Introduction



Glover Mint: I'm Glover Mint, here with my colleague, Demi Tracy. On today's program, we will take an introductory look at foreign policy. Who better to discuss the goals of foreign policy than our foreign correspondent, Emily Airheart?



Global Guide



Emily Airheart: Great to be here, Glover! When we discuss foreign policy, what we are referring to is the way a nation deals with other nations. Foreign policy is designed to achieve certain strategic goals. A nation's foreign policy goals typically reflect its political values. In America, these goals change, depending on the current presidential administration, the countries involved, or the popular public opinion. For this episode, let's focus on some of the foreign policy goals of the United States.



Protect National Security



Emily Airheart: National security should be one of the primary goals of any government. National security refers to the idea that the government should protect itself and its citizens from external and internal threats. It may do this through the use of diplomacy, political power, economic power, or military force. Although national security is a priority for any government, in the U.S., there is a balance between keeping the country safe and ensuring American's rights are protected.



Encourage Free Trade



Emily Airheart: The establishment of free and open trade is an important part of American foreign policy. Encouraging market-oriented economies and free trade around the world helps provide markets for U.S. goods. It also allows goods to be imported from overseas. In addition to these financial benefits, when nations are involved in international trade, it creates economic ties that can help stabilize the relationship between nations.



Promote World Peace



Emily Airheart: Promoting world peace helps safeguard the international community. Obviously when nations are at peace, the United States is less likely to be pulled into conflicts. Not only does this help protect America's national security, it also promotes a stronger global economy. Peace can be promoted through various means, such as protecting other nations from aggression, increasing international diplomacy, and providing humanitarian aid to people in need.



Promote Democratic Values



Emily Airheart: As a representative democracy, it is in America's interest to promote democratic values and human rights around the world. When it comes to diplomacy, similar forms of government are more likely to find common ground in negotiations. This means that other democratically elected governments help ensure stability in international relations. Additionally, governments that offer more personal freedom offer more economic freedom as well. Therefore, a free and open democratically elected government helps promote free trade and creates new markets for American goods.



Advance International Cooperation



Emily Airheart: In the modern world, international cooperation is more important than ever. By advancing cooperation among nations, allies may join together to help solve international problems. Internationalism is a term used to describe a foreign policy that supports increased political and economic cooperation among nations. This helps maintain a balance of power among nations, which can help promote peace, create a positive environment for economic deals, safeguard the global environment, and protect smaller nations from aggression.



Making Foreign Policy Decisions



Emily Airheart: As you can see, many of these foreign policy goals overlap or are directly tied to one another; however, others may end up being in direct conflict with each other. For example, protecting national security with the use of military force and promoting world peace are completely contradictory goals; or as another example, America has economic ties to nations led by authoritarian governments that infringe on human rights. Making foreign policy decisions requires a balancing of these different foreign policy goals, especially when they are in direct opposition to each other.



Ending of Episode



Glover Mint: America's foreign policy goals reflect its political values. As a representative democracy with a free and open market, America seeks to promote these political and economic systems abroad. That's all for today's episode of WUSG News.

