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**The Shifting Concept of American National Security across History:
An Analytic Study**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

We dedicate this work to our families for their constant support and encouragement, and our friends.

Islam and Abdelhadi

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First, all praise to Allah for blessing us to complete this work, and to overcome the challenges and difficulties.

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Abstract

This research aims to explore how the concept of American national security evolves, regarding the foundation, structures, and perceptions of security in the United States. From multiple viewpoints, the study also studies implementations of national security policy within and outside the United States in their dual use and application with a mixed-methods approach. The work also examines the historical structure and evolutionary processes of the American National Security Council, in particular the missions of the Council and the crucial choices that had been made. The major periods of American nationalism and security are discussed chronologically, with key areas covered such as the early republic, manifest destiny, and American involvement. It also examine how major events like the New World Order envisaged under George H. W. Bush, the 9/11 attacks, and the pre-emption of George W. Bush affect security strategies. The findings revealed in the work indicates that the dangers and conditions in the international system are rather fluid and constantly changing, thus affecting the idea of American national security.

Keywords: The American National Security Council - Containment Policy. Interventionism
Isolationism - Pre-emption Policy

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
USA	United States of America
US	United States
NSC	National Security Council
CSS	Critical Security Studies
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
APNSA	Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
SCC	Special Coordinating Committee
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
MAD	Mutually Assured Destruction
WPR	War Powers Resolution
UN	United Nations
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
NSS	National Security Strategy

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Evaluating the concept of American national security over the course of history, it can be noticed that it developed and changed all through the years as a result of changes in international relations, internal problems, technologies, and threats. At first, the objective of American national security was to protect the geographical borders and fostering expansionist policies like the Manifest Destiny, which was due to the infancy and partly expansionist nature of America (Gaddis, 2005). This period focused largely on the need to establish and maintain borders and dominance in the continent. The American national security changed in the late 19th and early 20th century to become more engaged in world affairs, with an emphasis on defending US interests abroad and expanding participation in commerce, diplomacy, and military alliances (Gaddis, 2005).

The priorities were changed drastically to head for nuclear threats and the ideological confrontation with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). It was characterized by ideological containment and confrontational policies, which were oriented to stop the expansion of communism and regulate the tension in the world (Hogan, 1998). This was especially the case during the Cold War period when existence threats required a well-developed military industrial and intelligence system to solve them.

New enemies like the non-state actors especially the terrorist organizations have posed new challenges on the US that has led to formulation of new counterterrorism measures and international relations framework (Brimley, 2006). The threats and challenges have added new dimensions to the concept of national security, such as non-state actors, cyberspace, and economic and environmental issues. Nye (2011) argued that cyber weaknesses have even become a major concern and require increasingly advanced security systems for the nation critical structures. The author also stated that the global politics is characterized by more events that are beyond the influence of even the strongest states.

Given its importance in American governance and foreign policy agenda, there is a gap in the literature that aspires to investigate the historical evolution of the American national security. This entails exploring sources and types of its prior conceptualization, relevant factors that have precipitated it as well as the efficacy of different measures. This dissertation therefore seeks to address this gap by giving historical analysis across different time periods, and will always consider the phenomenon in its different dimensions so as to achieve an understanding of the various factors that have shaped social life and the dynamics that underlie modern problems. Also, it aims to provide comprehensive analysis of the transformation of the concept of the American national security and the further prospects for its development (Chin, 2023; Dobák, 2021; Eberstadt, 1954).

2. Statement of the Problem

The concept of the American national security has changed over the centuries due to the dynamic geopolitics, internal parameters, modern technology, real, and virtual threats. Earlier it mainly aimed towards concerns predating non-interventionism and expansionism which include the Manifest Destiny, it evolved during the Cold War towards threats posed by nuclear weapon and ideological warfare with the Soviet Union. Besides, the expansion into the next decades has involved some other elements that are non-state actors, cyber threats and economic and environmental stability. Therefore, there is significant need for a more historical treatment of the concept of the American national security, the historical developments in its usage and/or conceptualization, and the factors that have played a role in shaping what has been done and how successful the strategies have been. This study's purpose is to respond to this deficiency by first presenting a historical perspective on the subject, then an effort is made at identifying and describing the phenomenon in its many aspects, next the contemporary issues related to the notion are being discussed. Finally, it aims to establish the dynamic phenomenon of changing the American national security and its bearing on future policy trajectory.

3. Research Questions

The investigation of this study requires to raise the following questions:

- 1- How have the concepts of American foreign policies and the American National Security Council evolved across history?
- 2- What were the major events that influenced changes in American national security policies?

4. Aims of the Study

This study aims to interpret how the general idea of the American national security concept has changed over the course of history. Thus, as the study outlines this historical trajectory, it will provide for optimal understanding of the determinants of choice in national security interests, principles and decisions at any given period. Also, its intent to explain the policy shifting and making, it aims to address issues of national security to provide insights in the contemporary policy formulation and strategic direction.

5. Research Methodology

The methodology of research for this dissertation focuses on the methods used to conduct the study. Moreover, it accounts for the tools of data collection, and the process of their analysis.

5.1 Choice of the Method

The study under investigation is qualitative in nature. Since the study is concerned with analysing the historical data relevant to the shifting concept of American national security across history, we find it logical to incorporate the historical analytic method. Also it is focuses on understanding historical contexts, analysing textual information, and interpreting the evolution of concepts and strategies, which are all qualitative in nature.

5.2 Data Collection Tools

In order to get comprehensive answers to the questions, we decided to gather information from documentary sources. The target of this choice is to obtain reliable data that we can rely on as a solid evidence for conducting this study.

6. Significance of the Study

Studying the historical overview of the American security concepts is necessary for reference purposes of today's policies and strategies.

This knowledge deficiency is bridged by this study that engages in event, strategy, and implication analysis from the past to the present and, in the process, provides for the much-needed critical reflection regarding the future on national security studies and contributes to the body of knowledge of this field.

7. Structure of the Study

The study is divided into two chapters. A theoretical framework and a literature review are presented in the first chapter, it looks at the definition of national security, different views on this subject as well as the notion of frameworks in respect to the United States of America (USA). It introduces the basic views, its National Security Council, historical event, and the change in the American view of national security through isolationism, interventionism, cold war and post-cold war era.

Chapter two presents a historical background of the changing outlook on the concept of American national security since its inception in the early republic era as depicted in the exercise of the Manifest Destiny to America's rise to its status as a world power during the Cold War era, the New World Order of George Bush senior diplomacy, and finally, the pre-emption policy of George Bush junior after 9/11. Thus, analysing these periods, the dissertation intends to reveal the nature of changes within the concept of national security as well as the overall importance of this concept to comprehend the development of the United States (US) and its relationships with other countries.

8. Definitions of Terms

The American National Security Council: The Council was established by law in 1947 to serve as a cooperative body that counsels the President on the integration of military, foreign, and domestic policies pertaining to national security, as well as improving coordination on security-related matters between the armed forces and other government branch offices (Best, 2011).

The Manifest destiny: Manifest Destiny was a belief that America was destined to expand its territory across the continent, seen as a moral duty given by a higher power, leading to a strong sense of ambition and self-confidence (Weinberg, 2012).

The New World Order: A new era that is less threatened by terror, more vigorous in seeking justice, and more assured in the pursuit of peace. An era where nations from the East, West, North, and South can thrive and coexist harmoniously (Bush, 1990).

The pre-emption policy: The pre-emption policy during the Bush administration was a pivotal element of U.S. foreign policy, characterized by a strategy that endorsed pre-emptive military action to counter perceived threats, especially in the heightened security context following the 9/11 attacks (BBC, 2010).

