

The Trump Doctrine: Redefining U.S. Foreign Policy through Immigration, Security, and Diplomacy

A Review Article of the Book “*Waking Up from An American Dream*”

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Abstract

‘Waking up from an American Dream’ discusses the US foreign affairs during Trump’s presidency with an emphasis on the particular pillars of terrorism, immigration, and international relations regarding the adversary countries. Written by professors Hossein Daheshiar, Ellias Aghili Dehnavi, and Marzieh Iranpour, the work analyzes both the application of the so-called “Jacksonian” politics by the Trump administration besides the variants of the containment politics, regarding the foreign policy of the U.S, the book addresses the multidimensional aspects of security, immigration and diplomacy, addressing those particular interactions that are especially relevant in the aftermath of 9/11. This piece, published by tredition gmbh in 2020, is also a part of wider scholarly debate concerning changes in American politics within the presidency of Trump with, however, deeper implications for international relationsⁱ.

Keywords— *Trumpism, foreign policy, security studies, intercontinental peace, immigration.*

U.S Foreign Policy and Terrorismⁱⁱ

The very first chapter of the book focuses on terrorism in American policies. The authors present the idea that terrorism attacks on the U.S formed a new turning point in the development of U.S. politics carving out new policies, effective after the September 11th tragedy. This discussion is evidenced by some past events, as well as the deeper understanding of such events in terms of the processes that took place among ordinary American citizens as well as the leader after seven/ eleven. As it was stated in the book, the U.S. has defined terrorists, MDW, and ‘evil regimes’ as three primary threats. The authors assert that this particular typology has been influential in the formation of an American foreign strategy, especially in the Trump eraⁱⁱⁱ.

Especially, it is the change in military policy from deterrence to pre-emptive that the authors highlight regarding the National Security Strategy for the 21st Century, and how it was adjusted over the course of a few years following 9/11. As detailed criticism of American military offensives in Afghanistan and Iraq Nudged the quite rise of American terrorism in these countries -

Vietnam Syndrome Blame is commonly expressed during the lash of America. The authors themselves provide a fair account, even as they grapple with the trauma that accompanies such defeats with the US, global order in tangentially been affected too.

Immigration Policy: A Political Weapon^{iv}?

A prominent theme has been Trump’s immigration policy, which the authors see as an integral part of his foreign policy. They contend that ‘America First’ rhetoric, as well as the President’s executive orders regarding immigration, including the ban on travel for citizens from predominantly Muslim countries, served more of uniting the populace and little of providing any defense to the nation’s borders^v.

When mentioning Trump’s travel bans, the book goes into detail on how even when these policies were contested in courts, they were also criticized extensively both in the USA and outside. Examining various opinions on domestic legal matters and their public response, the authors conclude that policies instituted by Trump regarding immigrants were implementers of the large-scale campaign of changing the perception and the values of America. They state that the

United States' portrayal of itself as a nation built on opportunity was endangered by the discriminatory policies that these proponents proposed^{vi}.

U.S Defeat in Iraq and Afghanistan

The two interventions of Iraq and Afghanistan are intriguing since they show an analysis of the American military in the broadest terms, how these wars transformed the conduct of the American military, as those too were surprising in developing military outcomes (i.e. having an advanced military capacity, no one would expect such outcomes) the U.S aggressive foreign policy manifested itself in the format of a military paralysis in the upcoming years due to a variety of regional (field) reasons that are beyond our current discussions.

This section seeks to evaluate in detail the challenges that were recorded in Afghanistan by showing the U.S. fail to achieve a balance between the strategic objectives and the environment. As noted by the authors, the technological superiority as well as airpower cannot be used in isolation against the offensive asymmetric warfare strategies used by the Taliban and other insurgents. The writers of the book describe the failures of the United States in the war in Afghanistan as chronic, in that they proliferated and expanded self-illusions over protracted periods of time^{vii}.

Trump's Foreign Policy Strategy

In the book, Trump's foreign policy is shown as leavened by a mixture of variations of unilateralism and militarism. The authors explore the "America First" policy of Trump and state how it was a radical change from the existing foreign policy of the United States. Despite being politically unreliable and placing America's needs ahead of the multilateral cooperative arrangements Trump successfully alienated the country from its past foreign policy as a world power. The risks associated with such a unilateral strategy are further illustrated by how Trump pulled the US out of the JCPOA^{viii} (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and how belligerent he was towards North Korea.

This chapter further highlights the case of America's withdrawal from NATO which was borne out of trump's fondness for challenges by bounds of international security as per this chapter. Domestically, one could appreciate Trump's public remarks against NATO and such structures; however, his administration blinked and continued the defense political structures and used the forces whenever appropriate. The authors contend that the style of foreign policy exhibited by Trump was mainly responsive to issues emanating from within rather than being rationally synthesised around action directed towards diplomacy.

Coercive Diplomacy and Military Intervention

The concept of coercive diplomacy terminative strategies comes across as prominent in discussions throughout the book. The authors illustrate how military or economic coercion became a commonplace practice of Trump's administration while pushing for the attainment of specific goals. While this plan was meant to avoid an all-out war, it nevertheless raised tensions against hostile nations. Regarding the strategy itself, the book presents a clear criticism, namely that while the time and resources needed for the linear approach are more desperate than those needed in coercive diplomacy, odious aggression is likely to occur further in most cases.

Moreover, the authors point out that Trump embraced the politics of "coercive diplomacy" as a way of thinking that is undergirded by more militaristic tendencies, for example, in his promotion of military generals to various positions in his administration. They contend that this marked a decisive departure from the norms of diplomacy which return to militarism in foreign policy with immense effects on the climate of the world^{ix}.

CONCLUSION

"Waking up from an American Dream" is a very detailed and evaluative speculation of the U.S. foreign policy under President Donald Trump. The authors are exceptionally good at balancing the issues of terrorism, immigrants, and international relations, putting in new developments and past events. The most prominent aspect of the book is its capacity to put Trump's policies in the context of the evolution of American foreign relations whereby the reader is able to appreciate the consequences of such rational policies in the long run^x.

All the same, though the book is excellent in its coverage especially with the U.S. policy, it is at risk of being overly critical of Trump at some points and in the process failing to provide other recommendations or even other contrarian strategies. There is no doubt that the authors are able to demonstrate the erroneous steps of the Trump administration, however, the other upcoming versions of the book would benefit from a more constructive assessment of the U.S. foreign policy in the coming years. But, for those who want to know why these last changes have occurred and what has happened with American strategies, political and military ones, this book is worth reading^{xi}.

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