Learning Objectives

• Analyze which historical periods have most influenced the development of international relations.

• Describe the historical origins of the state.

• Understand why international relations scholars use the Treaties of Westphalia as a benchmark.

• Explain the historical origins of the European balance-of-power system.

• Explain how the Cold War became a series of confrontations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

• Analyze the key events that have shaped the post–Cold War world and the first two decades of the new millennium.
The Importance Of History

Why care about history?

The purpose of a historical overview is to trace important trends over time:

➢ the emergence of the state and the notion of sovereignty,
➢ the development of the international state system,
➢ the causes and consequences of colonialism and world wars, and the declining relevance of states.
➢ Contemporary international relations, in both theory and practice, is rooted in the European experience.
➢ Other regions of the world, such as South and East Asia, have also had influential civilizations.
➢ It is not possible to understand international relations today without understanding its origins in European history.
The Importance Of History

History shows

➢ Emergence of the state and the concept of sovereignty.
➢ Development of the international state system.
➢ Causes and continuing consequences of colonialism and two world wars.
➢ Changes in the distribution of power among states.
➢ The theory and practice of contemporary international relations are rooted in the European experience, resulting in a Eurocentric focus.
Key Developments before AD 1000

• The sovereign Greek city-states reach the height of their power in 400 B.C.; they engage in diplomacy and conflict.

• The Roman Empire (50 B.C.–A.D. 400) originates imperialism and develops the practice of expanding territorial reach.

• The Middle Ages (400–1000) witnesses the centralization of religious authority in the church along with decentralization in political and economic life; similar trends are evident in the non-Western world.
The Middle Ages (400–1000)

- Most European societies were organized by feudalism.
- Preeminent institution was the church.
- Power struggle between religious and secular authorities.
- Regional kingdoms flourish in Africa and Latin America:
  - Maya – 900AD
  - Aztec – 1400AD
  - Mongol – 1200AD
  - Kingdom of Kongo – 1500AD
The Late Middle Ages (1000–1500)

Transnational business class starts to develop

➢ Commercial revolution: greater commercial activity across regions.
➢ Emergence of well-educated, moneyed class (secular)
  Need for larger political units with more effective central governments.
➢ Allied with rulers who desired larger kingdoms
  • Gunpowder revolution: 1400s
➢ Contributes to larger political units, central governments
➢ Trading relationships between regions foreshadow current diplomatic practice.
Key Developments before 1648

Increasing secularization: writers and scholars enjoy an intellectual rebirth. Start of the Enlightenment period. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli (1469–1527) argued that since there was no universal morality to guide them, leaders must act in the state’s interests, without regard for morality.

- It illustrated the debate on the separation of church and state.
Key Developments before 1648

Protestant Reformation

• Martin Luther challenges Catholicism (1517)
  ➢ Posted his 95 Theses on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany
• Thirty Years War (1618–1648): Protestants fight to free themselves from papal authority.
• Ends with economic bankruptcy, devastation, and loss of life throughout Europe.

Treaty of Westphalia (1648)

• Why is Westphalia so important?
Key Developments before 1648

Thirty Years’ War (1618–1648)

➢ The Thirty Years’ War (1618-48) began when Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II of Bohemia attempted to curtail the religious activities of his subjects, sparking rebellion among Protestants. The war came to involve the major powers of Europe, with Sweden, France, Spain and Austria all waging campaigns primarily on German soil. Known in part for the atrocities committed by mercenary soldiers, the war ended with a series of treaties that made up the Peace of Westphalia. The fallout reshaped the religious and political map of central Europe, setting the stage for the old centralized Roman Catholic empire to give way to a community of sovereign states.

http://www.history.com/topics/thirty-years-war
Key Developments before 1648

• Many international relations theorists date the contemporary system from 1648, the year of the Treaties of Westphalia, ending the Thirty Years War.

• This treaty marked the end of rule by religious authority in Europe.

• The formulation of sovereignty was one of the most important intellectual developments leading to the Westphalian revolution.

• Leaders are limited by divine and natural law, the type of regime/government, and covenants and treaties that they enter into with other states.
Key Developments before 1648

• Absolute sovereignty is not without limits.
• Sovereignty is the absolute and perpetual power vested in a commonwealth.
• Furthermore, sovereignty rests with the regime/the people, not with individual leaders.

