



A Concise History of U.S. Foreign Policy

By Joyce P. Kaufman

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Now in a fully updated edition, *A Concise History of U.S. Foreign Policy* offers a conceptual and historical overview of American foreign relations from the founding to the present. Compact and accessible, the text provides students with a clear and concise understanding of key decisions and why they were made. Joyce P. Kaufman introduces the major themes that have driven the making of U.S. foreign policy, with an emphasis on the importance of economics and trade as well as the relevant political issues of the time to both describe and explain critical decisions. Beginning with the question "what is foreign policy and why is it important?" the author shows the reader how foreign policy is relevant to everyone, and in some way touches all our lives. The book develops the themes historically to show how various presidents and administrations built upon the past, and where they set a new course and why.

Kaufman pays particular attention to the Cold War and beyond, with a chapter devoted specifically to the changes in direction of American foreign policy as a result of September 11. She concludes with a look forward to challenges the United States will face in the coming decades. With its strong narrative and use of compelling case studies, the book engages students fully in this crucial topic, encouraging them to form their own ideas about American foreign policy.

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Editorial Review

Review

A welcome addition to texts on U.S. foreign policy. The book provides a very comprehensive and yet succinct overview of theories, the history of U.S. foreign policy from the founding of the country, and a contemporary analysis of foreign policy and considerations for the future. The inclusion of a feminist analysis, which is often neglected in most texts, is also appreciated. The writing is very accessible to students, linking their own lives to how and why foreign policy matters to them. (Kristen P. Williams, Clark University)

Teachers of American foreign policy often struggle to find the right balance between diplomatic history and contemporary policy debates. In a short and highly readable text, Joyce Kaufman gets the balance just right and provides an anchor for building effective classroom discussions about where we have come from and where we might be headed. (Robert Strong, Washington and Lee University)

A very good, concise summary suitable for undergraduate students in U.S. International Relations. (Andrew F. Clark, University of North Carolina, Wilmington)

About the Author

Joyce P. Kaufman is professor of political science and director of the Center for Engagement with Communities at Whittier College.

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