

CHAPTER 2

THE PATTERN OF THE US FOREIGN POLICY

In this chapter, I will explain the pattern of the US foreign policies that has been run by the US and can be seen through the outline of classification. The pattern of US foreign policy consists of isolationist, expansionist, neutralist, interventionist, ambitious, and the new world order. One small country gets the impact of the US foreign policies that applied to obtain its national interest. Cuba, one of the countries of Latin America was sanctioned by the US in the form of an embargo.

The US foreign policy is like other foreign policy that is used as a means to achieve national interest. The US foreign policy is always changing from time to time because it is affected by some factors. All of it means that in every decision-making, advantages and disadvantage are always taking into account²⁹. The policy makers in making foreign policy consider the history that has occurred before. It seems that in encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy, American foreign policy is subject that always evolves and is evaluated by scientists in order to know what happens in the past and future.

At the same time that American foreign policy can be seen as constantly evolving, we can also identify four consistent points that underlie the conduct of American foreign policy over time: First, it is outward looking. Foreign policy is made with an eye to opportunities and challenges that lay beyond America's borders. Second, foreign policy is about choices. While we tend to speak of countries being

²⁹ Hastedt, Glenn. *Encyclopedia of American Foreign policy*. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2004.

*forced to respond to developments abroad with military power, economic sanctions, or declarations of resolve, the reality is quite different... Third, foreign policy is heavily influenced by domestic considerations... Fourth, American foreign policy is influenced by the past.*³⁰

In the history of the US foreign policy, the US has always been active in international politics. From that, the United States has some characteristics of foreign policy that has always evolved and took place over a period of time. In addition, the United States also has the ability to carry out its policies in order to achieve their national interest. The some characteristics of the US foreign policy are isolationist, expansionist, neutralist, interventionist, ambitious, and the new world order.

A. Isolationist

The isolationist foreign policy is an attitude that does not want to interfere in the affairs of other countries. This decision was chose by the American decision makers throughout the 18th century until the 20th century.³¹ This isolationist politic is used in 19th September 1796 by the US since President Washington as the first president.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and

³⁰ ibid

³¹ Cipto, Bambang. *Politik dan Pemerintahan Amerika*. Yogyakarta: Lingkar buku, 2007. P. 195

*collisions of her friendships or enmities.*³²

President Washington gave a speech that the US should avoid making a direct relation with European countries. In addition, the interest of Europe is not in accordance with the US. So, the US adopted a policy of isolationism because the US does not want to get involved in the affairs of other countries. James Monroe is one of the US presidents who also used isolationist in his government through what we know as “Monroe Doctrine”. He sent message to the congress that he wanted to make distance from the US in Europe intrigue

*“We owe it . . . to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and [European] powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety.”*³³

During the appearing of Monroe Doctrine in 1823, the US isolated themselves to avoid political conflict like in Europe that happened at the time. The isolationist policy made the US not involved in the international affair or being neutral. However, in 1890s-1971 the US did an intervention in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and several Latin American countries. In addition, the US was also involved in the First World War in which the US sold arms to countries ally and involved in attacking German. German saw this as an act that was not neutral. Unfortunately, the US return to isolationism and was marked by the senate who rejected the

³² Jr., Edward J. Renehan. *The Monroe Doctrine: The Cornerstone of American foreign Policy*. Chelsea House Publiser, 2007. P. 17

³³ Eugene R. Wittkopf, Christopher M. Jones, and Charles W. Kegley, JR. *American Foreign Policy: Pattern and Process*. Seventh. Thomson Wardsworth, 2007. P. 33

Language of Nation; because the US did not want to play an active role in the international affair.

B. Expansionist

The expansionism is the process through acquisitions by purchase or war between other countries.³⁴ The expansionist foreign policy of the US is contrary to the foreign policy of the US before that isolationist. The isolationist of the US is those who did not want to involve in other countries and in the international affair. For the expansionist foreign policy, the US wants to expand and spread their influence in other countries with their capability. The US expansionist led to the expansion in the Americas continent that was previously colonized by European, to maintain western democracy.

The successes of the US expansionist are through both expanding territory by means of war and buying territory. The evidence of expanding territory through war is when the US not only became the winner in the war with Spain, make the US get Caribbean territory across the Pacific Ocean, and to the Philippine Islands.³⁵ The US is also successful in expanding its territory by acquiring nearly 40% of Mexico.³⁶ Beside through war, expansionist did by purchasing, such as when the US president was Andrew Johnson, Russia sold Alaska to the US in March

³⁴ Weber, Richard Sauers and Jennifer L. *Key Concepts in American History: Expansionism* . Chelsea House Publisher, 2010. P. 1

³⁵ *ibid.*, p. 82.

³⁶ *ibid.*, p. 49.

29th, 1867 after both sides agreed with \$7.2 million.³⁷ Expansions activities undertaken by the US actually are imitating the success of the United Kingdom in carrying out its colonization policy.