➢ Read the Treaty of Westphalia and the Peace of Westphalia
Emergence of the Westphalian System

- Effects of treaty: heralds the development of the modern state.
  - European states embraced the notion of sovereignty.
  - Monarchs have political authority, not the Catholic Church.
  - Sovereigns enjoy rights within their own territory.
  - The right of noninterference in domestic politics is introduced.
Emergence of the Westphalian System

• The Treaties of Westphalia, had a profound impact on the practice of international relations in three ways:
  ➢ They embraced the notion of sovereignty: that the sovereign enjoyed exclusive rights within a given territory, and that these rights were recognized as legitimate by other states.
  ➢ They also established that states could determine their own domestic policies and religion in their own geographic spaces.
  ➢ They advanced the right of noninterference by one state in the affairs of other states.
Emergence of the Westphalian System

➢ Leaders sought to establish their own permanent national militaries, rather than relying on temporary or less reliable forces such as mercenaries. The state thus became more powerful since it had to collect taxes to pay for these militaries, and leaders assumed absolute control over the troops, all of which increased centralized control.
Emergence of the Westphalian System

• They established a core group of states that dominated the world until the beginning of the nineteenth century: Austria, Russia, Prussia, England, France, and the United Provinces of the Netherlands.
Emergence of the Westphalian System

A state is a political-legal unit that meets three conditions:

1. it has an identifiable population
2. it is located within defined territorial borders recognized by others
3. its government possesses sovereignty (self-governance)
Westphalia’s Impact: Sovereignty

• French philosopher Jean Bodin (1530–1596)
  
  Sovereignty means
  
  ➢ “Absolute and perpetual power vested in a commonwealth”
  
  ➢ That “the sovereign cannot in any way be subject to the commands of another, for it is he who makes law for the subject, abrogates law already made, and amends obsolete law”

• Limits to sovereignty: leaders are limited by covenants, contracts with the commons and treaties with other states.

• Note – Commonwealth is an independent country or community, a republic, democratic nation, the general good, the people.
Key Developments after Westphalia

- The emergence of the modern nation state and the Westphalian system
- Eventually exported to the rest of the world through imperialism, colonialism, mercantilism, international trade, World War I, and World War II.
- Permanent national militaries are established, leading to increased political centralization.
- The core group of nations control the world for 300 years:
  - Austria, Russia, Prussia, England, France, United Provinces of the Netherlands
Key Developments after Westphalia

• A Free Market / Capitalist economic system emerges in western Europe; while feudalism is maintained in eastern areas controlled by absolute monarchs.


➢ With groups of individuals rationally pursuing their self-interests, economic efficiency is enhanced as well as the wealth of the state and the international system. This theory has had a profound effect on debates about states' economic policies, for example, by suggesting that the most straightforward path to raising national wealth was through removing restrictions on international trade.
Key Developments after Westphalia

IN FOCUS

Key Developments after Westphalia

- Concept and practice of sovereignty develops.
- Centralized control of institutions to facilitate the creation and maintenance of military; military power grows.
- Capitalist economic system emerges (stable expectations facilitate long-term investment).
The Age of Revolutions (1789–1914)

• American and French revolutions (1776, 1789)

➢ Products of *Enlightenment* thinking as well as social contract theory.
➢ Enlightenment thinkers saw individuals as rational, capable of understanding the laws governing them and capable of working to improve their condition in society.
➢ In his *Two Treaties of Government*, John Locke attacked the concept of absolute power and the notion of the divine rights of kings, and argued the state as an institution is created by men to protect their natural rights (life, liberty and property) and their self-interest. He also argued for popular sovereignty, where political power rest with the people.
The Age of Revolutions (1789–1914)

Two core principles emerged in the aftermath of the American and French revolutions, Legitimacy and Nationalism.

➢ **Legitimacy**: moral and legal right to rule, based on law, custom, heredity, or consent of the governed.
  - Absolut rule is subject to limits and imposed by humanity.

