

Chapter 2 THE DOMESTIC CONTEXT: FOREIGN POLICY POLITICS AND THE PROCESS OF CHOICE

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. According to the United States Constitution, who has the power to declare war?
 - a. the president
 - b. Congress
 - c. the Supreme Court
 - d. the secretary of defense

ANS: B OBJ: Factual KEY: Constitution, Congress

2. The McCarthyism of the 1950s is an example that:
 - a. consensus in foreign policy is not always a good thing
 - b. domestic consensus is common in foreign policy
 - c. the public knows what is best in foreign policy
 - d. foreign policies are immune to the influence of a select few

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: Consensus, McCarthy, Cold War

3. In foreign policy decision making, presidential-congressional relations are characterized by:
 - a. cooperation, constructive compromise, institutional competition, and confrontation
 - b. cooperation, veto bargaining, and competition
 - c. frustration, reconciliation, and negotiation
 - d. constructive compromise, institutional competition, and frustration

ANS: A OBJ: Factual KEY: Congress, President, Policy Making

4. Divided government refers to periods in which:
 - a. the Senate is controlled by one party and the House is controlled by the other
 - b. there is a switch in party control of the White House after a presidential election
 - c. one political party controls the White House and the other holds majority in one or both houses of Congress
 - d. the Senate and House are unable to agree on legislation

ANS: C OBJ: Factual KEY: Congress

5. The president has the power to:
 - a. negotiate treaties, veto legislation, and nominate high-level officials
 - b. negotiate treaties, declare war, and appoint high-level officials
 - c. remove Supreme Court justices and veto legislation
 - d. nominate high-level officials, enact legislation, and appoint the Speaker of the House

ANS: A OBJ: Factual KEY: President, Presidential Power

6. The House has the power to:
 - a. ratify treaties
 - b. confirm presidential appointments
 - c. provide for the common defense

d. negotiate treaties

ANS: C OBJ: Factual KEY: Congress

7. Why are many executive agreements controversial?
- Executive agreements are meant to be used for minor inter-governmental matters, but many presidents use their authority to make major foreign policy commitments.
 - Executive agreements are, by definition, unconstitutional.
 - Executive agreements such as the Monroe Doctrine have resulted in bad foreign policy and had lasting impacts on future foreign policy initiatives.
 - Executive agreements undermine the power of the president in foreign policy decision making.

ANS: A OBJ: Conceptual KEY: Presidential Power

8. Which presidential power is considered to be the most potent executive power?
- the ability to tax the population of the United States
 - the power to engage in treaties with other foreign nations
 - the ability to veto congressional legislation
 - the power to appoint high-level governmental officials

ANS: C OBJ: Factual KEY: Presidential Power

9. According to Teddy Roosevelt, the most significant political power of the president is the “bully pulpit.” What does this term refer to?
- the power of the president to control members of his party, including those in Congress and within his cabinet
 - the ability of the president to speak out and be heard on a variety of issues and to advocate an agenda because of the office
 - the great amount of respect a president garners because of his office and the effect this respect has on foreign dignitaries
 - the ability of a president to veto legislation presented by Congress

ANS: B OBJ: Factual KEY: Presidential Power

10. Which of the following is an example of substantive congressional legislation?
- the 1973 War Powers Resolution
 - the creation of the Department of Homeland Security
 - the use of the legislative veto
 - the ratification of the SALT arms control treaty

ANS: D OBJ: Applied KEY: Congress

11. Which of the following statements about the Supreme Court’s role in foreign policy is correct?
- The Supreme Court almost always rules in favor of the executive branch.
 - In many instances, the Supreme Court has been unwilling to attempt to resolve disputes between the president and Congress over foreign policy disputes.
 - Since September 11 the Supreme Court has heard increasingly fewer cases regarding presidential powers and foreign policy issues.
 - The Supreme Court is frequently willing to resolve disputes between the other

branches of government.

ANS: B OBJ: Applied KEY: Supreme Court

12. The role of the president as a key foreign policy decision maker depends on:
- the president's level of experience and expertise
 - the Cabinet's opinion of the president's moral character
 - who other world leaders choose to work with
 - The president is never a key foreign policy decision maker.

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: President

13. The "power of the purse" is especially important because:
- it gives Congress direct influence over decisions on spending
 - it allows the president to determine how much money should be spent on specific foreign policy initiatives
 - it encourages presidential oversight over Congress
 - it prevents the president from having any effect on foreign policy

ANS: A OBJ: Conceptual KEY: Congress

14. Groupthink is a result of:
- too little consensus among the president's senior foreign policy advisors
 - too much group cohesion among presidential foreign policy advisors
 - the president being unable to control his senior foreign policy advisors
 - Congress becoming too involved in foreign policy

ANS: B OBJ: Applied KEY: President, Executive Branch Politics

15. What is one of the main problems stemming from internal high-level divisiveness?
- It requires the vice president to disagree with the president.
 - It makes broader domestic consensus-building difficult.
 - High-level advisors feel they are unable to express their political opinions to the president.
 - It promotes too much consensus within a presidential administration.

