

CFR Resources

[“Academic Webinar: The Role of the National Security Council,”](#)

Academic and Higher Education Webinars.

This recording of a CFR Academic Webinar features former National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster discussing the role of the National Security Council. (66 minutes)

[“Balance of U.S. War Powers.”](#)

This backgrounder dives deeper into the legal and constitutional issues of using force and declaring war. (1,300 words)

[“Congress and Foreign Policy With Chris Tuttle,”](#) *The President’s Inbox.*

This podcast episode from CFR explores Congress’s role in foreign policy. (33 minutes)

Lindsay Maizland, [“Global Climate Agreements: Successes and Failures.”](#)

This backgrounder introduces the basics of several important climate treaties, including the Kyoto Protocol. (2,200 words)

Jonathan Masters, [“U.S. Foreign Policy Powers: Congress and the President.”](#)

This backgrounder from CFR.org summarizes the roles of the president and Congress in foreign policy. (2,500 words)

[“UN Climate Talks.”](#)

This multimedia timeline traces the development of UN climate action, placing the Kyoto Protocol into historical context. (2,400 words)

Articles

Thomas J. Bollyky and Chad P. Bown, [“The Tragedy of Vaccine Nationalism,”](#) *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2020.

This article makes a clear argument for avoiding vaccine nationalism, illustrating how choices in domestic policy can affect foreign policy. (4,100 words)

Mark Bowden, [“The Hunt for ‘Geronimo,’”](#) *Vanity Fair*, November

U.S. Foreign Policy: Reading List

2012.

This article details the process of deciding to act on intelligence about the location of Osama bin Laden, leading to his killing. The article describes the roles of various departments and the National Security Council. (10,000 words)

Yanzhong Huang, “[Vaccine Diplomacy Is Paying Off for China](#),” *Foreign Affairs*, March 11, 2021.

This article describes how China has used its vaccine supply to further both foreign and domestic policy priorities. (2,700 words)

Andrew Marantz, “[The Youth Movement Trying to Revolutionize Climate Politics](#),” *New Yorker*, February 28, 2022.

This detailed profile charts how activists today are seeking to shape climate policy. (7,200 words)

Yasmeen Serhan, “[Can 3.5 Percent Save the Planet?](#)” *Atlantic*, November 8, 2021.

This article provides a brief history of the role that various think tanks have had in shaping policy over the 20th and 21st century. (1,400 words)

Tevi Troy, “[The Dilemma of the D.C. Think Tank](#),” *Atlantic*, December 19, 2017.

This article provides a brief history of the role various think tanks have had in shaping policy during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. (2,400 words)

Craig Whitlock, “[At War With the Truth](#),” *Washington Post*, December 9, 2019.

This article provides an example of relatively recent investigative journalism that shaped U.S. foreign policy. (6,500 words)

Books

Ivo H. Daalder and I.M. Destler, *In the Shadow of the Oval Office: Profiles of the National Security Advisers and the Presidents They Served—From JFK to George W. Bush* (2009).

U.S. Foreign Policy: Reading List

This group biography reveals the changing role of the national security advisor over forty years. (400 pages)

David Maraniss, *They Marched Into Sunlight: War and Peace, Vietnam and America, October 1967* (2004).

This award-winning work of history examines the Vietnam War abroad and at home through the lens of one battle and one protest, showing how the growing protest movement influenced the course of the war. (608 pages)

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (2007).

Although much debated, this book makes a clear and detailed argument about the effect of one special interest on U.S. foreign policy. (484 pages)

Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., *The Imperial Presidency* (2004).

This classic of American history charts how the presidency has gained power over two centuries. (624 pages)

Multimedia

[All the President's Men](#), 1976.

This classic film, based on the book of the same name, details the Watergate scandal, the most famous instance of investigative journalism shaping politics and policymaking. (2 hours)

[Convene the Council](#), iCivics and CFR Education.

This educational video game from CFR Education and iCivics gets students thinking about foreign policy and why it matters. Players use their critical thinking skills as they navigate scenarios that reveal how foreign and domestic policy are intertwined and how decisions made in one corner of the world can affect us all. *Convene the Council* empowers players to understand the basics of how U.S. foreign policy gets made and how countries and international organizations can influence foreign policy priorities.

[“How Rich Countries Are Making the Pandemic Last Longer,”](#) Vox, April 28, 2021.

U.S. Foreign Policy: Reading List

This short video offers some greater depth about the effects of vaccine nationalism. (9 minutes)

[“An Introduction to the National Security Council,”](#) Model Diplomacy.

This video from Model Diplomacy provides a brief introduction to the National Security Council using expert interviews. (2 minutes)

[“The National Security Council Interagency Process,”](#) Model Diplomacy.

This video from Model Diplomacy uses expert interviews to walk viewers through the interagency process. (3 minutes)

[The Post](#), 2017.

This feature film offers a behind-the-scenes look at the leaking and publication of the so-called Pentagon Papers, and their effect on U.S. foreign policy in the 1970s. (2 hours)

[“Waging Peace in Vietnam,”](#) March 19, 2018.

This website includes information about both a traveling exhibit and a book tracing the history of the anti-war movement among Vietnam-era soldiers. The site includes a short video walk-through of the exhibit, which provides a nice entry point to the project.