➢ **Nationalism**: people share devotion and allegiance to the nation
  - Ethnic and, national self-determination.
  - Usually based on shared characteristics of the people: common customs, cultural practices, historical experience, and perhaps even language.
Europe in the Nineteenth Century: Key Principles

- Enlightenment thinking embraced the concepts that:
  - Political power ultimately rests with the people.
  - Absolutist rule is limited by humankind.
  - The state is a beneficial institution created by rational people to protect their natural rights and self-interests.
  - Defended the claim that men are by nature free and equal regardless of their government.
Key Developments in Nineteenth-Century Europe

- The Napoleonic Wars
  - Napoleon Bonaparte emerged as the military and political leader in France after the revolution, leading successful campaigns to conquer much of Europe during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15).
The dramatic successes and failures of France’s Napoleon Bonaparte illustrated both the power and the limits of nationalism, new military technology, and organization.
Key Developments in Nineteenth-Century Europe

• Peace at the core of the European system

➢ Following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815 and the establishment of peace by the Congress of Vienna, the Concert of Europe (Austria, Britain, France, Prussia, and Russia) ushered in a period of relative peace that lasted for decades, despite a rapidly changing world.
Key Developments in Nineteenth-Century Europe

• At least three factors explain the peace:
  ➢ European elites were united in their fear of revolution from the masses; the absence of war made the overthrow of existing regimes less likely.
  ➢ Two of the major issues confronting the core European states were internal: the unifications of Germany and Italy. Although both unifications were finally solidified through small local wars, a general war was averted since Germany and Italy were preoccupied with territorial unification.
  ➢ The complex and crucial phenomenon of imperialism/colonialism, as European states sought to increase and consolidate their colonial possessions in Africa and Asia.
Imperialism and Colonialism in the European System

- **Imperialism**: annexation of distant territory and its inhabitants, often by force.
- **Colonialism**: settling of people from home country among indigenous people of a distant land, accompanied by imperialism.
- Motivated by desire for adventure, economic gains, increased stature, and political power; spread of culture and religion.
- The Industrial Revolution provides military and economic capacity and technological advantage.
- The Congress of Berlin (1885) divides the African continent.
Imperialism and Colonialism in the European System

• Imperialism and colonialism in the European system before 1870

➢ By the close of the nineteenth century, almost the whole of the globe was "ruled" by European states through imperialism and colonialism. This process also helped establish a common "European" identity that contrasted European, colonizing states with non-European territories that they ruled.

➢ Motivations for colonialism included economic gains, cultural and religious reasons, and political competition.
Imperialism and Colonialism in the European System

• Imperialism and colonialism in the European system before 1870

➢ The major powers divided most of Africa during the 1885 Congress of Berlin. In Asia, only Japan and Siam (Thailand) were not under direct European or U.S. influence.

➢ The struggle for economic prowess led to heedless exploitation of the colonial areas, particularly in Africa and Asia.
‘Countries that have been under European control’ from “Map: European colonialism conquered every country in the world but these five,” by Max Fisher. Vox.com, February 24, 2015. http://www.vox.com/2014/6/24/5835320/map-in-the-whole-world-only-these-five-countries-escaped-european. Reprinted by permission of Vox Media, Inc.
The Balance of Power in Nineteenth-Century Europe

- Balance of power
  - The period of peace in Europe in the nineteenth century was managed and preserved for so long because of the concept of balance of power.
  - The balance of power emerged because the independent European states feared the emergence of any predominant state (hegemon) among them. Thus, they formed alliances to counteract any potentially more powerful faction.
The Balance of Power in Nineteenth-Century Europe

• States with relatively equal power (symmetrical) will hesitate to start a war due to the risk of defeat.

• When one state or coalition of states is much more powerful than others (asymmetrical balance), war is likely because of the possibility of success.

• Less powerful states form alliances to counteract more powerful states.
Explaining Nineteenth-Century Peace

• European solidarity: Christian, “civilized,” shared many cultural and ethnic values, participating in the industrial revolution, interested in managing crisis instead of participating in a war.
• Elites united by fear of revolution.
• Engaged in territorial expansion outside Europe: colonialism and imperialism.
Key Developments in Nineteenth-Century Europe

- From revolutions emerge two concepts: the idea that legitimate rule requires (some) consent of the governed, and nationalism.

- A system managed by the balance of power brings relative peace to Europe. Elites are united in fear of the masses, and domestic concerns are more important than foreign policy.

- European imperialism in Asia and Africa helps maintain the European balance of power.