CHAPTER ONE

Understanding National Security: Concepts, Perspectives, and Frameworks

Chapter One: National Security: Concepts, Perspectives, and Frameworks

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Introduction

This chapter explores the fundamentals of national security and provides a thorough examination of the several definitions and theoretical frameworks that surround it. It starts with a general review of the idea of national security, looking at how academics and professionals have defined and interpreted it. After that, it concentrates on the particular background of the American national security, describing the distinct ideas, authorities, and uses inside the country. It draws attention to the internal and external aspects of the US national security and illustrates how the US domestic policy and foreign policy interact. The chapter also offers a thorough examination of the American National Security Council, including its founding, roles, and key individuals and actions that have influenced the history of the United States. Lastly, it traces the development of the US national security through significant historical junctures including isolationism, involvement in global affairs, the Cold War, and the New World Order, demonstrating how changing viewpoints and significant events have continuously reshaped the country's security approaches.

1. Conceptualisation of National Security

Morton Berkowitz and Bookes' definition of national security as the ability of a nation to protect its domestic values from external threats is far more advanced than the basic concept of national security, but it remains inadequate. It ignores threats that come from within and instead suggests that threats to national security come from the outside. The scourge of modern politics is political instability, widening economic inequality, regional development disparities, and hostility between different ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups. Every country has to fight back in some way. A country that is politically stable, sociocultural united, economically and technologically advanced is said to have a sword to defend itself (Morton Berkowitz and Booke, 1963, as cited in Singh, 2015).

1.1. Diverse Perspectives on National Security

In the field of national security, diverse perspectives offer a variety of viewpoints, analyses, and methods for understanding and tackling the complex issues of protecting a country's interests and maintaining its stability. These interdisciplinary perspectives allow for a more comprehensive understanding of the elements affecting national security, which in turn makes it easier to develop strategies and policies that effectively address the interconnectedness of global issues and the diversity of societal needs and interests (Dorn, 2024).

1.1.1. The Realist Perspective

One of the most important ideas in security studies and international relations is realism. Realists focus their research on states as the most important entity in an anarchic international system, acting in rational self-interest. Within this theoretical framework, different variations have emerged: classical, neorealism, neoclassical, offensive and defensive realism. However, these research concepts are based on his three basic premises. Nations are considered atomic, selfish, and rational. Because states enter into social relationships after having already formulated their own interests, state interests are assumed to be exogenous to social interactions. Society is then understood as a strategic realm in which countries cooperate to pursue and maximize predetermined interests. Realists argued that the main goal of the study of international politics should be to identify the essential variables that influence relations between states. They believed that the main factors influencing international politics were the desire for power and national interests (Steans et al., 2010, p.54, as cited in Trifunović & Ćurčić, 2021).

1.1.2. The Liberal Perspective

Emphasizing cooperation and solidarity and focusing on the positive aspects of human nature, liberal theory presents a model of national security that puts the individual at the centre. According to this theory, the state is primarily responsible for ensuring the security and freedom of its citizens. The interactions between nations, individuals, multinational corporations, and

non-governmental organizations are considered, examined, and accounted for in liberal theory, going beyond humans. The way power and its constituent elements are described in liberal theory and realist theory is different, The realist hypothesis is that liberal theory focuses on information, speech, and perception that can be seen as predictions about reality rather than facts, but the application of mainstream security approaches weakness is motivated by considerations of relative strength and preserving the balance of power (Şengöz, 2022).

1.1.3. The Constructivist View

According to Şengöz (2022), Constructivist theory deals with power and security in terms of economic relationships and processes, new discoveries, the blurring of political boundaries due to globalization, cross-cultural interactions, ethnic, sectarian, and ideological norms, as well as the convergence of state and social resources. Constructivism is a theory that deals with sociocultural realities and focuses on ideas of security and power. To do this, it gives more meaning to abstract and humanistic values, which the theory of realism does not attach enough importance to. This helps explain how international threats and security are viewed. This theory adopts a diverse and segmented interpretation of the international security system. The author also stated that Constructivist thinking has emphasized the historical relationship between security and power, placing knowledge of identity at the heart of identity, as well as perceptions of danger, while at the same time emphasizes the importance of sociocultural norms in elucidating the idea of security. According to the theory of constructivism, the intentions and methods by which states use their military power are therefore more important than their potential military power, as are the comparisons power within the international security system, rather than the perceptions they convey. They use their existing military power, and problem solving. As a result, this theory predicts the development of communities with excellent governance, high standards of living, ethics and values.

1.1.4. The Critical Security Studies

Rejecting the idea of centralized security, the critical approach broadens the eclectic perspective and questions the post-Cold War international security system in the context of power and security. Security factors have been expanded by critical theory. This theory holds that deterministic approaches to security cannot be used because relationships and expectations, whatever their origin, have the potential to radically change the course of security process and its results. This hypothesis aims to establish a link between feelings of threat and interest. Critical theory rejects crude approaches to interest protection and threat perception. Critical theory has criticized these techniques for promoting ideas of virtual and recurring security and threat, as well as their failure to cooperate with militaries, civilians, and natural resources. In the process of establishing security, this theory eliminated all forms of flowery and stereotypical language that only focused ideologically on military issues, redefined socio-psychological standards and introduced create simple policies through the argument of national interest (Şengöz, 2022).

1.1.5. The Human Security Approach

According to Dorn (2024), the critical approach questions the post-Cold War international security system in the context of power and security by rejecting the notion of centralized security, thereby expanding an eclectic perspective. Critical theory has expanded the factors of safety. According to the author idea, relationships and expectations, regardless of their origin, have the potential to radically change the direction and outcomes of the security process, making decisive approaches to security not possible. The goal of this hypothesis is to demonstrate the link between benefits and threat perception. These tactics have been criticized by critical theory for promoting virtual and repetitive notions of security and threat, as well as failing to cooperate with natural resources, people, and forces. In the process of establishing security, this approach eliminates all forms of rhetoric and simplistic justifications of national interests. It redefines socio-psychological norms and approaches military concerns only from an ideological perspective.

2. The American National Security

This section delves into the American national security, covering its core concepts, diverse perspectives, and internal and external applications. The term describes the coordinated efforts of the US government to defend the nation, its people, and its interests against both external and internal dangers. This includes protection from military assaults, border security, intelligence collection, counterterrorism initiatives, cybersecurity, economic stability, and upholding diplomatic ties, among many other issues. Ensuring the security, sovereignty, and prosperity of the United States and its citizens is the aim of national security (Longley, 2021).

2.1. The American National Security Concepts and Powers

According to the White House website, the President meets regularly with trusted advisors and cabinet officials to debate foreign policy and national security matters. This body is known as the National Security Council (NSC). It functions similarly to the president's primary weapon for uniting the public and making sure all government agencies are in agreement. Given the numerous obstacles the country face in today's world, the national security must be considered from a wider perspective. It is not only about protecting the nation from outside dangers; but also about maintaining public health, the environment, and economic stability. The Biden-Harris national Security Council recognizes this and adjusts accordingly. Various notable individuals are seated around tables during the NSC meetings. Naturally, the President is in charge of the conversations, but also the Vice President and, to mention a few, the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defence, Energy, and Homeland Security. Experts from a variety of professions are working together as a true team to solve the problems at hand. Even the Attorney General and Chief of Staff are present to share their knowledge. Advisors from the military and intelligence services are also available to ensure that all possibilities are explored. Not only are prominent figures invited, but also important figures such as leaders of several agencies and departments, particularly when the topics being discussed span several domains, such as homeland security, global health, or climate change.

Originally created in 1947 by the National Security Act, this council is not a new organization. It has changed over time to accommodate the evolving requirements of the nation, with revisions in 1949 securing its position within the Executive Office of the President (White House, 2022).

2.2. Diverse Perspectives on the American National Security

Different viewpoints on the US national security reflect different beliefs and approaches to defending the country from both external and internal dangers. These opinions are influenced by a variety of elements, including professional experience, political philosophy, and cultural backgrounds. These elements play a role in how successful security policies are shaped in response to evolving threats. (Redd & Mintz, 2013)

2.2.1. The Realist Perspective

Realism played a significant role in shaping American national security, according to Nadeem (2018) "Political realism has often been termed as American realism because realists not only helped the United States in its foreign policy formulation during the Cold War, but also justified its behavior" (p. 163). Furthermore, the author explains that "They hold view that morality is a tool available to states for pursuing other objectives defined by national interest" (p. 172). He further asserts that "Realists support the former view that it is morality which is subservient to politics" (p. 172).

