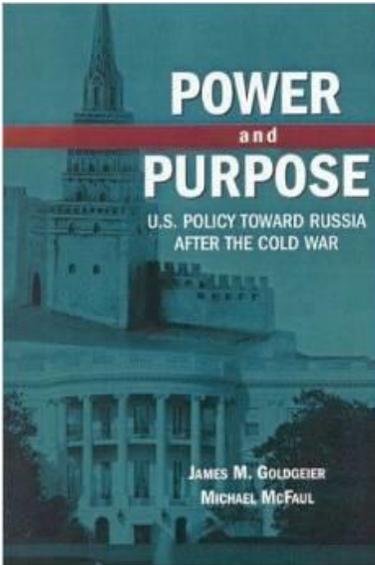


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Teaching Notes

Power and Purpose: U.S. Policy Toward Russia After the Cold War

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Power and Purpose is designed for several different types of courses:

- general courses on international relations and American foreign policy
- general courses on democratization
- specific courses on U.S.-Russian relations

General Courses on International Relations and American Foreign Policy

Discussion Questions

1. What do power balancers and regime transformers believe are the major challenges in world affairs?
2. How did different presidents during the Cold War treat power balancing vs. regime transformation in the formulation of foreign policy?
3. How do policymakers try to transform their ideas into actual policy?
4. How seriously have George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush approached the question of Russia's internal transformation toward democracy and markets?
5. How did the challenge of the post-Cold War world compare to the challenges of the post-World War II world?

6. The Truman administration feared a rising Soviet Union. What did it mean for American foreign policy to fear a weakened Russia?
7. How seriously did the Clinton administration take the prospect of a renewed Russian threat to American interests?
8. Would the United States have expended more effort on Russia's transformation if a new threat had arisen right away, in the same way that the Truman administration assisted Germany and Japan more energetically because of the fear of the Soviet threat?

General Courses on Democratization

Discussion Questions

1. How important is a country's internal political and economic makeup for the conduct of U.S. policy toward that country?
2. If the United States is trying to help a country move away from authoritarianism toward democracy, what are the key steps it needs to take?
3. What are the different kinds of challenges raised by democratization when the United States is an occupying power vs. when the United States and its partners do not occupy the country undergoing transformation?
4. How important is the link between democratization and the development of a market economy?

Debate

1. The United States should make every effort to promote democracy in other countries because democracy promotion is central to America's interests as well as its values.
2. While democracy is an important value, the United States has other national interests more important than democracy, and a successful president will always emphasize strategic interests rather than democracy promotion.
3. The United States should be humble in its efforts to promote democracy elsewhere, recognizing that there are limits to what even the most powerful country in the world can do in fostering change in other countries.
4. Since George W. Bush speaks about promoting liberty around the world, he needs to make democracy promotion a central feature of his policy toward Russia.

Specific Courses on U.S.-Russian Relations

Possible topics include:

1. The control of loose nukes in Russia.

2. Efforts to curb Russia's relationship with Iran.
3. The problem of Russian intervention in the affairs of neighboring states.
4. The need to build a stronger Russian relationship with NATO.
5. The effect of Russian membership in the World Trade Organization.