Manifest Destiny emerged as the US slogan that reflects the desire of the US to expand a lot of lands. The historian appears to explain the idea of *Manifest Destiny*, that is the destiny of the United States to expand from ocean to ocean.³⁸ However, in political terms the US did not use Manifest Destiny as a policy, just a concept that influence in the US foreign policy.³⁹ For the American leader before, expansion is inevitable. In the following, John Quincy Adam, the sixth of the US president writing to his father, John Adam, the second of the US president:

*North America appears to be destined by Divine Providence to be peopled by one nation, speaking one language, professing one general system of religious and political principles, and accustomed to one general tenor of social usages and customs. For the common happiness of them all, for their peace and prosperity, I believe it is indispensable that they should be associated in one federal Union.*⁴⁰

Using language, religion and the culture of America will facilitate the expansion to the countries in the American continent. Basically, Manifest Destiny explains that the expansion is correctly done to the countries in America continent.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 10.

³⁸ Ibid., p. 47.

³⁹ Mountjoy, Shane. *Manifest Destiny* . Chelsea House Publisher, 2009. P. 13.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

C. Neutralist

The neutralist is one of the US foreign policies. The US Neutralist is a foreign policy that a country should not be involved in a foreign war. The US naturalist was adopted after World War 1, as there were wars between nations in Europe. At the time, the US foreign policy was still attached to the Monroe Doctrine that the US did not need to be involved in the war. By seeing it, to protect their national interest, the US took the decision to standardize to be naturalistic.

By looking at a series of war that occurred in Europe and Asia, Congress issued firmness in the first neutrality act on August 31st, 1935. The first Neutrality contains the prohibition of export such as arms, ammunition, and implements of war from the US to Foreign nation.⁴¹ The Government of the United States under president Woodrow Wilson imposed laws to prevent the United States engaged in a foreign war, and clearly stated provisions of the US neutrality in 1930. This is proven by the ratification of the Neutrality Act in 1937.⁴²

In the end, the Neutrality Acts is not relevant because the US joined its allies against Germany and Japan in December 1941. In addition, the attack to Pearl Harbor ultimately pushed the US to be involved in the Second World War. By the bombing of Hiroshima and

⁴¹ *U.S. Department of States*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 12, 2015, from Milestone: 1921–1936 : The Neutrality Acts, 1930s: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/neutrality-acts>

⁴² *Ibid*

Nagasaki cities of Japan in August 1945, the US neutralist's foreign policy is no longer relevant.

D. Interventionist

Interventions policy can be seen after the Second World War. After the success of the Second World War, the US did a political intervention. Political intervention is done to prevent the influence of other ideologies which are incompatible with democratic principles. For the sake of the establishment of democratic ideology, the US anticipates the spread of communism that is brought by the Soviet Union. So the US did not hesitate to intervene and uphold democracy. After that, the containment policy appears, and it means an effort to dam influence of communism by Harry S. Truman. Truman Doctrine was released by President Harry S. Truman on March 12th, 1946 which describes the US policy that would provide economic aid to the countries in danger of a communist takeover of the Soviet Union, especially for Turkey and Greece.⁴³

As a country that has economic and military power after the Second World War, Truman spoke to the congress: "*There is no other country [than the United States] to the which democratic Greece can turn.*" That eventually Congress provides assistance to Greece and Turkey \$ 400 million.⁴⁴

⁴³ Durante, Dianne. *Key Concepts in American History: Internationalism* . Edited by Jennifer L. Weber. Chelsea House Publisher, 2010. P. 80.

⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 81.

The Truman Doctrine proclaimed by consideration of the domino theory, which means if the country fell to communism, then neighboring countries will also fall into the familiar.

The domino theory, a popular metaphor in the 1960s, asserted that one country's fall to communism would stimulate the fall of those adjacent to it.⁴⁵

With the provision of aid, in accordance with what on January 12th, 1948, Secretary of State George Marshall discusses Marshal Plan:

The situation in Europe has not yet developed to the point where the grim progression from economic uncertainty to tyranny is probable. But without United States support of European self-help, this progression may well become inevitable. Therefore, it is proposed that our Nation . . . assist in setting in motion the processes of recovery in the second most productive area in the world.⁴⁶

Application of the Truman Doctrine is known as an early sign of the start of the cold war and is used as the main purpose of the US foreign policy until the collapse of Soviet Union.

E. Ambitious

The US foreign policy is also characterized by ambitions. The ambition is often referred to the double standard politics that dominated in the post-Second World War⁴⁷. The double standard leads to inconsistency

⁴⁵ Eugene, op. cit. p. 42

⁴⁶ Prentzas, G.S. *The Marshall Plan*. Chelsea House Publisher, 2011.

⁴⁷ Suci, Artha Tri. (2009). Kebijakan Luar Negeri Barack Obama Terhadap Upaya Penutupan Kamp Tahanan Militer AS di Guantanamo, Kuba. *Skripsi*. Tidak diterbitkan. Yogyakarta: universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, p. 28.

of a foreign policy that is run by a state. The double standard is a situation in which two people or groups are treated differently from each other and one of it gets unfairness.⁴⁸ It means that the US conduct a variety of ways that are contrary to the principles or values espoused to achieve what they want. On one hand, the US brought the principles of democracy and human rights for peace, however in the other hand, it has also done different stance. We can see the ambitious characteristic for the example today.