- The balance of power breaks down due to imperial Germany’s too-rapid growth and the increasing rigidity of alliances, resulting in World War I.
The Breakdown: Solidification of Alliances

- The breakdown: solidification of alliances
  - Effective operation of the balance of power required that participating states be willing to ally together against any state whose power was increasing rapidly; in other words, that alliances should shift as power balances shifted.
  - The balance-of-power system weakened during the waning years of the nineteenth century, when two camps emerged: the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, and Italy) in 1882 and the Dual Alliance (France and Russia) in 1893.
The Breakdown: Solidification of Alliances

• The breakdown: solidification of alliances
  ➢ In 1902, Britain broke from the "balancer" role by joining in a naval alliance with Japan to prevent a Russo-Japanese rapprochement in China. For the first time, a European state turned to an Asian one in order to thwart a European ally.
  ➢ The final end of the balance-of-power system came with World War I (1914-18), which pitted Russia, France, and Great Britain against Austria-Hungary and Germany.
The Breakdown: Solidification of Alliances

- The balance falters with the France-Prussian War of 1870 and the Russian invasion of Turkey in 1877
- Triple Alliance forms, 1882 (Germany, Austria, Italy)
- Dual Alliance counters, 1893 (France, Russia)
- Entente Cordiale forms, 1904 (Britain, France)
- The balance of power breaks down due to solidifications of alliances, resulting in World War I
The Breakdown: Solidification of Alliances

- The Great War or World War I:
  - Started by an act of terrorism.
  - Lead the Central powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire to go to war against the Allied powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, Romania, Italy, Japan and the United States.
  - Over 37 million people dead- both civilian and military personnel.
  - Referred to as the first modern war with the deployment of machine guns, radio communication, submarine warfare, strategic bombing, aerial warfare, and chemical and biological warfare.

Source: www.history.com and www.britanica.com
Europe, c. 1914
Key Developments in the Interwar Years

• The end of World War I saw critical changes in international relations:
  ➢ First, three European empires (Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman) were strained and finally broke up during the war. With those empires went the conservative social order of Europe; in its place emerged a proliferation of nationalisms that became states, or sought to become states.
Key Developments in the Interwar Years

• The end of World War I saw critical changes in international relations:
  ➢ Second, Germany emerged out of World War I an even more dissatisfied power. The Treaty of Versailles, which formally ended the war, made Germany pay the cost of the war through reparations, limited the size of its military, and imposed restrictions on its sovereignty. This dissatisfaction provided the climate for the emergence of Adolf Hitler, who was dedicated to righting the "wrongs" imposed by the treaty.
Key Developments in the Interwar Years

• The end of World War I saw critical changes in international relations:

➢ Third, enforcement of the Versailles Treaty was given to the ultimately unsuccessful League of Nations. The League did not have the political power to carry out its task of preventing another world war, in part because the United States refused to join.
Key Developments in the Interwar Years

• The end of World War I saw critical changes in international relations:

➢ Fourth, a vision of the post-World War I liberal order, as spelled out in Wilson's Fourteen Points, (self-rule, self-determination, rights of national groups, etc.) was a vision stillborn from the start. The world economy was in collapse, and German fascism wreaked havoc on the plan for postwar peace.
Key Developments in the Interwar Years

- Three empires collapse: Russia by revolution, the Austro-Hungarian Empire by dismemberment, and the Ottoman Empire by external wars and internal turmoil. These collapses lead to a resurgence of nationalisms.

- German dissatisfaction with the World War I settlement (Versailles Treaty) leads to the rise of fascism in Germany. Germany finds allies in Italy and Japan.

- A weak League of Nations is unable to respond to Japanese, Italian, and German aggression. Nor can it prevent or reverse widespread economic depression.
Europe, showing alliances as of 1939
World War II

- Japan’s invasion of China
- Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia (Abyssinia)
- Hitler and Nazi Germany
- The rise of Mussolini and fascist Italy
- Brutality of the Axis powers toward noncombatants
World War II

- World War II
  - The power of fascism (in the German, Italian, and Japanese versions) led to the uneasy alliance between the communist Soviet Union and the liberal United States, Britain, and France. When World War II broke out, this alliance (the Allies) fought against the Axis powers in unison.
  - At the end of the war, the Allies had succeeded. Both the German Reich and imperial Japan lay in ruins, while Italy was conquered and occupied.
World War II

• World War II

➢ The prosecution of war crimes committed by leaders in Germany and Japan led to the expansion of international humanitarian law.

➢ The use of an atomic bomb by the United States against Japan was decisive in ending the war, and marks the only occasions to date in which nuclear weapons were used in war.