2.2.2. The Liberal Perspective

Cox et al. (2000) stated that in order to advance American national security, liberals would support a mix of military might and diplomatic outreach. They might stress how crucial international organizations, coalitions, and collaboration are to solving world problems. According to the researcher "American liberalism became confirmed national foreign policy not only because it corresponded to domestic interests and values but also because it corresponded to certain of the realities of world affairs in the twentieth century" (p. 99).

2.2.3. The Constructivist View

According to Cho (2009) *The Culture of National Security* highlights two frequently disregarded societal factors that influence security policy; the cultural-institutional context of policy on the one hand and the constructed identity of states, governments, and other political actors on the other. This perspective reflects the conventional constructivist view of norms intertwined with identity and interests. Cho focuses on a topic that rationalist viewpoints usually ignore: how culture and identity affect national security. The culture of national security presents an analytical framework based on traditional constructivist security studies and delves deeper into theoretical issues. It provides essential insights into the intricacies of security policy development by deftly unpacking the complex interactions between institutional dynamics, cultural environment, and the perceived identities of nations and political entities. The author also adds that "National Security make sense and use of norms, identity, and culture" (p. 85). He further explains that "Foreign policy is one of the major official identity practices performed by and for the state, and, thus, US foreign policy does not simply serve the national interest, but helps to construct and reconstruct the American identity" (Cho, 2009, p. 94).

2.2.4. The Critical Security Studies

Critics from within academia challenge various aspects of the US national security policy, particularly its reliance on force and its repercussions on marginalized communities. Their perspective calls for a more inclusive and people-centric strategy, one that confronts deep-seated social, economic, and environmental injustices (Lal, 2004). He also stated that "The Critical Security Studies (CSS) approach to international relations challenges realism and performatively proves that security is a paradoxical, epistemologically flawed and ontologically unstable concept with no fixed definition" (p. 3).

2.2.5. The Human Security Approach

Supporters of the human security framework argue that American national security strategy should give priority to protecting people's rights and well-being. They support an all-encompassing approach to security that takes into account issues like environmental preservation, healthcare access, and economic inequality (Trobbiani, 2013). The author further asserts that it is obvious from many scholarly discourses, scholars regularly highlight the importance of state power within the mainstream human security framework. Human security is frequently defined as an adjunct to state security, with the latter, also known as state security, including protecting the state borders, people, institutions, and fundamental principles against outside threats (Trobbiani, 2013).

2.3. Internal and External Implementations of the American National Security

Ensuring the welfare of the country, both internal and external aspects of American national security are crucial. Internally, it means protecting infrastructure, organizations, and people from many dangers such as cyberattacks, terrorism, and natural disasters. This entails protecting vital infrastructure, enforcing the law, and acquiring intelligence. Internationally, US national security engages in alliance building, economic cooperation, and diplomacy to address world issues and promote stability. Externally, it involves safeguarding national interests, alliances, and assets from threats posed by other nations, non-state actors, and global challenges, the United States works to prevent aggression, neutralize new threats, and advance its interests internationally through strategic alliances and defence cooperation. Propaganda campaigns abroad for democracy, human rights, and economic advancement also support global peace and security. Essentially, American national security necessitates a comprehensive strategy that combines proactive international engagement with internal fortitude. Through tackling both internal and foreign threats, the United States works to protect its citizens' safety, wealth, and freedoms while maintaining its position as the world's leading nation (Bogdanov, 2022; Der Derian, 2003;

Eisenhower, 1961). President Dwight D. Eisenhower famously addressed the importance of both internal and external aspects of American national security in his Farewell Address to the Nation. Eisenhower warned, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist" (Eisenhower, 1961).

3. The American National Security Council

This section provides a thorough examination of the American National Security Council, highlighting significant decisions, important roles, and notable members, as well as the council's historical development. In an attempt to deepen awareness of the NSC's crucial influence on American national security strategy and policy throughout history (The White House, 2022).

3.1. Origins of the American National Security Council

According to (Best, 2011) addressing the vital need for streamlined coordination among the numerous departments and agencies overseeing US national security affairs, the NSC was established in 1947. Prior to its formation, several committees had collaborated, both formally and informally, to address military and diplomatic coordination, such as the 1944 State-War-Navy Coordinating body. However, as World War II drew to a close, it became evident that a more formalized approach was required to manage the interconnected actions of these entities. The discussions surrounding the establishment of the US security-related bureaucracy, including the role of the President, culminated in the creation of the NSC, which evolved from earlier efforts at temporary coordination for wartime operations management. The NSC primary objective is to ensure that all actions supporting the national defence mission align with the political objectives they serve, including advancing foreign policy objectives that enhance national security and well-being. During crisis management scenarios, operational coordination of security measures becomes particularly crucial. This is because the executive branch must effectively leverage the

knowledge, expertise, understanding, and resources garnered from various government agencies and levels to respond efficiently to emergent threats.

3.2. The Powers of the National Security Council

The NSC, which was established in 1947 as a component of the post-war national security system, has three main responsibilities: formulating policies, supervising their execution, and actively participating in policy execution. Administrations that failed to include agencies and departments in the creation of policies frequently faced difficulties putting their policies into practice. In a similar vein, administrations that neglected to regularly check these organizations for policy compliance often found it difficult to put well-written policies into practice. The creation of policies and careful monitoring of their execution are considered necessary and beneficial; departments and agencies possessing statutory power and specialized knowledge are usually tasked with carrying out policies (Worley, 2008).

3.3. The National Security Council Members

The national Security Council members include the following:

Statutory Members

- President
- The Vice President
- The Secretary of State
- The Secretary of Defence
- The Secretary of Energy

Non-Statutory Members

- The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- The Assistant to the President and Director of The Office of Science and Technology Policy

- The Attorney General
- The Secretary of Homeland Security
- The Representative of The United States to The United Nations

The NSC consults with various experts on different aspects of national security. Military advice is provided by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, while intelligence matters are addressed by the Director of National Intelligence. Additionally, drug policy issues are discussed with input from the Director of National Drug Control Policy. When needed, senior officials and leaders from other executive departments and agencies are also invited to participate in NSC meetings, ensuring a comprehensive and informed approach to addressing national security concerns (McInnis & Rollins, 2021; Whitehouse, 2021).

3.4. Key Decisions and Influential Figures in the History of the American National Security Council

The purpose of this section is to highlight significant choices and notable individuals who have influenced the American National Security Council during the course of American history. Since its founding, the NSC has been essential in assisting the President with national security problems, directing the creation of policies, and organizing responses to international challenges. More about the development of American national security policy and the long-term effects of these choices on the security posture of the country can be learnt by looking at significant events and the people who influenced them (McInnis & Rollins, 2021; Whitehouse, 2021).

3.4.1. The Invasion of Cuba in 1961

A group of about 1,500 exiles from Cuba arrived in the Bay of Pigs, on April 17, 1961, with the intention of toppling Fidel Castro's regime. The effort, which was funded and supported by the US, was a huge disaster that resulted in casualties and the capture of many exiles by Castro's army. Even though President John F. Kennedy wanted to be involved in secret, it was clear that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) supported the brigade, and Kennedy's reputation suffered as a result of the choice to forgo air support. One of Kennedy's most notable mistakes as president is still this botched invasion. Under President Dwight D. Eisenhower's leadership, Vice President Richard Nixon and CIA Director Allen Dulles provided backing for the proposal to launch a clandestine invasion. The majority of advisors were confident in the operation's success despite cautions from certain government leaders, including foreign policy professionals like Dean Acheson and liberals like Chester Bowles. Kennedy wanted to hide any direct American military involvement, but the press's reporting on the exiles' training and the planned invasion jeopardized the mission's secrecy. In an attempt to maintain American denial of identity, Kennedy declined to approve additional airstrikes during the mission, which ultimately led to the operation's collapse. Castro's forces trapped the exiles on the beach as the invasion soon collapsed, despite Castro's forces initially being able to destroy part of his air force. The expected revolution in Cuba never happened, and Kennedy's unwillingness to step in more to save the situation drew condemnation from a range of political quarters. Kennedy's administration suffered a great deal as a result of the Bay of Pigs scandal, which also highlighted the difficulties associated with American engagement in international relations (Divine, 1999; Wyden, 1979).

