Foreign Policy
What is Foreign Policy

• The term **foreign policy** refers to a state’s international goals and its strategies to achieve those goals.
  – Foreign policymakers follow the same five steps with which public policy gets made:
Step 1

• **Agenda setting:** A problem or issue rises to prominence on the agenda.
  – They see a problem
Step 2

- **Formulation:** Possible policies are created and debated.
  - They think of ways to handle it
Step 3

- **Adoption:** The government adopts one policy.
  - They decide on a course of action
Step 4

- **Implementation:** The appropriate government agency enacts the policy.
  - They try it out
Step 5

• **Evaluation**: Officials and agencies judge whether the policy has been successful.
  – Analyze to see if it worked
Who makes the decisions on Foreign Policy?

• Normally the leader of a country
  – Ex. The US President
• Can sometimes be recommended by high up government officials
  – Secretary of State
What tools can a leader use to conduct Foreign Policy?

1. Diplomacy
2. Foreign aid
3. Military force

“Commerce with all nations, alliance with none, should be our motto”
Conduction Policy: Diplomacy

- **Diplomacy** is the act of dealing with other nations, usually through negotiation and discussion. Diplomacy involves meetings between political leaders, sending diplomatic messages, and making public statements about the relationship between countries.
  - Ex. President Obama inviting David Cameron to White House to talk about Syria

  - Most diplomacy occurs behind the scenes as officials hold secret negotiations or meet privately to discuss key issues.
Approaches to Diplomacy

• **Unilaterally**: The states acts alone, without the assistance or consent of any other state.

• **Bilaterally**: The state works in conjunction with another state.

• **Multilaterally**: The state works in conjunction with several other states.
Conducting Policy: Foreign Aid

- States often help each other to improve relations and achieve their own foreign policy objectives by assisting the country with material goods
Military Aid

- States donate, sell, or trade military equipment and technology to affect the military balance of power in certain key regions of the world
Economic Aid

- States donate or loan money to other counties to boost economic development.
Conducting Policy: Military Force

• In some cases, states use military force or the threat of military force to achieve their foreign policy objectives.
  – The use of military forces often involves stronger states pressuring weaker states to get what they want.
Military Force

- **Deterrence** refers to the build up of military force as a threat to warn another state not to pursue a particular course of action.