

# Module 6: Foreign Policy

## Topic 1 Content: Foreign Policy Tools

### Introduction



**Demi Tracy:** The term foreign policy refers to the strategic goals of a nation when dealing with other nations. It also refers to the tools used to achieve those goals. Emily Airheart is here to discuss the different tools used in American foreign policy. Here is Emily Airheart with another segment of *Global Guide*.

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**Emily Airheart:** Thank you, Demi! There are three main tools of foreign policy used by the American government when dealing with the international community. These are diplomatic tools, economic tools, and military tools.

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#### Diplomatic Tools



### Diplomatic Tools

- Nations are able to resolve issues and disputes peacefully using diplomacy.
- America has around 300 diplomatic missions.
- **Embassies** are located in the capital of its host country and handle major diplomatic issues.
- **Ambassadors** are the chief diplomat and spokesperson for America in a nation.
- Ambassadors are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.
- **Consulates** are smaller than embassies and handle minor diplomatic issues.
- **Consul generals** lead consulates.
- Treaties are a diplomatic tool used in foreign policy.
- The President can negotiate treaties, but they must be confirmed by two-thirds of the Senate.

**Emily Airheart:** Diplomatic tools help protect national interests while also promoting international cooperation. Using diplomacy, nations are able to peacefully resolve any issues or disputes that may arise. America plays a huge role in international diplomacy, with around 300 diplomatic missions worldwide. A diplomatic mission is a group of people from one country who reside in and act as official representatives to another country. This includes U.S. embassies and U.S. consulates.

An embassy is larger than a consulate and located in the capital of its host country. An embassy handles major diplomatic issues and is led by an ambassador, who is the chief diplomat and spokesperson for America in that nation. To receive their position, ambassadors must be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. Consulates are smaller than embassies and usually located in larger non-capital cities. Consulates handle minor diplomatic issues and are led by consul generals, who answer to the ambassador.

Treaties are another powerful diplomatic tool. As the Chief Diplomat, the President of the United States has the power to negotiate treaties, pending confirmation by two-thirds of the Senate. There have been many treaties with many different nations over the years.

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#### Economic Tools

### Economic Tools

- Economic aid can be given to developing nation.
- Giving aid helps spread democratic values and expands free markets for U.S. goods.
- **USAID** is the primary government agency involved in administering civilian foreign aid.
- USAID offers poverty relief, disaster relief, and socioeconomic development.

- **Sanctions** occur when one or more countries impose restrictions on imports, exports, or financial transactions.
- This can be used to force social or political change.
- Sanctions are a non-violent and low-cost measure.
- Sanctions may restrict access to food and medical supplies, which harms poor civilians more than the government.

