Political Science – International Relations

March 31, 2009

Terrorism

Walt and Muravchik

Mueller – There is a fear that there will be a terrorist attack even though there is increased security; heightened paranoia; Bush Administration has completely exaggerated the threat of a terrorist attack; they were using the fear to get support for their aggressive foreign policy; the threat of a terrorist attack is just the same as it was five years ago; 9/11 was a fluke; Iraq War backfired and was a diversion

Riedel – Al Qaeda is more dangerous today than it ever was before; Al Qaeda has been working to spread its name through propaganda and networking; they can stand to lose some of their leaders (Zakawi); he suggests that U.S. move troops to Afghanistan and that the Iraqis should solve their own conflicts; take steps to bring connections between Islam world and Western world

Stokes – The polls show that anti-Americanism is on the rise from even before 9/11 but in the short run it doesn’t matter because foreign leaders do not show their unfavorable sentiments towards Americans because in the long run that will be bad for them; Stokes looks at the Pew Global Attitudes Survey and sees how it is affecting U.S. foreign policy goals; it’s making it harder for the U.S.; he believes there are subtle changes that over time that will eventually change the influence of U.S. foreign policy completely; realists would say that policy is not contingent on popular sentiments and polls or surveys

Ross – He is currently the special adviser for the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia; he is talking about the problems in Iraq; that there were no weapons of mass destruction but that now it is the U.S.’s job to fix the mess in Iraq that we started; moves on to Iran and talks about its internal problems and other countries should use those vulnerabilities to discourage them from proliferating nuclear weapons; his concern with Iran going nuclear is that it will prompt other rival nations such as Saudi Arabia to get nuclear weapons (security dilemma); game theory; Saudis have incredible influence in the world

Lieber and Press – Foreign Policy is evolving after the Cold War; U.S. has surpassed other countries in nuclear warfare and our capabilities continue to grow; the Bush Administration has sought to increase nuclear capabilities to promote its foreign policy; hawks - one view is that modernization will scare other countries; doves - others believe that U.S. will take advantage of this power and push their own aggressive means; nuclear primacy is contingent on the context of U.S. foreign policy; we have developed nuclear weapons that are usable (weapons that can be specifically aimed into caves and the like); unfortunately nuclear weapons are a good deterrent but they can’t actually be used; owls – they believe nuclear weapons create security dilemma

Security dilemma – when certain countries act in a defensive manner, rival countries will interpret those actions as offensive and react accordingly.

Find out special advisers for different places in the world

April 2, 2009

The world is heading to a multipolarity.

Why and how did the US change its policies after 9/11?

* Preemption (if there is an imminent threat) – the rest of the world saw this as aggressive
* Force to promote democracy
* Unilateralism, not multilateralism (U.S. doesn’t need the support of the rest of the world)
* Avoid International Institutional Institutions
* Expansion of military presence abroad (not only in the Middle East but also in central Asia)

These policies came to an end after Bush Administration

* Jervis – America is an unchecked power and they will just continue to use their power; it’s not the Bush Administration, it was just at the time America had the power
* Imperial overstretch – when you become so powerful, your economic interests exist all throughout the world, and everything in the world becomes your business

Ikenbery – China’s rise will bring an end to United States’ unipolar moment; China’s rise to power is a challenge to U.S. but this change of power will not be necessarily violent.