President: John F. Kennedy

The Vice President: Lyndon B. Johnson

The Secretary of State: Dean Rusk

The Secretary of Defence: Robert McNamara

The National Security Council Advisor: McGeorge Bundy

3.4.2. Iran Hostage Crisis, 1979-1981

According to formerly classified studies President Carter's principal instrument for handling the crisis was the high-level Council, with particular attention paid to the Special Coordinating Committee (SCC), which was created especially for handling daily crises. Captain Gary Sick and William B. Quandt were among the important individuals who attended the daily SCC meetings, which were presided over by Brzezinski in the White House. These discussions emphasized the President's crucial role in crisis management and imposed heavy expectations on all parties. Brzezinski proposed a comprehensive plan that included economic penalties, global diplomacy, multichannel discussions, and the consideration of using military as a last resort for retaliation or rescue. Although he devised and oversaw the strategy's implementation, Brzezinski made sure that the necessary agencies, not the NSC, were still in charge of carrying out crisis action. The identification of negotiating channels, logistical concerns for the release of hostages, and other possibilities were largely dependent on intelligence, with continuous input being sought from both external and inside NSC structures. One major part of the situation was the military rescue effort known as Desert I, which had strong support from Brzezinski. Even after suffering losses and technical problems, Brzezinski originally rejected suggestions to terminate the expedition. But in the end, he yielded to the commander's proposal from the field, which the President approved. President Brzezinski's support for the military option, as opposed to Cyrus Vance's rejection, might have had an impact on the use of presidential discretion. Even though public trust in the Presidency had already begun to decline, Warren Christopher's tenacious negotiation efforts ultimately proved vital in gaining the release of the hostages (Iran Hostage Negotiations, n.d; Wolf, 2006)

President: Jimmy Carter

The Vice President: Walter Mondale

The Secretary of State: Cyrus Vance

The Secretary of Defence: Harold Brown

The National Security Council Advisor: Zbigniew Brzezinski

3.4.3. Lebanon Crisis, 1982-1983

Like the Iran crisis, the 1982–1983 Lebanon crisis saw a number of incidents, including political killings, the Lebanese Civil War, and an Israeli–Syrian joint occupation. As part of a multinational force, the United States sent out Marines, but diplomatic attempts were unsuccessful, resulting in horrific incidents like the suicide bombing at the Marine barracks. Early intelligence on an imminent Israeli attack led to coordinate NSC assisted US planning. Disagreements between the Secretaries of State and Defence as well as within the NSC impeded effective crisis management despite efforts to coordinate a response. The incident exposed deficiencies in the NSC's operational and personnel roles. The main tool diplomacy was ultimately ineffective, underscoring the need for better crisis assessment and coordination within the NSC (Goodman & Bogart, 1991; Rabinovich, 1984).

President: Ronald Reagan

The Vice President: George H. W. Bush

The Secretary of State: George Shultz

The Secretary of Defence: Caspar Willard Weinberger

The National Security Council Advisor: Richard V. Allen - James W. Nance

4. Evolution of the American National Security: Shifting Perspectives and Key Events

From the nation founding era to the present day, this section seeks to highlight the key periods and eras that have shaped American foreign and national security policies. It draws attention to changes in eras and general topics, offering understanding of the importance of each and its ramifications for American diplomacy and security.

4.1. American Isolationism

Over the course of the late 18th and late 19th centuries, the United States adopted an isolationist policy that prioritized home matters over foreign relations. National security placed a high priority on neutrality and border protection while avoiding European conflicts and preserving sovereignty. This strategy was a result of the country's colonial past and its wish to resist influence from Europe. The United States adopted a non-interventionist posture and abstained from military alliances and interventions, albeit engaging in some diplomatic and economic endeavours (Braumoeller, 2010; CFR Editors, 2019).

4.1.1. The Nation Founding Era

National security was a great concern of the Founding Fathers. The preamble of the constitution states several fundamental goals, including provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty, all of which have a direct bearing on national security. The founders' plan to protect America from foreign threats is reflected in the constitution's language, background, and organizational framework, which is based on three key tenets: political unity, territorial integrity, and naval might. The founders intended to create a force strong enough to defend the country without running the risk of internal military dictatorship when they drafted the constitution (Greene, 2021).

4.1.2. The American Civil War

The story of the Civil War is unquestionably centred on federalism, slavery, and the conflict's constitutional roots. But it also represents the biggest obstacle in American history to the founders' conception of national security. The idea of a united nation protected by the enormous Atlantic Ocean from the world's great powers was the cornerstone of American security. However, there was an existential threat from within the country's borders during the civil war. More astonishingly, this internal threat was caused by a coalition of states that were rebelling rather than a military dictatorship (Greene, 2021).

4.2. American Interventionism Policy

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the participation period, when American foreign policy significantly changed to emphasize a greater presence in international events. The protection of American interests overseas became a larger part of the United States' national security interests as it became a major global power. During this time, America's involvement in international trade, diplomacy, and military alliances increased, indicating a growing recognition of its role in determining the stability and prosperity of the world (Dobson, 2002; Lock-Pullan, 2004).

4.2.1. The American Spanish War

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was the United States' first war fought outside of North America and marked the country's rise to prominence as a major world power that could be like the old European powers, project force abroad. Even though the Mexican War of 1846–1848 showed the military might of the United States, it did not inspire other overseas military expeditions. But the Spanish-American War was also historic because it helped the US establish a formal empire, which means it may now rule non-US regions directly without their permission, and thereby drive it into the league of major powers in Europe (Mandelbaum, 2023).

4.2.2. World War I

According to Hindley (2017) America's 1917 entry into World War I marked the country's first move toward becoming a worldwide military power, influencing events outside of its borders and having a big impact on the result of the allied victory. America's responsibilities and standing on the international scene were altered by this historic event. He also noted that "For the first time in its history, the United States joined a coalition to fight a war not on its own soil or of its own making, setting a precedent that would be invoked repeatedly over the next century" (Hindley, 2017, para. 3).

4.2.3. World War II

The battle served as a stark reminder of how interdependent nations are and how international crises can have a direct effect on US security. This acknowledgment led to an increased emphasis on foreign cooperation and diplomacy as vital elements of preserving US national security (Greene, 2021). The author also stated that "Less than a hundred years after the Civil War, America emerged from World War II as a global superpower with far-flung geostrategic interests and novel vulnerabilities at home—a boisterous nation flush with new commitments and concerns" (p. 297).

4.3. The Cold War

The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a deep ideological and geopolitical competition that characterized the Cold War era, which lasted from the late 1940s until the early 1990s. This rivalry, which resulted from opposing political and economic systems, dominated national security policy and had a significant impact on global dynamics. To stop the rise of communism, the US formed military alliances like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and got involved in proxy wars like the Vietnam and Korean Wars in an effort to contain and prevent communism. In addition, the prospect of nuclear war loomed large throughout this time, inspiring the creation of concepts like Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) and arms control agreements designed to prevent devastating wars (Pollick, 1997; Wohlforth, 2000).

4.3.1. The Korean War

Altering policymakers' perceptions of the Cold War and bringing about changes to the US national security enterprise, the Korean War had a profound impact on American national security. The nation's overall security posture was impacted by the re-evaluation of security measures brought about by this battle, which also led to significant advancements inside the national security enterprise (Sweeney, 2007).