ANS: B OBJ: Applied KEY: Executive Branch Politics

16. The phrase "where you stand depends on where you sit" best describes:
- presidential-congressional relations
 - the role of the Supreme Court in foreign policy making
 - intra-congressional relations
 - bureaucratic politics

ANS: D OBJ: Applied KEY: Bureaucratic politics

17. Crises are distinct from other foreign policy decision making because:
- they are a high-level of threat against vital interests, occur within a short time period, and tend to give presidents more power
 - they require fast, decisive action and, thus, increase the power of Congress in foreign policy decision making
 - they occur infrequently and can often be foreseen well ahead of time, allowing the president adequate time to analyze the situation

d. they often mix both domestic and foreign policy concerns

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: Presidential Power

18. Which groups are among the principal types of foreign policy interest groups?
- humanitarian organizations, economic groups, and environmental groups
 - congressional committees, foreign governments, and economic groups
 - foreign governments, economic groups, and identity groups
 - economic groups, political issue groups, and humanitarian organizations

ANS: C OBJ: Factual KEY: Interest Groups

19. Why might the current extent of interest-group influence on foreign policy be a cause for concern?
- There may be devastating consequences for the nation if citizens believe they are being asked to sacrifice their lives in wars that do not serve the national interest, but the interests of specific groups.
 - The influence of interest groups makes it too easy to change a foreign policy.
 - Interest groups distance themselves from the real issues at stake.
 - Interest groups do not align themselves with any political party, resulting in disjointed policy formation.

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: Interest Groups

20. A key example of excessive interest-group influence on foreign policy is:
- the Tobacco Lobby
 - the military-industrial complex
 - the twenty-four-hour news cycle
 - NATO

ANS: B OBJ: Applied KEY: Interest Groups

21. The media are able to affect foreign policy decisions through:
- agenda setting, shaping public opinion, and directly influencing policy makers
 - agenda setting, critiquing policy, and access to policy makers
 - shaping public opinion, revealing private information, and agenda setting
 - The media have virtually no impact on foreign policy decisions.

ANS: A OBJ: Factual KEY: Media Influence

22. Media coverage of the Cuban missile crisis and the Bay of Pigs invasion demonstrates:
- the trade-off between national security and freedom of the press
 - various mechanisms by which the government attempts to exert control over the media
 - the effect of the media on shaping public opinion
 - the ability of policy makers to maintain private information

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: Media Influence

23. Which of the following statements about the First Amendment is correct?
- The First Amendment guarantees U.S. citizens the right to bear arms and has little impact on foreign policy making.
 - The First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press and can conflict with

national security interests.

- c. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press, but historical precedents always impose restrictions on this right.
- d. The First Amendment does not guarantee freedom of the press, but does guarantee the right of citizens to bear arms.

ANS: B OBJ: Factual KEY: Constitution

24. The trade-off between freedom of the press and national security was most evident during which of these periods?
- a. the Civil War
 - b. World War II
 - c. World War I
 - d. the Vietnam War

ANS: D OBJ: Factual KEY: National Security, Freedom of Press, Trade-offs

25. When referring to public opinion, “elites” include which of the following?
- a. average citizens
 - b. policy makers
 - c. foreign populations
 - d. schoolchildren

ANS: B OBJ: Factual KEY: Public Opinion

26. Which of the following is an example of the overreactive tendencies of the mass public?
- a. the rally 'round the flag effect
 - b. the right to bear arms
 - c. freedom of speech
 - d. freedom of the press

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: Public Opinion

27. An isolationist foreign policy is one in which:
- a. policy makers seek strong diplomatic relations with other states
 - b. a nation engages in war with a foreign power
 - c. a government decides to stay out of world affairs
 - d. a foreign nation frequently intervenes in the domestic politics of another state

ANS: C OBJ: Factual KEY: Isolationism

28. Those who promote a positive view of public opinion stress:
- a. that public opinion has been fairly stable over time
 - b. that public opinion is moody and changes quickly
 - c. that media influence is not as great as those who fear public opinion claim
 - d. that the education system prepares all citizens for rational decision-making

ANS: A OBJ: Applied KEY: Public Opinion

29. Which of the following is NOT a way in which interest groups attempt to influence congressional foreign policy making?
- a. These groups lobby for specific legislation.
 - b. They contribute funds to members of Congress.

- c. Interest groups try to influence the appointments of foreign policy positions.
- d. They try to limit the power of the president over Congress.

ANS: C

OBJ: Applied

KEY: Interest Groups

ESSAY

1. Who are the key players in the foreign policy decision making process? Describe the types of interactions that occur between these actors. Which branch of the government has the upper hand in foreign policy decision making? Why?

ANS:

Answer will vary.

2. What role does public opinion play in the development and conduct of foreign policy? In your opinion, does public opinion play a positive role or does it negatively impact foreign policy? Why?

ANS:

Answer will vary.

3. Interest groups are able to significantly influence foreign policy. What specific types of groups are able to do this? How do these organizations affect foreign policy decisions? How much influence do they really have, and how much power should they have?

ANS:

Answer will vary.

4. This chapter began by laying out and dispelling specific “myths” about the politics behind foreign policy. Which of these myths is most dangerous to the formulation and conduct of foreign policy? Why? Can you think of any additional examples of this particular myth?

ANS:

Answer will vary.

5. What is the role of the media in foreign policy politics? What role should the media play? What is the appropriate balance between freedom of the press and national security? Provide specific examples to explain your answer.

ANS:

Answer will vary.