

## P-5 COUNTRY PROFILES

### UNITED STATES

#### General Information

<i>Official Name:</i>	United States of America
<i>Capital:</i>	Washington, D.C.
<i>Population:</i>	298,444,215
<i>Major Language:</i>	English
<i>Major Religions:</i>	Protestant and Roman Catholic
<i>Regional/Economic Organizational Membership:</i>	NATO, NAFTA, CAFTA, WTO, OAS, UN, and UNSC, etc.

#### Governmental System

The government of the United States is a Constitutional-based federal republic and a representative democracy. The United States divides its powers among its fifty states that make up the union. Within the government there are three branches, the executive, legislative, and the judicial. The president is the executive branch and is head of state, commander in chief, and the head of government. The president serves a four year term and can be only elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The legislative branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House is made up of 435 representatives, each representing a district within a state. The Senate consists of 100 popularly elected senators: two from each state of the union. The judicial branch consists of the Federal Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices and has the power to declare any law passed by the president and congress unconstitutional, indirectly throwing out the law. Justices are appointed by the president and are approved by the Congress, and they serve a life-time term. The state governments reflect the federal government in their organization as well. The United States is dominated by a two-party system, with the liberal Democratic party holding both houses in Congress and a president that is about to go out of office and be replaced by either a conservative Republican or liberal Democrat president.

#### Relationships with the United Nations

The United States is the biggest contributor to the United Nations in terms of money and troops. The United States usually follows the advice and wishes of the United Nations and the Security Council, but this is not always the case. In recent history, the war in Iraq has caused considerable friction between the US and the UN. The secretary General and several veto powers, namely Russia, France, and to some extent China, opposed the US's aggressive action in Iraq and criticized the US administration for going to war with inconclusive and incorrect intelligence.

The United States offers troops for many UN peacekeeping missions and is deeply involved in funding these missions as well as humanitarian missions, but the US has shied away from several peacekeeping operations, including the peacekeeping force recently sent to Israel and the UN

peacekeeping efforts in the Darfur region.

## **Foreign Policy**

The United States is in a unique position in the world. Being the only true remaining superpower, the United State is able to use its economic, military, and political influence to give aid to other countries or to inflict punishment upon them. Due to the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, and the sheer size of the military, the United States has taken the foremost role in combating terrorism around the world. The United States is not afraid to use military force to protect its interests around the world, as seen in the ongoing war in Iraq. The United States is looks favorably upon democratic systems of government and often plays a large role in the establishment of democracy in countries.

## **Issues Summary**

Issue 1: Afghanistan → On October 7, 2001, the US began a war in Afghanistan after the Taliban regime refused to expel Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Military operations included the targeted bombing of terrorist facilities and Taliban military and political assets. The US also helped to organize the Taliban's main opposition, the Northern Alliance. The military campaign led to the quick collapse of the Taliban regime with the fall of Kabul on November 13, 2001. a number of events were embarrassing for the US, such as casualties of Afghan citizens and friendly Coalition soldiers. Both the US and the UN continue to support and closely watch the situation in Afghanistan as the nation-building project continues. Afghan President Hamid Karzai still faces many challenges, especially regaining control of regions outside of the capital, which are still very much controlled by warlords and others. In August 2003, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) command and coordination responsibilities were taken over by NATO. The 12,400-troop ISAF continues to expand its control into areas outside of Kabul. Also, on July 31, 2001, the NATO took over the US-led coalition's role in Afghanistan. However, the economic and security situation remains a major concern for the US. The stability of the Afghan government and the success of the future National Assembly are important foreign policy interests of the US. In September of 2006, the United States Secretary of State reaffirmed the United States' long-term commitment to the region, stating that the United States cannot leave Afghanistan to become a "failed state". The United States sees winning the battle in Afghanistan as the key to keeping stability in the region.

Issue 2: Central African Republic → The US and CAR enjoy generally good relations. However, the US has concerns over the pace of political and economic liberalization and human rights. These issues have affected the degree of US support. The American Embassy in Bangui has repeatedly suspended operations because of many coups and security concerns, but recently reopened in January 2005 with limited diplomatic representation. US assistance to the CAR had been prohibited except in the areas of humanitarian aid and support for democratization efforts. The US recently approved lifting aid restrictions, which was applied after the 2003 military coup. Many multilateral organizations (World Bank, IMF, UN agencies, EU, etc.) and bilateral donors (including the US, Germany, Japan, China, EU, etc.) are significant development partners for the CAR.