➢ The end of World War II resulted in a major redistribution of power toward two new "superpowers" and changed political borders in Europe and Asia.
The Aftermath of World War II

• Massive human rights violations, particularly genocide, leading to creation of the Geneva Conventions
• First use of nuclear weapons technology
• Emergence of two superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union
• Decline of Europe
• Gradual end of colonialism
• Creation of the United Nations
The Emergence of the Cold War

- Origins of the Cold War
  - The most important outcome of World War II was the emergence of two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, as the primary actors in the international system and the decline of Europe as the epicenter of international politics.
  - The second outcome of the war was the recognition of fundamental incompatibilities between these two superpowers in both national interests and ideology.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• Origins of the Cold War

➢ Russia used its newfound power to solidify its sphere of influence in the buffer states of Eastern Europe. The Soviet state also embraced Marxist ideology, which holds that under capitalism one class (the bourgeoisie) controls the means of production. The solution to the problem of class rule is revolution, wherein the exploited proletariat takes control by using the state to seize the means of production. Thus, capitalism is replaced by socialism. Soviet client states in Eastern Europe adopted regimes and economic policies modeled on those of the Soviet Union.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• Origins of the Cold War

➢ The United States put the notion of containment of the Soviet Union into action in the Truman Doctrine of 1947, aiming to limit the spread of Soviet influence around the world. After the Soviets blocked western transportation corridors to Berlin, containment became the fundamental doctrine of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War.

➢ In addition, the U.S. economic system was based on free market capitalism, which provided opportunities to individuals to pursue what was economically rational with little or no government interference.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• Origins of the Cold War
  ➢ Differences between the two superpowers were exacerbated by mutual misperceptions. The Marshall Plan and establishment of NATO were taken as a campaign to deprive the Soviet Union of its influence in Germany.
  ➢ Likewise, the Berlin blockade was interpreted by the West as a hostile offensive action meant to spread Soviet influence over Germany and western Europe.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• Origins of the Cold War

➢ The third outcome of World War II was the end of the colonial system, beginning with Britain granting India independence in 1947. Indochina and the African states became independent rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s.

➢ The fourth outcome was the realization that the differences between the two superpowers would be played out indirectly, on third-party stages, rather than through direct confrontation between the two protagonists. The superpowers vied for influence in newly independent states as a way to project power. The Cold War resulted in the globalization of conflict to all continents.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• The Cold War as a series of confrontations

➢ The Cold War itself (1945-89) can be characterized as 45 years of high-level tension and competition between the superpowers but with no direct military conflict.

➢ More often than not, the allies of each superpower became involved, so the confrontations comprised two blocs of states: those in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Western Europe and the United States, and the Warsaw Pact in Eastern Europe.

➢ One of these high-level, direct confrontations between the superpowers took place in Germany. In 1948, the Soviet Union blocked land access to Berlin, prompting the United States and Britain to airlift supplies for 13 months. Continued conflicts over Berlin threatened to escalate to direct confrontations between the superpowers until the 1960s.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• The Cold War in Asia and Latin America
  ➢ The 1950 North Korean invasion of South Korea was stopped by U.S.-led forces from the United Nations (UN).
  ➢ The 1962 Cuban missile crisis was another direct confrontation in yet another part of the world. The Soviet Union's installation of missiles in Cuba was viewed by the United States as a direct threat to its territory, and the United States used the threat of force (as well as secret promises to withdrawal its own missiles from Italy and Turkey) to convince the Soviets to remove their missiles from Cuba.
  ➢ In Vietnam, the Cold War played out in an extended civil war, in which communist North Vietnam was pitted against South Vietnam. U.S. policy makers argued that communist influence must be stopped before it spread like a chain of falling dominoes throughout the rest of Southeast Asia (hence, the term domino effect).
The Emergence of the Cold War

• The "cold" in Cold War
  ➢ It was not always the case that when one of the superpowers acted, the other side responded; each recognized the other's dominance in some parts of the world.
  ➢ When the Soviet Union invaded Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968, and Afghanistan in 1979, the United States verbally condemned such actions, but the actions themselves went unchecked.
The Emergence of the Cold War

➢ The Middle East was a region of vital importance to both the United States and the Soviet Union, and thus the region served as a proxy battleground for many of the events of the Cold War. Following the establishment of Israel in 1948, the region was the scene of a superpower confrontation by proxy: between a U.S.-supported Israel and the Soviet-backed Arab states of Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. Proxy "hot" wars were fought, including the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973.
The Emergence of the Cold War

Confrontation through proxy also occurred in parts of the world of less strategic importance, such as the Congo, Angola, and the Horn of Africa. In Latin America (for example, in El Salvador and Nicaragua), civil wars also became proxy wars between the two superpowers.
The Emergence of the Cold War

➢ The Cold War was also fought and moderated in words, at summits (meetings between leaders), and in treaties.

