minutes)

[“The Negotiators,”](#) *Foreign Policy*.

This podcast interviews negotiators, providing an inside look at the workings of international diplomacy.

Danush Parvaneh and A.J. Chavar, [“Trade Wars, Explained,”](#) *Vox*, June 6, 2018.

This comprehensive video explains how conflict can play out through trade. (5 minutes)

[“U.S.-Russia Relations: Quest for Stability,”](#) Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York provides a comprehensive multimedia look at U.S.-Russia relations.

Derek Watkins, K.K. Rebecca Lai, and Keith Bradsher, [“The World, Built by China,”](#) *New York Times*, November 18, 2018.

This interactive story uses satellite photos and data visualization to illustrate the breadth and depth of China's soft power project, the Belt and Road Initiative.

[“The World on the Brink,”](#) John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

The John F. Kennedy Library's online exhibit about the Cuban Missile Crisis narrates the thirteen-day crisis day by day, illustrating the narrative with archival material and recordings from the library's collections.

Resources

[International Affairs,](#) iCivics.

These lesson plans from our friends at iCivics cover a handful of international affairs topics designed for middle school students.