4.3.2. The Bay of Pigs Crisis

The approach intended to topple Fidel Castro's regime was doomed from the start when President John F. Kennedy decided on April 16, 1961, to shelve the second air strike against Cuban air bases. This action signalled the end of the invasion plot known as the Bay of Pigs crisis, which is considered by many to be one of the biggest missteps in 20th-century foreign policy. Approximately 1,200 Cuban exiles trained in the United States were captured as a result of the invasion, and over 100 people died. The fallout from this setback would haunt Kennedy's presidency for years to come, underscoring the enormous obstacles to national security that new presidents must overcome. The mission's eventual failure was also largely caused by the departure from President Dwight Eisenhower's administration, during which much of the preparation took place (Blachman & Hitlin, 2023).

4.3.3. The Vietnam War

Due to the perceived failure of the war, the Vietnam War sparked a significant change in US foreign policy that was typified by a move towards a more cautious and non-interventionist posture. This shift prioritized avoiding involvement in wars without evident national security objectives, which had an impact on later foreign policy choices and military actions (Martignago, 2018). Greene (2021) points out that " Vietnam War emphasized the extent to which congress's traditional national security role had been diminished by earlier 20th-century strategic developments, and the War Powers Resolution (WPR) was the crowning statute of congress's effort to reestablish the body's energy and relevance" (p. 297).

4.3.4. The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

The US foreign policy changed in response to the invasion, becoming more interventionist and anti-Soviet. The US government sought to maintain the Mujahedin opposition after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in order to prevent a Soviet victory. It was vital to stop the Soviet Union from annexing Afghanistan because that would have put Moscow closer to the oil riches in

the Middle East and its long-standing goal of gaining access to a warm water port—specifically, the Indian Ocean (Lowenstein, 2016).

4.4. Impact of the Post-Cold War Era

The disintegration of the Soviet Union and the ideological competition between the East and West, the period known as the New World Order came into being. Global politics, economy, and security saw a dramatic upheaval during this time, which had a significant influence on national security plans. While greater collaboration and stability were anticipated when the Cold War ended, complicated geopolitical shifts that contradicted conventional security beliefs also occurred (Monti & Wacks, 2021).

4.4.1. The Gulf War

The Gulf War signalled a sea change in the George H.W. Bush administration's thinking about America's place in the world system. It emphasized how important it is to build global alliances, use decisive force, and react quickly to aggression. The war also made clear how important it is for the US government to maintain access to oil in the Persian Gulf as a matter of national security. As a result, it led to the reinforcement of the American military's presence in the area to protect these interests (Eddington, 2018; Murdico, 2003).

4.4.2. The 9/11 Attacks

The 9/11 attacks caused a significant change in American counterterrorism strategies. The scope and audacity of the attacks led to significant changes in the ways that the US and its allies responded to threats, placing a higher priority on enhanced intelligence capacities, international cooperation, and the use of cutting-edge technology in the fight against terrorism (Lambert, 2002; The Global Impact of 9/11: Twenty Years On, 2021).

4.4.3. The American Invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq

The US administration declared a Global War on Terror after the infamous 9/11 attacks, which resulted in military action in Afghanistan. This was a major shift from US national security policy, which was focused on fighting terrorism and extremism worldwide. On September 20, 2001, President George W. Bush publicly declared war on terrorist networks and the states that support them. As a result, in October 2001, US forces were sent to Afghanistan, and subsequently, they were involved in Iraq. The 2003 US invasion of Iraq was a unilateral operation that was carried out without the United Nations (UN) approval and caused a split between the United States and its European allies. It also led to strained cooperation on security matters by casting doubt on the legitimacy and effectiveness of international organizations such as the UN (BBC News, 2023; Laub, 2017).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter offered a thorough examination of the idea of national security, highlighting its complexities and the range of perspectives that have shaped it. The chapter emphasizes American national security, highlighting the distinct components and tactics that have shaped the nation's approach to safeguarding its interests. The National Security Council critical role in developing foreign policies and the long-term effects of its choices were emphasized during the discussion of the council. The historical synopsis followed the crucial changes in the US national security from isolationism to active engagement in the world, via the Cold War, and into the New World Order era.

CHAPTER TWO

The Shifting Concept of the American National Security: Historical Analysis

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Historical Analysis

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Introduction

This chapter explores the dynamic development of the US national security during significant historical junctures. This study starts by looking at the Early Republic and the idea of the Manifest Destiny, showing how the nation's expansionist aspirations and significant historical events that shaped the early American national security plans. After that, it examines how America became a major force in the world stage by getting involved in key international conflicts, tracing the transition from isolationism to interventionism and assessing how these developments affected national security over time. It also offers a thorough analysis of the Cold War era, emphasizing the containment and deterrence tactics that shaped the US national security strategy during that time. After that, the conversation turns to George H. W. Bush New World Order, which marked the fall of the Soviet Union and the ensuing changes in the balance of power in the world. The chapter concludes by discussing George W. Bush pre-emption policy, especially in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, and by analysing how the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan affected American national security. This historical research provides a thorough understanding of how the idea of national security has evolved throughout time in response to shifting threats and international environments (Greene, 2021; Mandel, 1994).

1. The Early Republic and the Manifest Destiny

The expansionist ideals of the Manifest Destiny influenced the American national security by promoting the idea of American exceptionalism and the nation's mission to promote democracy worldwide. This belief in a divine mission to expand and prosper shaped American foreign policy, with leaders such as Wilson and George W. Bush emphasizing America's role as a world leader for democracy. The concept of the Manifest Destiny also led to the development of the New Manifest Destiny in the late 19th century, which focused on naval power, territorial acquisitions, and imperial ambitions. The Early Republic and the concept of the Manifest Destiny played a crucial role in shaping American national security concepts by promoting expansionism,

democracy, and a sense of divine mission. This influence led to the development of key national security doctrines and influenced American foreign policy decisions, reflecting a changing perception of America's role in the world. Additionally, these doctrines underscored the importance of military strength and economic power, fostering a strategic approach to global engagement and intervention (Baker & Critchlow, 2020).

1.1. American National Security in the Early Republic

The Early Republic saw the development of key concepts that shaped American national security in the 19th century:

Greene (2021) stated that "George Washington's response to the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 is a textbook exemplar of the political branches using the flexibility of the Constitution to reallocate national security power from the legislature to the executive branch" (p. 280). Washington's handling of the rebellion can best be characterised by the constitutional accommodation through which political branches are able to shift the authority for the nation's security from the legislative to the executive branch. This is an example of how governance has the ability to learn from past events and grow to meet new challenges concerning security situations. It underscores the importance of administrative management interventions in the quick and appropriate response to threats to the nation's security and stability. Furthermore, Washington's handling illustrated the conceptual flexibility of constitutionalism and change and the potential of political frameworks to transform in synch with new threats and conditions. This example demonstrates that flexibility in the constitution is to leave room for adaptation by society to newer forms of insecurity while at the same time maintaining democratic institutions (Greene, 2021).

1.2. The Manifest Destiny and Its Influence on the American National Security

The 1840s witnessed the emergence of the Manifest Destiny concept, which profoundly shaped national security doctrine and supported American influence and westward migration.

Territorial conquests like Texas, the Oregon Trail, and lands from the Mexican-American War were all prompted by this mind-set, fuelling the expansionist fervour of the time. Moreover, the Manifest Destiny gave rise to influential policies such as the Open Door policy, advocating for equal economic rights in China, and the Monroe Doctrine, which vehemently opposed European colonization in the Western Hemisphere. As the nation expanded, defence planning was significantly impacted, necessitating a robust national security strategy that included the establishment of military presence and infrastructure in newly acquired areas. The Early Republic also marked the efforts to establish cooperation between presidential powers and the Congress, the civil liberty and the emerging national interests. Discussions on these topics were carried on into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries related to shaping of American national security, although such doctrines reveal manifestations of the impact of Manifest Destiny on securing the greatest aims of America's policies and postures on the international stages (Jones, 2020; Weinberg, 2012).