• Some of these summits were successful, such as the 1967 Glassboro summit that began the loosening of tensions known as détente. Treaties, such as the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), placed self-imposed limitations on nuclear arms.
The Emergence of the Cold War

- Differences in geopolitical national interests and ideology (capitalism versus Soviet communism).
- Mutual misperceptions fuel suspicion and mistrust.
- Arms race: mutually assured destruction (MAD).
- Development of competing alliances.
  - NATO versus Warsaw Pact
- Competition played out by and within third parties as conflict is globalized.
- Cold war in Asia, Africa, and Latin America
The Emergence of the Cold War

• The Cold War as a long peace

➢ The Cold War has been referred as a "long peace" to dramatize the absence of direct war between the great powers. Five factors prevented a superpower war:
  • Nuclear deterrence: once both the United States and the Soviet Union had acquired nuclear weapons that could survive a surprise attack by the other, neither was willing to use them.
The Emergence of the Cold War

• The Cold War as a long peace

• Division of power: roughly equal division of power between the United States and the Soviet Union led to stability in the international system.
  ➢ The stability imposed by the hegemonic economic power of the United States: being in a superior economic position for much of the Cold War, the United States willingly paid the price of maintaining stability throughout the world.
  ➢ Economic liberalism: the liberal economic order solidified and became a dominant factor in international relations. Politics became transnational under liberalism and thus, great powers became less consequential.
Key Developments in the Cold War

- Two superpowers emerge—the United States and the Soviet Union. They are divided by national interests, ideologies, and mutual misperceptions. These divisions are projected into different geographic areas.


- A long peace between superpower rivals is sustained by mutual deterrence.
The Immediate Post-Cold War Era

➢ The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolized the end of the Cold War, but actually its end was gradual. As early as the mid-1980s, Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev had set in motion two domestic processes, *glasnost* (political openness) and *perestroika* (economic restructuring).

➢ Gorbachev's domestic reforms also led to changes in the orientation of Soviet foreign policy. He suggested that members of the UN Security Council become "guarantors of regional security" and that the rivalry between the superpowers could end.
The Immediate Post-Cold War Era

• The first post-Cold War test of the new so-called new world order came in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait in 1990, after which the UN agreed to authorize the use of military force against Iraq.

• A few have labeled the post-Cold War era the age of globalization. This era appears to be marked by U.S. primacy in international affairs to a degree not even matched by the Romans.
The Immediate Post-Cold War Era

However, U.S. primacy is still not able to prevent ethnic conflict, civil wars, and human rights abuses from occurring; there are limits to American power.

The 1990s were a decade marked by dual realities (which sometimes converged and diverged), the first being U.S. primacy and the second being civil and ethnic strife.

➢ Yugoslavia's violent disintegration played itself out over the entire decade despite Western attempts to resolve the conflict peacefully.
➢ At the same time, the world witnessed ethnic tension and violence as genocide in Rwanda and Burundi went unchallenged by the international community.
The Immediate Post-Cold War Era

- Mikhail Gorbachev institutes *glasnost* (political openness) and *perestroika* (economic restructuring), which unravel the communist system.
- Gorbachev’s policies also lead to changes in Soviet foreign policy, such as the withdrawals from Afghanistan and Angola in the late 1980s.
- Soviets give up control of European satellite countries, beginning with Poland, leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989).
- The Soviet Union begins to disintegrate, formally ceasing to exist on December 25, 1991.
Key Developments in the Immediate Post–Cold War Era

- Changes are made in Soviet/Russian foreign policy, with the withdrawals from Afghanistan and Angola in the late 1980s, monitored by the United Nations.
- Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the multilateral response unite the former Cold War adversaries.
- *Glasnost* and *perestroika* continue in Russia, as reorganized in 1992–93.
- The former Yugoslavia disintegrates into independent states; civil war ensues in Bosnia and Kosovo, leading to UN and NATO intervention.
- Widespread ethnic conflict arises in central and western Africa, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.
The Immediate Post-Cold War Era

• Iraq invades Kuwait in 1990 and the multilateral response unites the former Cold War adversaries.
• The United States becomes the world’s biggest military and economic power, while Russia rebuilds after economic and political collapse.
• Increased ethnic conflict: Yugoslavia disintegrates into independent states and the United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) respond.
• Widespread ethnic conflict arises in Central and West Africa, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent (intrastate).
• Rwanda: genocide with no international response.
The New Millennium—The First Two Decades

The New Millennium: The First Decade

• On September 11, 2001, the world witnessed deadly, and economically destructive, terrorist attacks against two important cities in the United States. These attacks set into motion a U.S.-led global war on terrorism.

