Chapter 18
Foreign Policy and National Defense

The history as a backdrop
• Defeat of Spain leave America an imperial power (1898).
• America’s entry into WW I signals a turning of the tide for the allied powers.
• America is critical in defeat of Nazis, Fascists, and Japanese militarists.

The Cold War
• Korean war establishes America’s role as international peace keeper.
• Until Castro’s rise to power, America’s limited military actions had been strictly to support American economic and political interests in the western hemisphere.
• Now all decisions hinge on containing Castro and defeating communism.

Vietnam
• Vietnam becomes the one hot zone of the Cold War.
• Defeat and heavy losses changes perspective of both military and culture.
• “Acceptable casualties” becomes an oxymoron.
• Seeing young American men die on the evening news changes warfare forever.

The End of Communism
• Desert Storm
• America protects an undemocratic monarchy to maintain sources of crude oil.
• Political stability of region a secondary factor.
• Somalia
• America engages in humanitarian effort in anarchic, famine-ravaged region.

Nation Building
• Haiti
• America restores democracy
• Part of America’s long history of involvement in Haiti.
• Haitians flooding into Florida seeking asylum.
• No threat of turning Communist or any real business interest— a change for America.
Bosnia

- Former Communists of Serbia exercise ethnic violence to perpetuate dictatorship and expand region of influence.
- Fear of a resurgent Russian imperialism promotes NATO response.
- International political theory saw Communism as merely an extension of Russian imperialism.

What does the future hold?

- Pentagon says it wants to be able to wage two “Desert Storm” like wars at once.
- Where will we fight?
- Why will we fight?
- Will China attack Taiwan?

The Unknown Future (Part 2)

- Is Hussain a real threat?
- Is the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) needed now that the Cold War is over? No country has missiles to defend.
- Are terrorists more of a threat than China?
- Note: the previous two slides were made before 09/11/01.