1.3. Impact of Key Events and Policies on the American National Security

Between 1780 and 1830, the Early Republic period in the American history was characterized by important occurrences and decisions that had a big impact on the country's growth which include:

- The Constitution and the constitutional congress: In 1787, the constitutional congress produced the constitution and the bill of rights, which established the United States government, shaped American politics, and established a system of checks and balances.
- Louisiana Purchase: securing a sizable chunk of the contiguous United States, the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 increased US territory by 828,000 square miles.
- Tensions with the South and industry: during this time, tensions with the South, which relied on slave labour, eventually resulted in the Civil War, while Northern industry expanded America's manufacturing capability.

- **Presidential Leadership:** The policies, foreign policy, and trajectory of the United States were significantly shaped by notable presidents such as George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.
- **Foreign Policy and Expansion:** In 1823, US protection against European colonization in the Americas was affirmed by President James Monroe's Monroe Doctrine, which also demonstrated the US's increasing power on the international scene.

All things considered, the Early Republic era was revolutionary, marked by moments and decisions that moulded foreign policy, industry, governance, and territorial expansion, setting the stage for the eventual rise and power of the United States (Greenberg, 2022; Jones, 2020; Weinberg, 2012).

2. The Emergence of the USA as a Global Power: Involvement in Global Conflicts

According to Stewart (2005) the growing involvement in international conflicts and military operations was a watershed moment for the United States, catapulting it to the status of a global powerhouse in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This transition was powered by a modernist understanding of the concept of manifest destiny, which was seen an opportunity to open up new markets, strengthen the naval forces, and extend the impact of American overseas. Adopting this rather progressive outlook, the nation set out for the accomplishment of goals oriented toward the achievement of geopolitical superiority, as well as exploring new and unexplored economic potential on the international level. As the United States began to pursue large scale military operations and foreign policies the country emerged more and more as a significant actor in world politics, which made it easier for the country to become a globally dominant power. Consequently, this level of activity launched the nation onto the global political stage and provided the foundations on which it would continue to build upon in order to become one of the world's most powerful forces. The author also stated that "This new manifest destiny

first took the form of vigorous efforts to expand American trade and naval interests overseas" (p. 347).

2.1. The American Involvement in Global Conflicts

The American foreign policy largely followed the principles set forth by George Washington (1811) in his Farewell Address to the nation: "The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is—in extending our commercial relations—to have with them as little political connection as possible." (p. 26). The purpose of Washington's admonition against entanglements with foreign powers was to minimize the chance of war. However, this approach began to change in the late 19th century, with the country participating in the Spanish-American War in 1898. This shift continued into the early 20th century, with further involvement in major conflicts such as World War I and World War II. The quarter century from 1920 to 1945 transformed America. In 1920 the United States, while an industrial powerhouse, remained a provincial society on the margins of global affairs. By 1945, in a war-shattered world, its domestic politics reshaped by the New Deal of the 1930s, America stood preeminent. In these same years, intellectuals, social thinkers, and cultural creators challenged their predecessors' moral certitudes to forge a modern, cosmopolitan society (Boyer, 2012).

2.2. The Shift from Isolationism to Interventionism

The international perceptions of the United States in the early years was isolationist and neutralist which focused on free trade and self-protection. That is why President Woodrow Wilson changed this approach due to the actively growing aggression of Germany, for instance, the sinking of the Lusitania ship. This outright aggression compelled Wilson to urge Congress into a state of war with Germany on the April 2nd, 1917; the declaration was passed on the 6 of April, 1917. Wilson was convinced that the USA ought to join the war since it is the right thing to do. This decision exposed a great change in American foreign policy which saw the nation turn into an advocate for democracies and freedom. By this crucial decision, the United States entered the

side of the Allies in the war; as a result, with its influence, the United States played a significant role in defining the post-war world and propagating democracy on the global level. America's participation to World War I was significant for it established basic key principles on how America should manage its relations with the global community in terms of alliance and conflicts. It stirred up the precedent for the United States of America to get involved in global affairs and to participate in conflict, motivated by humanitarian and political development. This intervention did not only impact the results of the World War I, but contributed to the further construction of the course of political development of the USA as the world leader in the 20th century. Moreover, the war that raged in the First World War had its influence on the American policy on the course of the next subsequent military and diplomatic interactions. The war established the fact that the United States has the capability to influence world events to a very large extent and also underlined the necessity of cooperation and formation of alliances. Therefore, the U. S. started to perceive itself as a champion of democracy and freedom and as an advocate of a struggle against dictatorship and suppression. This change in ideologies played a significant role in defining America's role in future wars like World War II and the Cold War where again the U. S. was occupying the role of protectors of liberty and order (Boyer, 2012; Brinkley, 1992).

During and after the World War I it became clearly evident that America was a world power and as a result contributed to the founding of institutions that would bring about the enhancement of global peace and security. Consequently, the United States' participation in the First World War shifted its foreign policy and laid the foundation for the League of Nations, which though unsuccessful still attempted to provide a forum for international relations, hence forming an important virtue of the United Nations and other organizations mid half of the twentieth century (Ambrosius, 2006).

2.3. The Long-Term Effects on the American National Security

The United States' rise to prominence in the world stage and its involvement in foreign conflicts have had a long-lasting and multifaceted effect on national security. Using a variety of sources, certain ideas can be distinguished:

- **Change from Isolationism to Interventionism:** In the past, the US has taken a comparatively isolationist posture, but its participation in international conflicts has led to a noticeable change in direction toward greater interventionism. This shift, which has been driven by a greater interest in international issues, has significantly changed both America's national security approach and its position as a global influencer.
- **Projecting naval strength:** The United States' capacity to project naval strength globally became a defining feature of its national security posture as it grew into a dominant global force. This power projection has defined American priorities globally and profoundly affected geopolitical dynamics.
- **Cultural Influence and Militarization:** American involvement overseas expanded, deepened, and grew more militaristic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During this time, American cultural influence spread significantly around the world. This, together with military efforts, led to a reorganization of American dominance and its national security concerns.
- **Global Economic Instability and Security Threats:** The United States has faced difficulties as a result of economic instability, non-traditional security threats, the rise of authoritarian regimes, and illiberal politics, even though it is the leading global power. These elements have put America's leadership in the international arena to the test and had a big impact on its outlook for national security. All things considered, the United States' transformation as a worldwide force and its engagement in foreign affairs have fundamentally changed the way it approaches national security, with far-reaching consequences (Cole, 1971; Lefeber, 1989).

3. The Cold War Era

The American national security strategy during the Cold War age is said to have underwent a dramatic shift. The National Security Act of 1947 is an unmatched one that paved way to the establishment of many organizations fundamental towards framing and implementing the policies relating to other countries. This legislation was the basic one which reshaped dramatically the structure of military and diplomatic relations of the United States. Integral with this rebalancing was the creation of the National Security Council (NSC) which consisted of such important personalities as the Head of State, the Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defence, and the Director of the CIA. The NSC met at the White House so that it would be present as a body to discuss concise national security threats and as a body to discuss long term solutions for them. This crucial organization was responsible for the unification of efforts in various branches, as well as the coordination and synchronization of efforts in distilling the main challenges of the cold war (Gaddis, 2005).

In the context of Cold War, the NSC had an important function of formulating and implementing America's foreign policy strategy amid emerging world conditions. It offered chief executive and his advisors a forum for extensive and intensive consultations, planning and crisis solving that helped the United States to cope with the complex of the Cold War confrontation with Soviet Union. However, the traditional function of the NSC did not end with crisis management: it became an active policymaker which planned and pushed for policies to confront the spreading of communism, spread democracy, and protect and engorge the interests of the United States in the international level. NSC's impact was multifaceted as it affected diplomacy, military strategies and intelligence operations and it played a significant role in determining the course of the Cold War and American's approach towards national security (Pollick, 1997).

3.1. The Containment and Deterrence Strategies

The United States instituted containment and deterrence policy as fundamental doctrines of its national security for the Cold War confrontation against the Soviet Union and prevention of the expansion of communism. During the time of the containment strategy, the Truman Doctrine in 1947 was created, which guaranteed US' support to the countries that faced communist aggression. The Marshall plan was implemented in 1948 in order to help the ruined Europe recuperate from financial destruction to prevent communism. Moreover 1949 also witnessed the establishment of NATO whose purpose was to provide an alliance of defence of western nations against the communist forces (Milot, 1990).