➢ In 2001, the United States fought a war in Afghanistan to oust the Taliban regime, which was providing safe haven to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda organization and a base from which it planned and carried out a global terror campaign against the United States. While the U.S. invasion overthrew the Taliban regime, the group was able to sustain a powerful insurgency against U.S. forces.
The New Millennium—The First Two Decades

➢ Following the overthrow of the Taliban, the United States, convinced that Iraq maintained weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and supported terrorist organizations, attempted to build support in the UN for authorization to remove Saddam Hussein from power. When the UN failed to back the U.S. request, the United States built its own coalition and overthrew the Iraqi government.

➢ In fall 2008, a financial crisis in the United States quickly spread to the European Union and Japan, leading to the deepest worldwide recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.
The "Arab Spring" of 2011 had uneven success in increasing democracy across the Middle East and North Africa. But it demonstrated the power of the people to change government peacefully.

- Despite its primacy, the United States does not feel it is secure from attack. The issue of whether U.S. power will be balanced by an emerging power is also far from resolved.
- For states in the new millennium, two major questions that remain moving forward are (1) will the transnational issues of the first decade become easier or harder to redress, and (2) toward what end should states devote their national energies?
The New Millennium—The First Two Decades

The rise of terrorism

➢ The Al Qaeda terrorist network commits terrorist acts against the homeland of the United States and U.S. interests abroad; U.S. and NATO forces respond militarily in Afghanistan.

➢ U.S. and coalition forces invade Iraq, alleging preemptive strike against secret weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

➢ Terrorist attacks are launched in Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Great Britain.
A New Era?

- The weakening of powerful dictators in the Arab Spring as well as the civil strife in Iraq and Syria gave rise to the Islamic State (IS/ISIS/ISIL).
- China’s peaceful rise and global expansion across the African continent and Latin America.
- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea.
- Concerns about the economic health and possible long-term sustainability of the Eurozone.
- Increase in North Korea’s nuclear capabilities.
- Emergence of populism in the United States and Europe.
Key Terms

**Balance of Power** - acquiring power and forming alliances to counteract the aggressive intentions of a more powerful state.

**Capitalism** – An economic system in which workers sell their labor for wages, there is no central authority over the economy, and market forces determine what is purchased and what is sold.

**Cold War** - a period of intense rivalry and competition from 1947–1989 between two large blocs of states— an anticommunist bloc led by the United States and a procommunist bloc led by the Soviet Union.

**Colonialism** – the situation where one country takes over another country and administers it with a local bureaucracy.

**Containment** – policies that seek to keep an enemy’s activity within its own boarders.

**Détente** – loosening of tensions between two enemies.

**Deterrence** - persuading a potential adversary to refrain from attacking through the threat of costly retaliation.

**Domino Effect** – Communism must be stopped before it spreads like a chain of falling dominos.
**Key Terms**

**Hegemon** - single, dominant, and preeminent state in the international system.

**Imperialism** - a form of empire in which the dominant power controls other territories usually called colonies.

**League of Nations** - an international institution created after World War I for collective security and the resolution of disputes between states. Also sought, unsuccessfully, to prevent future wars.

**Legitimacy** – when a ruler derives its power from the consent of the governed.

**Nationalism** - the emotional connection of the mass public to their state.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** - a military alliance structure created following the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 and led by the United States.

**Socialism** - an economic-political system in which the government controls the production and distribution of all goods and services.
Key Terms

**Sovereignty** - having supreme authority over territory and people.

**Superpower** – two or more world powers that are the primary actors in international politics.

**Treaties of Westphalia** - two treaties in 1648 that ended the Thirty Years’ War and created the modern international system.

**War on Terrorism** – coalition of nations united to combat terrorist organizations with global reach.

**Warsaw Pact** – the military alliance created by the Soviet Union as a response to the 1955 addition of West Germany into NATO.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)** - nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.