Issue 3: Cote d'Ivoire → Relations between the US and Cote d'Ivoire have traditionally been friendly and close, but strain has resulted following the December 1999 coup in Cote d'Ivoire. New elections are planned in 2005. The US participates in the international effort to solve the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, and provides assistance (totaling about \$9 million as of fall 2003) to the ECOWAS force helping to maintain the ceasefire. Cote d'Ivoire remains a major beneficiary of US assistance against HIV/AIDS. The US and Cote d'Ivoire maintain an active cultural exchange program for scholars, business and government representatives. However, a modest security assistance program that had provided professional training for Ivorian military officers in the US was suspended by the Section 508 restrictions which limited aid to Cote d'Ivoire to humanitarian aid only after the 1999 coup. Fighting has stopped in the region, but tensions are still high and French troops patrol the boundary between the North, controlled by rebel forces, and the South controlled by the government.

Issue 4: Democratic Republic of the Congo → The US recognizes the destabilizing impact of the conflict in the DRC, and views it as a threat to US security and economic interests. The US supports the transitional government in the DRC, led by President Joseph Kabila (son of the first self-proclaimed president of the DRC), and supports comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address all of the interrelated conflicts in the DRC and surrounding area. The US encourages peace, prosperity, democracy and respect for human rights in the DRC. From the start of the Congo crisis, the United States has pursued an active diplomatic strategy in support of solutions to the conflict. However, given the US experience in Somalia, it is very unlikely the US will deploy troops to the DRC. However, the US has contributed troops briefly to Liberia and may be willing to play a more active role in African security. The UN organization mission in the DRC (MONUC) has maintained over 14,000 peacekeepers in the DRC-Burundi-Rwanda-Uganda region since 1999 with the current level of peacekeeping troops in the region now at 17,000. There is no current US direct bilateral aid to the government of the Congo. USAID's 2004 program in the DRC totaled \$120 million, for use by international and local NGOs for a wide range of relief and developmental activities throughout the country. Elections were finally held in early September 2007, but sporadic violence over the results partially negates the confidence these elections give the world.

Issue 5: Georgia → The political status of the breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia remain unresolved. The US supports the continued operation of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), which seeks to encourage positive steps to a peaceful solution. The US is working with France, the UK, Germany, and Russia and through the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to encourage a comprehensive settlement consistent with the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Georgia. The US will support efforts to alleviate the humanitarian situation in the region but will be hesitant about Russia controlling peace building efforts. However, Russia is involved in UNOMIG, and the US will readily work with the Russian contingent if they behave in a manner suitable for a world power. The US is the largest foreign investor in Georgia, annually contributing between 20% and 40% of overall Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in recent years. The primary US involvement in Georgia at present is the training of the military. The US has an interest in the region because it is heavily invested in an oil pipeline that runs through Georgia, and Russian aggression has moved many to believe that Russia is attempting to take control of that pipeline.

Issue 6: Iran → Relations between the US and Iran have been heavily strained since the 1979 coup and the 444-day occupation of the US Embassy in Tehran by militant Iranian students. Shortly thereafter, the US broke diplomatic relations with Iran. Commercial relations are limited and restricted by US sanctions. Iran's regional goals are dominated by its desire to establish a leadership role in the Middle East, to curtail the presence of the US and other outside powers, and build trade ties. Serious obstacles block the improvement of relations, especially Iran's practice of engaging in state-sponsored terrorism. The US will not tolerate Iranian efforts to acquire nuclear weapons power and other WMD. It deplores Iran's dismal human rights record, its support for violent opposition to the Middle East peace process, and its support for and involvement in international terrorism. President Bush includes Iran in the "Axis of Evil". For the US normal relations are impossible until Iran's policies change. In 2006 Iran broke seals placed in its nuclear reactors to begin enriching uranium; many countries, especially the United States and Great Britain, have considered this as a move to ultimately produce nuclear weapons. The IAEA has been strongly critical of Iran's nuclear ambitions. Recently, Iran failed to meet deadlines set by the IAEA for halting the enrichment of uranium. This has pushed the US to pressure the Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran. European nations are currently attempting to negotiate with Iran on this issue, but Iran remains defiant and little success has been made.