The double standard that is done by the US is related to human right violation. For example, the US use unconventional weapon in the war with Iraq and Afghanistan that caused civilian casualties in the war⁴⁹. In the other hand the US is a state that uphold about human right. In 2011, the international community focused on the Libyan conflict. The US quickly responded what happened in Libya in the name of Democracy and Human Right of international policy to protect civilians⁵⁰. However, the US did not do so in the conflict between Israel and Palestine that has been occurring.

⁴⁸ *Merriam-webster*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 12, 2015, from merriam-webster - Double Standard: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/double%20standard>

⁴⁹ *Iran Indonesian Radio*. (2013, December 19). Retrieved December 30, 2015, from: Barat dan Standar Ganda HAM: http://indonesian.irib.ir/editorial/fokus/item/74104-Barat_dan_Standar_Ganda_HAM

⁵⁰ *Kompasiana*. (2011, March 30). Retrieved November 12, 2015, from Standar Ganda Amerika Kembali DiPertontonkan : http://www.kompasiana.com/mfaridwm/standar-ganda-amerika-kembali-dipertontonkan_5500a129a33311981450f8d1

F. The New World Order

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought the US to continue his political transformation in the international world order. From there comes the discussion about the idea of a "New World Order". New World Order means that the power in the world is in one centralized power (it is absolutely the US) and expand concepts related to globalization.⁵¹ The 11/9-event pushes the White House to plan world domination agenda. It began with a national security strategy that was ratified in 2002. President George W. Bush, issued a counterterrorism policy and maintained a unipolar world. The New World Order made by the US to be approved without challenges.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the previous government during George HW Bush administration has released Draft Defense Planning Guidance. Through Draft Defense Planning Guidance for the fiscal year of 1994-1999, it contains the first goal which is to prevent the emergence of a new rival who could pose a threat to the US.⁵² This is an attempt to prevent a hostile force to create a global force. So the US puts themselves as a leader with the global main role.

⁵¹ Marshall, A. G. (2010, June 24). Global Research. Retrieved November 12, 2015, from Global Research - The Global Political Awakening and the New World Order : <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-global-political-awakening-and-the-new-world-order/19873>

⁵² *The New York Times*. (1992, March 8). Retrieved November 12, 2015, from Excerpts From Pentagon's Plan: 'Prevent the Re-Emergence of a New Rival' : <http://www.nytimes.com/1992/03/08/world/excerpts-from-pentagon-s-plan-prevent-the-re-emergence-of-a-new-rival.html?pagewanted=all>

G. One of the US Foreign Policy is given toward Cuba 1960s: Economic Embargo and Diplomatic Disengagement

Geographically, Latin America is closer to the US and part of the western hemisphere. The outdated image Latin America is known that undeveloped, unstable, poor and not become the US attention. As the neighbor, Latin America is in the corn of disadvantages side in facing the US superpower. The US is always threatening Latin America with their lack. For example, the US did through a dramatic intervention period in the past. However, Latin America countries made some good efforts to counter the US power through participating in organization such as OAS. Although it does not prevent the intervention, it helps them minimize destruction. Unfortunately, Latin America has been developing rapidly over the last half-century and is economically called middle-class income.⁵³ They have strategic relation.

The US foreign policy under security rationalization success took 40% land of Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.⁵⁴ Cuba is one of the Latin America countries that has a relationship and history with the US. It was started with the US's help to Cuba in expelling the Spain colonization there. Before, Cuba under Batista was close to the US, a pro in maintaining stability and anti-communist. However, Fidel Castro appeared and overthrew Batista administration. After Cuba is in the hand of Fidel,

⁵³ Wiarda, Howard J. *American Foreign Policy in Regions of Conflict: A Global Perspective*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. p. 156

⁵⁴ Ibid. p. 146

Cuba starts to nationalizes the US own property, makes relation with the Soviet Union until declaring it as the first communist state in the western hemisphere. All of it makes the US give diplomatic disengagement and imposed economic embargo toward Cuba.

The US foreign policy is like the other foreign policy, which is to achieve national interest. The US foreign policy has been made since the establishment of the US until today and always evolves considering the situation and condition. A series of foreign policy that has been taken by the US can be characterized into 6: Isolationist, expansionist, neutralist, interventionist, ambition, and the new world order. Cuba is one of the countries that imposed the US foreign policy through diplomatic disengagement and economic embargo. The beginning of the US and Cuba relation is the beneficial relation. It started when the US successfully expelled Spain colonization from Cuba. The good relation changes to be worse when Fidel Castro appears as the revolutionary movement of Cuba. The US policy toward Cuba also changes when the US gives Cuba sanctions that imposed until today.