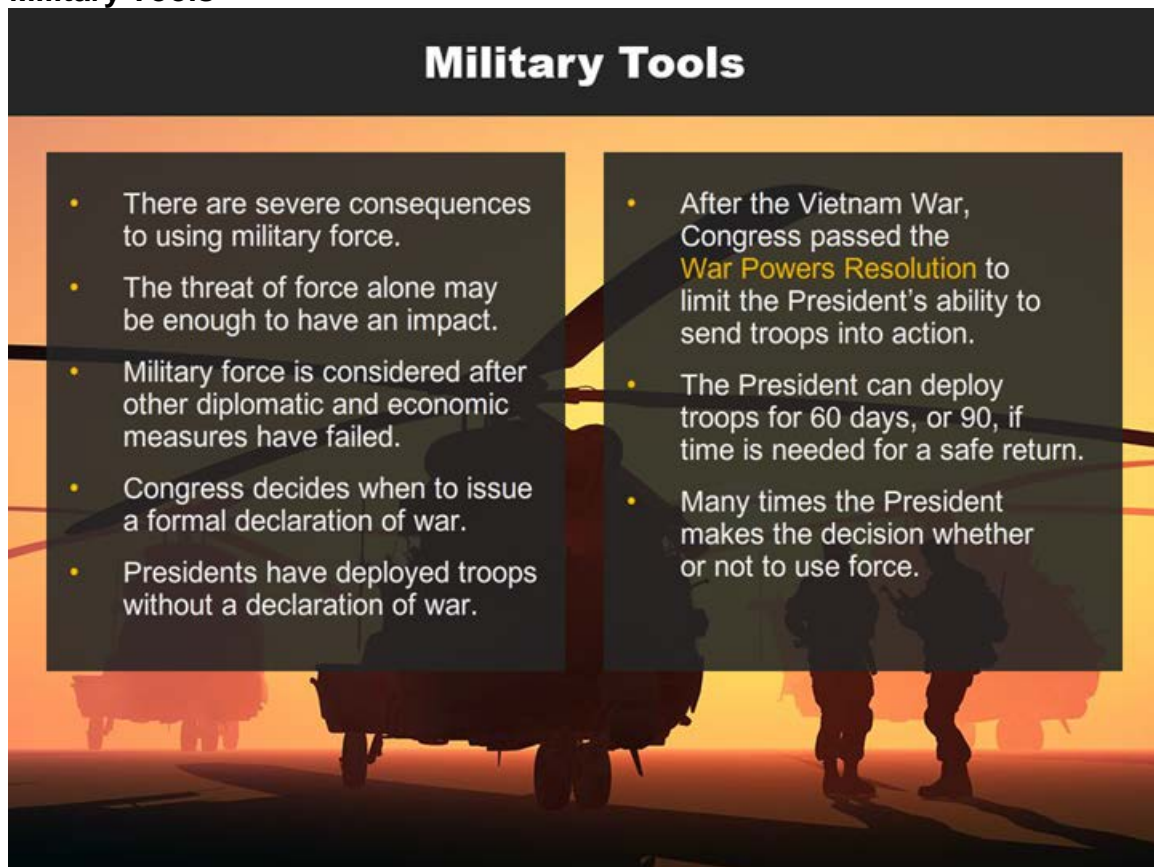
**Emily Airheart:** Money has a significant influence on strategic foreign policy goals. One way to utilize financial power is to give aid to a developing nation. This works like an investment, since offering aid can help influence the spread of democratic values, which leads to an expansion of free markets for U.S. goods. The primary government agency involved with administering civilian foreign aid is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This agency offers foreign aid in the forms of poverty relief, disaster relief, and socioeconomic development.

Another economic tool that can be used is sanctions. Economic sanctions occur when one or more countries impose restrictions on imports, exports, or financial transactions. This can be used to force social or political change. Through the use of trade restrictions to put pressure on another nation, changes can occur through non-violent and low-cost measures. Sanctions have been effective in the past, but have also drawn criticism, since they also restrict access to food and medical supplies, which harms poor civilians more than the government.

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#### Military Tools



### Military Tools

- There are severe consequences to using military force.
- The threat of force alone may be enough to have an impact.
- Military force is considered after other diplomatic and economic measures have failed.
- Congress decides when to issue a formal declaration of war.
- Presidents have deployed troops without a declaration of war.

- After the Vietnam War, Congress passed the **War Powers Resolution** to limit the President's ability to send troops into action.
- The President can deploy troops for 60 days, or 90, if time is needed for a safe return.
- Many times the President makes the decision whether or not to use force.

**Emily Airheart:** Military force may also be used as an effective foreign policy tool, but the decision to do so is not a light one. The potential consequences of military actions are so severe that the threat alone may be enough to have an impact. Typically, the use of military force is considered only after other diplomatic and economic measures have been unsuccessful. The decision to use military force is a complicated one, and depends on many factors. Congress decides when to issue a formal declaration of war, but throughout history, presidents have repeatedly deployed troops without one. After the Vietnam War, Congress passed the War Powers Resolution, which limited the President's ability to send troops into action. Even with this legislation, the President can still deploy troops for sixty days, or ninety, if extra time is needed to ensure a safe return. This means there are many times when the President will make a decision on whether or not to use military force.

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#### Global Guide Conclusion



**Emily Airheart:** Diplomatic tools are ideal when pursuing foreign policy goals. They help form peaceful and stable relationships with other nations, but unfortunately, they are not always practical. Sometimes economic tools must be used to bring about social or political changes in another country. This may take the form of economic aid or economic sanctions. It is not an easy decision, but on some occasions the use of military tools is necessary, especially in cases where diplomatic and economic tools have failed. That's all for this edition of *Global Guide*. Thanks for watching.

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Ending of Episode



**Demi Tracy:** Thank you, Emily! As always, we appreciate you stopping by to share your expertise with our viewers. Until next time, this is the WUSG News team signing off.