Issue 7: Iraq → Iraq is currently the most pressing foreign policy concern of the US, both in terms of direct US involvement and of US relations with other countries. The US has suffered from a rift in the Security Council since its attempt to attain UN approval for an invasion of Iraq in 2003. The measure never came to a vote but was supported by the US, UK, Spain, and Bulgaria. Russia, France, Germany, China, and Syria opposed the resolutions, and the positions of the other six Council members fell between these two extremes. Since the war, the US has attempted to mend the split and has called for a UN peacekeeping force in Iraq under the US leadership. The degree to which the international community will support this effort remains to be going against the US. Currently, the US military leads the Multi-National Force – Iraq (MNF-I). MNF-I is currently assisting the Iraqi Transitional Government (ITG) in training its security and military forces. The number of US troops stationed in Iraq is approximately 145,000 as of September 2006. The US is also carrying out a multibillion-dollar program to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq. Currently, sectarian violence is becoming less open, but the state is still considered to be in a civil war. Also, Iraq is seen as a key battle in the war against terror by President Bush and the current administration. However, with the changing of the presidency to a new leader, the US will either move towards remaining in Iraq or preparing to pull out.

Issue 8: Israel/Palestine → The US has been committed to the security of Israel since its creation in 1948. Notwithstanding significant security and economic assistance to Israel, the US supports the establishment of a Palestine state that coexists peacefully with Israel. To further this goal, it joined with the UN, Russia, and the EU to develop a "Roadmap to Peace," a series of steps to end terrorism in the region and eventually grant full statehood to a Palestinian government while maintaining the Israeli state. While the US will occasionally voice displeasure with particular Israeli operations, it traditionally supports Israel and will likely veto any attempt to condemn it. Very significant and surprising events unfolded in August 2005 with the Israeli government-enforced withdrawal of Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip. Two years later Israeli settlers have not returned to the region, though sporadic violence between militant groups and Israel are still

characteristic of the region, especially since the political group Hamas, which does not recognize Israel, came to power in Palestine. Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza region is widely viewed as a positive and critical step in the Roadmap, and it is hoped that peaceful steps between the Palestinians and the Israelis continue.

Issue 9: Israel/Lebanon → In early July 2006, the Lebanese-based militant group Hezbollah fired rockets over the border into northern Israel. Guerillas also seized two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid. Israel responded quickly, bombing Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon. In the following 34 days of conflict, Israel sent ground forces into Lebanon to combat Hezbollah, blockaded Lebanese ports and airports, and sent many air strikes over the region, bombing Hezbollah strongholds, supposed meeting places, and Lebanese airports. President Bush admonished Israel for its “disproportionate” use of force. The Security Council worked out a ceasefire between the two parties that went into effect on August 14, 2007. Since then, the Security Council has issued a peacekeeping force of 10,000 composed of soldiers from but not limited to, France (2,000), Italy (3,000), and China (1,000). Israel initially refused to pull its troops out of southern Lebanon until the entire force was in place, but has recently lifted its blockades on Lebanese ports and airports and has begun to withdraw its troops. The United States has declared that it will not supply this peacekeeping mission with troops. I