In countering the threat of nuclear warfare the United States ensured that it had a sufficient nuclear stockpile to be able to cause MAD on the USSR if any was to be used against the United States. The strengthening of the US trident deterrence was also supported by strategic defence programs, such as the creation of missile defence systems. In addition, the choice of flexible response policy meant a shift in deterrence dynamics to include conventional forces and a wide range of possible responses to any provocation (Milot, 1990).

Taken as a whole these strategies were able to limit the expansion of the Soviet Union through aid and alliances but also prevent the direct use of force by threatening the war of extermination through the use of nuclear weapons. The dynamic of the containment of the containment-deterrence formula heavily influenced US National Security throughout the Cold War (Milot, 1990).

Other strategies used during this period included nuclear brinkmanship, covert operations and disinformation, economic warfare, propaganda and psychological warfare, diplomacy and alliances, and arms control and disarmament. Duel was an attempt to play in a dangerous field with a goal of achieving favourable deals, a case in point being the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Overt and unattributed military interference for political purposes in nations other than the United States as in the examples of the CIA's activities in Iran 1953 and Guatemala 1954. Economic

warfare included trade restricting and embargos on the Soviet Union and its allies and the usage of warfare persuaded the general populace behind the iron curtain (Anzalone, 1893).

3.2. The Cold War Influence on the American National Security

The state of national security during the Cold War was thus manifested in some of these fundamental strategies and institutions which continued after the end of the Cold War. This period witnessed United States to preoccupy itself mainly with military security arising from powerful nations, nuclear weapons and technological supremacy. It continued to be prioritised even after the Cold War ended when there were thoughts of military threats, nuclear armament, and the armed forces of potential enemies. Also, many significant political structures were formed during the Cold War era, including the NSC and CIA, which contributed to the overall vision and direction of US foreign and security policies. The presidency also got powers as shown in the Truman doctrine that linked global benefits to the nation's security and economy (Pollick, 1997).

The end of the Cold War created various changes in the distribution of power in the world and led to discussions on future potential options for the national security strategy of the US, such as the one based on the idea of the Unipolar World Of American Order or the one aimed at choosing the appropriate regional and global security institutions in order to pursue the desirable hegemonic roles. Most of these changes did not however negate calls for US leadership and resisting isolation pressures to enhance national security and stability in the international systems (Pollick, 1997).

The Cold War legacy significantly impacted the national security of the United States in many aspects: from strategy creation to the role of the presidency and interdepartmental structures (Pollick, 1997).

The Critiques of American national security during the Cold War mainly revolved around a number of issues. The main critiques of the operational style of the American administration were the extensive use of secrecy and lack of responsibility, the use of military to dominate foreign policy, America's gradual demise of freedom and democracy as well as America's imperialism.

The nature of these criticisms reflects on the intricacy of national security policies during that period and some of the ethical issues that arose from that (Raskin, 1976). Overall, the Cold War significantly shaped American national security policy, leading to lasting changes in the country's military posture, intelligence operations, foreign policy strategies, and domestic security measures. Overall, the Cold War significantly shaped American national security policy, leading to lasting changes in the country's military posture, intelligence operations, foreign policy strategies, and domestic security measures (Boyle, 2000).

4. The New World Order (George W. Bush Senior)

The New world order was established in 1990 by President George Bush in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. According to his vision, the world would be safer in its endeavour to search for peace, empowered in search of justice and not prone to terrorism. Such an arrangement would require entering new partnerships, moving past the Cold War, as well as incorporating collective security and international collaboration. In an effort to pursue these sweeping goals, Bush saw the necessity for a world where compliance and comprehension of other nations were crucial to guarantee that no nation had to fight a war again. However, others argued against it stating it was vague, and it did not have objectives as well as tactical plans to achieve them. Some critics said it was too ideal to be realistic. Other critics commented that the New World Order is aimed at eradicating sovereignty and over taxing the American power and resources. (Knott, 2017).

The supporters saw it as a vision to strive for, a vision that was needed to overcome what was termed as post-Cold War world. They thought that after the collapse of the USSR, it is necessary for the United States to lead the promotion of democracy, human rights, and international interventions aimed at finding peace. Supporters believed that it was both the United States moral responsibility and its best interest to facilitate order and economic progress on a global level. They argued with critics who stated that a country should only intervene in affairs that immediately concerned them, arguing that a more active participation in international politics

would make both the US and the international community better off, by encouraging more international integration (Knott, 2017).

4.1. The Disintegration of the USSR

Mikhail Gorbachev put in place certain changes which ultimately led to the break-up of the USSR which was indeed a World History Turning Point. Following the rise to the political power in the USSR in 1985, Gorbachev conducted activisms like the abolishment of the secret police and perestroika, or restructuring, in an attempt to reform the USSR's government and economy. His decision to ease the governmental regulation led to avalanching effects which led to the disintegration of Eastern European teams and independence of nations such as Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. The Cold War Era came to its natural end in November 1989 following the collapse of Berlin Wall which made reunification of East and West Germany possible. This event led to demonstrations against the Soviets by the people in Eastern European countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, and Czechoslovakia, which contributed to the downfall of communism in many of those countries (George, 2024; Marples, 2016).

The pace of change proceeded faster which lead Belarus, Russia and Ukraine declared the formation of their independence and the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States which in turn compounded the fragmentation process. The remaining republics followed suit and declared independence from the Soviet Union by the end of 1989, and thus the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Many of the countries of Eastern Europe were able to westernize their politics and economies by the mid-1990s when the former Soviet-bloc governments were overthrown by leaders elected from among candidates of newly-formed political parties. This showed a drastic change in a sovereign state because countries that were dominated by the Soviet Union adopted to an economy of free market and democracy (Fowkes, 1996; George, 2024; Van Sickle, 2021).

The disintegration of the Soviet Union has been found to have significantly altered the currents of the world economy and regional trade in a more permanent fashion. Meanwhile, crime and corruption, a struggling economy could not deter Russia as the United States stood out as the

leading world power. The changes that happened in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries of East-Central Europe in the context of the post-communist transformation were as great in terms of societal and cultural shift. There was an economic instability which was indicated by a reduction of the gross national product in the Soviet nations by twentieth percent in the three years between 1989 and 1991. These events brought drastic change in the political and economic aspects of the society whereby the US-Soviet relations were modified and consequently the current world political and economic norm between these two countries. The formation of the new world order after the collapse of the Soviet Union meant radical shifts in the political background with globalization of economy and start of new post capitalist economy civilizations being formed later on. Many factors, or rather consequences of Gorbachev's reforms and the actions that led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, today shape the processes of interstate relations and economic systems. (Fowkes, 1996; Van Sickle, 2021).

5. The Pre-emption Policy (George W Bush Junior)

The pre-emption policy or Bush doctrine of the George W Bush Junior administration meant a shift in foreign policy in which America claimed the right to use pre-emptive military force against potential threats especially in the war against terrorism. This strategy enabled the use of force to defend America and its interests even if there was no evidence of a planned attack, thus broadening the pre-emption strategy to include preventive war. Due to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 the Bush administration developed a pre-emption focused plan of action. The application of the pre-emption policy entailed significant military operations for example the Afghanistan war in 2001 and the Iraq war in 2003. The invasion of Afghanistan was to eliminate al-Qaeda and topple the Taliban regime while the invasion of Iraq was necessitated by the belief that the latter possessed weapons of mass destruction and was a real menace to the US (Pauly, R.J., 2005).

These actions depicted the stand of the Bush administration on the pre-emption policy as one of the fundamental strategies to fighting terrorism and safeguarding America. The

administration strongly supported the view that it is dangerous to wait for threats to emerge and fully develop before taking actions, as this would lead to suppressing attacks. Thus, they adopted a more proactive approach, stating that such threats must be rooted out and destroyed even before they became a threat directly aimed at the US. It entailed intelligence agencies work, a military operation, and creating an alliance to fight terrorism and the distribution of weapons of mass destruction. The pre-emption policy valued the administration's aim to safeguarding national security by anticipating and acting on threats, in an effort to build a safer world for the United States and consolidate the country's role in the fight against terrorism (Rielly, J.E., 2008).

