



**National Security Policy  
in the Clinton  
Administration**

1993-1999

# Setting

- Soviet Union dissolved
  - Central organizing threat for five decades is gone
  - Russia is weak politically & economically
    - Strong nuclear power
      - “loose nukes” threat
    - Regional destabilization & breakup

# Setting

- **“World Order” Structure Unclear**
  - Polarity (constellation of great powers)
    - Bipolar (1945-1972)
    - Multipolar (1972-1991)
    - Unipolar (1992-?)
    - *How might system polarity affect national security policy?*
  - **Democracy & Capitalism as norm**
    - End of competition of social systems
    - “democratic peace” theory [major war impossible]
  - **Nuclear Weapons as war deterrents**
    - Nuclear weapons make major war impossible

# Setting

- **US & European publics turn to domestic focus**
  - Bush foreign policy triumphs fail to win electorate
    - Collapse of WP/E. European communism
    - Collapse of USSR
    - Gulf War
  - Clinton Elected (it's the economy, stupid!)

# Policy Debates

- Academics, policy wonks, insiders, politicians
- 4 Options
  - Isolationism
  - Liberal Internationalism (Carter)
  - Primacy (Realist 1)
  - Selective Engagement (Realist 2)
    - A strategy of no strategy or vision
    - Watch & see

# Clinton National Security Orientation

- **US must play a role in the world commensurate with its power**
- **Economic growth is essential**
  - tied to global economic growth
- **Cold-War “orphan” international problems need attention**
  - environment
  - population growth
  - political repression
- **International institutions should be engaged in pursuit of US goals**
  - UN
  - World Bank

# Implementation: Intervention I

- Humanitarian Intervention & Nation Building for Regional Stability
- 1992-1995 Somalia
  - change from humanitarian mission to nation building → US Deaths
  - UN pulls out in 1995 → Somalia syndrome
- 1994 Rwanda
  - 1 million deaths
  - no UN intervention, Somalia syndrome
- Haiti
  - 1990-1994: turmoil following coup against Aristide → thousands of refugees at sea → US problem
  - 1994 US sends 20,000 troops to end turmoil
  - US pulls out in 1999

# Implementation: Intervention II

- Collective Security – NATO
- war in Europe is dangerous to US national security interests
- Yugoslavia
  - Croatia & Slovenia (1991)
  - Bosnia
  - Dayton Peace Accords (1995)
  - Kosovo

# Yugoslavia



17,471 American National  
Security

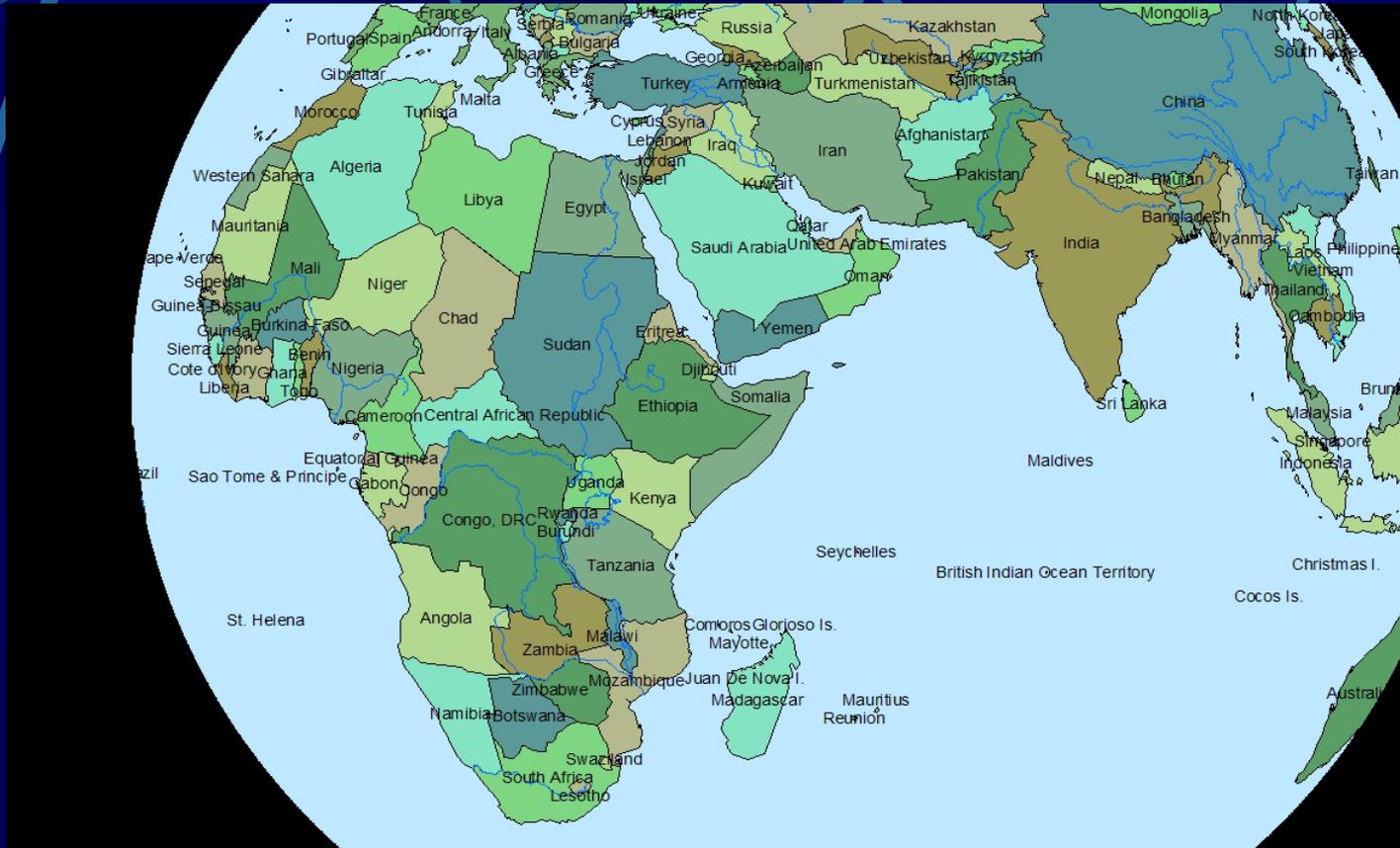
# Terrorism

- WTC I 1993 [truck bomb]
  - 6 killed
  - >1000 injured
- Khobar Towers 1997 [truck bomb]
  - 19 servicemen killed, 500 Americans & Saudis injured
- Embassies 1998 [truck bombs]
  - Tanzania
    - 11 dead
  - Kenya
    - 213
  - 4000 wounded

# Clinton Response to Terror Attacks

- Cruise-missile strikes on Afghanistan & Sudan
  - Was this adequate?
  - Why nothing more forceful?
    - Somalia & Haiti-syndrome
    - “Monica” affair
- What was the message to Al Qaeda?

# Africa



back

# Nuclear Proliferation

- Russia & “Loose Nukes”
- North Korea 1993-1994