Issue 10: North Korea → The US is primarily concerned with two issues. First, the US supports the peaceful reunification of Korea, which has remained divided since the end of World War II. Second, the US supports the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. This second issue is a top priority for US foreign policy. In 2002-2003, after consistent violations, North Korea abandoned the Non-Proliferation Treaty, expelled IAEA inspectors, and resumed reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel to extract weapons-grade plutonium. The US has concerns about North Korea obtaining nuclear weapons and the potential to provide those weapons to terrorists. The US has clearly and repeatedly emphasized that it has no intention of invading or attacking North Korea. However, President Bush has labeled North Korea a rogue state and included it as part of the “Axis of Evil,” along with Iran. The US is committed to insuring a nuclear-free, non-proliferating Korean Peninsula, and officially favors a diplomatic solution. Recently the five-party talks have resulted in an apparently significant agreement. North Korea will be required to give up its nuclear weapons and nuclear programs and rejoin the NPT. North Korea will be required to allow IAEA inspectors back into the country. The five-party group will make reciprocal positive steps. The US and Japan will work to normalize relations with North Korea. At the appropriate time, the five-party group will work to build light water nuclear reactors for North Korea for energy production, which cannot be used for weapons programs. However, follow-up talks scheduled for November of 2005 have been on hold because North Korea refuses to attend the talks until Washington lifts the economic sanctions it placed on the country. Additionally, North Korea has not met the requirements established in the initial six-party talks and continues to enrich uranium and has of July 2007 performed seven tests of its Taepodong-2 missile, which is possible of reaching the western coast of the United States. The UN has barred all member states from supplying North Korea with any materials that are used in the weapons of mass production process. Recently, Japan and Australia have placed sanctions on North Korea dealing with the WMD issues.

Issue 11: Sudan → Saving lives in Darfur by ending the violence and ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance is a top priority for the United States. The US was the first Security Council country to call the acts of the Sudanese government –back Arab Janjaweed genocide. The US is pressing the government of Sudan to take actions to halt the violence and atrocities, allow unrestricted humanitarian access, cooperate fully with the cease-fire and international monitoring, participate in political talks with the Darfur rebels, and hold accountable those responsible for the atrocities. The US supports the deployment of African Union peacekeepers to Sudan (which as of April 2005 will be expanded to 7,700 personnel) and is continually providing humanitarian support. However, the African Union troops are becoming less effective at trying to enforce a peace between the warring parties. Also, the AU is pressuring the UN to address the situation, but the Sudan government has warned that any UN force sent to the region will be met with violence. Therefore, the only possible help that it seems the UN can provide is logistical while keeping the majority of troops in the region African. The US will not normalize relations with Sudan (i.e. designate an ambassador to Sudan) until the situation in Darfur is satisfactorily addressed. On September 18, 2006, at the meeting of the General Assembly in New York, UN General Secretary Kofi Annan declared that ongoing violence in Darfur is the biggest challenge in front of the United Nations.

Issue 12: Terrorism → The elimination of terrorism is the overarching concern of the US foreign policy and national security policy. Many government agencies and resources are committed to counterterrorism, even more so since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the US. The US State Department defines terrorism as “premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by sub national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.” Similarly, the FBI defines it as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” The US will continue its tough stance against state and non-state actors it believes harbors or funds terrorists and terrorist organizations. The US will similarly seek to maintain its international alliance against terrorism, that is, those states and organizations committed to fighting international terrorism. This issue has become increasingly related to peacekeeping, as terrorist factions present a major obstacle for establishing peace and security in Afghanistan and Iraq. President Bush has also labeled Afghanistan and Iraq as keystones to victory in the war against terrorism, lengthening and deepening US involvement in both of those regions. President Bush, in his address to the UN on September 14, 2005, clearly made counterterrorism policy and counter-proliferation policy central focuses of his speech, urging international cooperation against the threat.

### **Relations with Other Security Council Members**

P-5 Members: The United States continues to attempt to rekindle relationships with other countries that sit on the Security Council. Typically, the US does enjoy friendly or cordial relations with those on the Security Council. The countries of China, France, and Russia have in the past, been somewhat difficult to work with in the Security Council. France usually differed from the US on issues such as Iraq and Iran, but since the election of the new President Sarkozy, France has begun to lean towards the United States’ stance on many issues. Russia normally differs on issues like Iran and Iraq and Georgia. However, the one key friend the US has in the Security Council is the United Kingdom. Chinese relations have improved over the several

years. China has become very support of the Iraq war and the disarmament of WMD from North Korea.

E-10 Members: Many countries on the Security Council have good working relations with the United States. Countries such as Libya, Belgium, Costa Rica, Panama, Indonesia, Croatia, South Africa, Italy and Burkina Faso generally enjoy good relationships with the United States. Libya has made vast improvements to its strained relationship with the US. The two now have open diplomacy and developing relations. Viet Nam have had strained relations over the past several years. The changing military governments created tension between the two countries but relationships are becoming more open and diplomatic.