5.1. The 9/11 Attacks Impact on the American National Security

According to Dresner (2009) the major problem of today's world is human insecurity. The September 11 attack on the World Trade Centre in the USA is rather worrisome. The terrorist attack changed the American national security strategy from deterrence and containment to pre-emption. The new strategy of combating new security challenges, it aids the US to secure itself against countries that harbour or terrorist groups. The Bush administration sanctioned what some critics would later argue was a brazen expansion of presidential authority over the executive branch, the Fourth Amendment, the legal system and international law in the post 9/11 world through new forms of surveillance, the establishment of new military commissions, and secret detentions. Initiatives such as the President's Surveillance Program that allows warrant less wiretaps as well as data mining, which are among some of the pre with the common use after 9/11. The United States proclaimed the War on Terror to destroy Al-Qaeda and Taliban bases in Afghanistan, as a result, aggravated tensions in Middle East, North Africa. Since the advancement of the social media, the groups have specifically used it for recruitment across the world. New institutions of national security like department of Homeland security was formed as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) transformed and focused on counterterrorism, 9/11 has also brought many changes to the American national security as to the American government and citizen relations with debates on security and rights continuing to date (Gilman, M.E., 2011).

5.2. The American Invasion on Iraq and Afghanistan

According to Aza, N.G (2015) The Bush's doctrine of pre-emption as formulated in the National Security Strategy (NSS) after the 9/11 attack goes beyond narrow principle pre-emption, but reserves the right to US to attack pre-emptively even without a definite and imminent threat.

The war in Iraq is most bothersome in the implementation of the doctrine. One of the worry is the fact that the use of force for self-defence is lawful only if an armed attack occurs against a state. Customary international law permits pre-emptive self-defence only when a threat is so grave and imminent that the victim cannot wait to act in self-defence until the attack has actually started. In spite of this, the Bush's doctrine of pre-emption calls for anticipatory self-defence against international law as a way of fighting terrorist group and havens of terrorism (Boot, 2009; Gray, 2007).

- The critical decisions made in the Afghanistan and Iraq invasion had several profound impacts on American foreign policies.
- Fuelling Radicalism: The Iraq war created new terrorists and served as a recruiting tool for al-Qaeda, increasing regional security threats.
- Diverting Focus: While focused on Iraq, al-Qaeda rebuilt in Afghanistan, as Iraq was not the main front in the fight against al-Qaeda.
- Pre-emption and Unilateralism: The Bush administration's pre-emptive doctrine shifted US foreign policy, emphasizing military action against perceived threats without international support.
- Civil Liberties: Post-9/11 wars led to increased surveillance and erosion of constitutional rights, particularly affecting Muslims and immigrants.
- Economic Costs: Trillions were borrowed to fund the wars, increasing social inequality in the US. (Boot, 2009; Gray, 2007).

Conclusion

This chapter provided a detailed historical analysis of the evolving notion of national security in the United States. It followed America's development from the Early Republic, when expansionist ideas like Manifest Destiny had an impact on national security, to its rise to prominence as a world power, which was characterized by a major role in international conflicts and a change from isolationism to interventionism. The chapter also looked at the Cold War era, stressing containment and deterrence tactics and how they shaped US national security. The dissolution of the USSR had a significant impact on the dynamics of international security, as demonstrated by the examination of the New World Order under George H. W. Bush. Finally, the discussion over George W. Bush's pre-emption policy, particularly in the wake of the September 11 attacks, demonstrated the dramatic changes in national security doctrine in reaction to fresh threats.

General Conclusion

Over time, the meaning of national security in the United States has changed as a result of a combination of dangers and risks, domestic issues, realistic geopolitics, and technical breakthroughs. Even so, given its place in the realm of foreign policy and governance, it was important to emphasise that a comprehensive historic-conceptual analysis of the development of American national security was still needed in order to identify the main characteristics that have defined it, the forces that have shaped its evolution, and the effectiveness of various approaches. This dissertation aimed to bridge this gap by offering a thorough definition of US national security that went beyond the conventional understanding of security and examined its relative dimensions over a number of historical eras. And getting a general understanding of the information, difficulties, and mechanisms underlying it that influenced the current policy-making process.

Beginning with the early republic and the idea of manifest destiny, this research examined the pivotal eras in American national security, including the country's ascent to global dominance during the world wars and the strategic requirements of the Cold War. The national security paradigm underwent major modifications during each of these times, reflecting transformations in both internal and external challenges. The September 11 attacks were a turning point in American national security, and George W. Bush's pre-emption doctrine was adopted as a result. This period saw a strong emphasis on taking preventative action against threats before they materialised, which led to large-scale military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. This study also looked at how important organisations, such as the National Security Council, shaped and carried out these changing plans.

In order to fulfil the goals of this study, three main inquiries were put forth: How has national security in the United States changed since the founding of the republic? What crucial moments led to these modifications? How have important organisations' duties and responsibilities changed throughout time, such as the National Security Council?

A mix of historical, descriptive, analytical, and comparative methodologies were used in the study. Chronological data was gathered and contextualised using historical approaches, offering insights into the development of US national security. The frameworks and tactics used in various historical periods are described using descriptive methodologies. Comparative approaches emphasised the shifts in national security before and after major events, whereas analytical methods analysed the data to answer the study objectives.

The findings unequivocally showed that the idea of American national security has changed considerably over time rather than remaining static. The idea first addressed territorial defence and internal consolidation, but it later broadened to include dangers from around the world and intricate international relations. Particularly during the Cold War, there was significant strategic development that shaped American security policy for many years.

The establishment and development of the National Security Council played a critical role in coordinating these strategies, reflecting the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to national security. Post-9/11 policies underscored a shift towards proactive and preventive strategies, reflecting the changing nature of threats in a globalised world. In conclusion, the evolution of the American conception of national security throughout history demonstrates the country's capacity to adjust to new difficulties and evolving international environments. Policymakers may better prepare for potential threats and guarantee the security and prosperity of the United States by having a better knowledge of these historical transitions. This research emphasises the dynamic nature of protecting a country in an increasingly complex world and emphasises the significance of historical context in forming modern national security strategies.

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ملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى استكشاف كيفية تطور مفهوم الأمن القومي الأمريكي، خاصة فيما يتعلق بأسس الأمن وهياكله وتصوراته في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية من عدة جهات نظر، تستكشف الدراسة أيضا تطبيقات سياسة الأمن القومي داخل وخارج الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية في استخداماتها المزدوجة ومنهجيتها المتعددة. يتناول العمل أيضا الهيكل التاريخي والعمليات التطورية لمجلس الأمن القومي الأمريكي، لا سيما مهام المجلس والقرارات الحاسمة التي تم اتخاذها. يناقش هذا البحث الفترات الرئيسية للقومية والأمن في الولايات المتحدة بترتيب زمني، مع تغطية مجالات رئيسة مثل الجمهورية المبكرة، ومصير الولايات المتحدة الواضح، والمشاركة الأمريكية في الأحداث العالمية. كما يفحص كيف تؤثر الأحداث الكبرى مثل النظام العالمي الجديد الذي تصوره جورج بوش الأب، وهجمات 11 سبتمبر، وسياسة الاستباق لجورج بوش الابن على استراتيجيات الأمن القومي الأمريكي. تكشف الأدلة الواردة في العمل أن الأخطار والظروف في النظام الدولي متغيرة باستمرار، مما يؤثر على فكرة الأمن القومي الأمريكي. يساهم هذا العمل بدور هام في تطوير دراسات الأمن بناء على تفاصيله الغنية حول تعقيدات وعمليات الأمن القومي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مجلس الأمن القومي الأمريكي، الحرب الباردة، التحليل التاريخي، التدخلية، العزلة.