Refugees and global migration

KEY TERMS

asylum  – a place of safety and security

human trafficking  – the criminal control and exploitation of other people for financial gain

immigrant  – a person who has moved away from one country to live in another

migrant  – a person who moves from one place to another

refugee  – a person fleeing persecution or danger

UN convention  – an agreement among United Nations member states

The lessons for this topic were written by Lara Maupin, M.Ed., educator and freelance writer based in Minneapolis, MN. She formerly taught history and AP U.S. & Comparative Government in Fairfax, VA.
Global Migration Discussion Questions

1. How does migration from the Middle East or Central America become a global concern? What are the major issues that arise from these migrations affect global foreign policy?

2. What are the most pressing reasons that migration occurs today? (Relate your responses to the handout that charts out varying motivations for migrants.) Do you expect the current global migration patterns to extend into the near term versus long term future? Why or why not?

3. What steps are agencies of the United Nations or intergovernmental agreements such as the Global Compact on Refugees or the Global Compact on Migration taking to ameliorate issues that migration causes? How effective are these Compacts? What benefits do they bring to both migrants and the countries in which they temporarily or permanently resettle?

4. Europe has experienced high levels of migration throughout history. But what was unique about the issues associated with large inflows of migrants in 2015?

5. How do economic, political and cultural issues surrounding migration affect the ways that host countries are able to assimilate migrants? Can you separate the emotional versus rational arguments for and against migration?

6. To what extent is migration associated with terrorism? How can host countries take steps to balance the humanitarian goal of providing safe havens for asylum seeking refugees and the possible threat of terrorism?
Handout #1-A
Global Migration: Patterns and Processes
NAME: ________________

Instructions: Use this graphic organizer to take notes as you read. Add definitions, key points, facts, and figures in and around each box on the chart. NOTE: Parts A and B of the chart are explored further on the second part of this handout.
Additional notes:
2. The Middle East: regional disorder

KEY TERMS

**Arab Spring:** Popular, antigovernment uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East starting in 2010.

**Ba’athism:** the principles and policies of the Baath political party of Iraq and Syria characterized especially by promotion of pan-Arab socialism.

**Green Movement:** also known as the Persian Awakening or Persian Spring by the western media, was a political movement that arose after the 2009 Iranian presidential election, in which protesters demanded the removal of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from office.

**Hezbollah:** an extremist Shiite Muslim group with close links to Iran, especially active in Lebanon.

**Houthis:** an Islamic religious-political-armed movement that emerged in northern Yemen in the 1990s.

**Islamic State (ISIS):** an organization, made up of Sunni militants from Iraq and Syria, that has declared the creation of a caliphate and imposed strict Islamic rule through brutal tactics.

**Oslo Accords:** negotiations between Israel and Palestine in 1993, involving Norway and the United States, that were designed to end the decades-old fight between both sides but were derailed in the years that followed.

**Pan-Arabism:** the principle or advocacy of political alliance or union of all the Arab states.

**Secularism:** a principle that adheres to the strict separation of the state from religious institutions and that people of different religions and beliefs are equal before the law.

*The following lessons were written by Leah Graham McFarlane, M.Ed in English and social studies. She is a teacher in Arlington County Public Schools, VA.*
Middle East Discussion Questions

1. Saudi Arabia and Iran are both governed by quasi fundamentalist Islamic regimes. Both are major global suppliers of petroleum. Yet both have been regional trouble makers (e.g. support for opposing factions in Yemen, Syria and elsewhere.) At various points in history, both have been strong allies of the USA. Given the goals and governing practices of today’s leaders as well as likely leaders in the near-term future in each of these countries, which of the two would be a better long-term ally? What are the pros and cons?

2. As long as there were security reasons to do so, the US has backed autocrats in most of the nations of the Middle East. Should the US change course and give higher priority to human rights and democracy than in the past?

3. Do you think that the US decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal and to reimpose sanctions was a good or bad foreign policy move? Why?

4. Why are there so many failed states in the Middle East? Is this reason an exception? (When answering this question, consider the region’s age old tradition of tribalism.)

5. The borders of several countries in the Middle East were drawn by European powers after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Do these borders still make sense or should some of them be redrawn? What are the pros and cons? (For example, consider the strife between the Turks and the Kurds.)

6. Did the US make a correct decision when it decided to move its Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? How did that policy affect foreign policy options in the region and globally?
3. Nuclear negotiations: back to the future?

KEY TERMS

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**—Established by the Eisenhower administration in 1957, this independent wing of the United Nations promotes peaceful and safe use of atomic energy by, among other things, conducting inspections of nuclear sites.

**“Lead but hedge”** — The military strategy used by the Democratic Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama that advocated for the United States to lead on arms reduction and nuclear nonproliferation while maintaining a nuclear arsenal to deter unknown threats.

**Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)** — Doctrine of military strategy widely accepted since the Cold War arms race in which the use of nuclear weapons by two or more countries would lead to the complete annihilation of both the attacker and the defender.

**“Peace through strength”** — A Roman motto that has consistently appeared in the Republican party platform since the Reagan administration that suggested a strong military can preserve peace.

**Theory of deterrence** — A military belief that gained prominence during the Cold War that a nation, despite its size, could deter an enemy’s attack by demonstrating strength with a nuclear arsenal.

**123 Agreements** — Originating from Section 123 of the 1954 United States’ Atomic Energy Act that formally called for cooperation with other nations to develop peaceful nuclear energy projects.

The following lessons were written by Andrew Haemker, who is currently a social studies teacher at Windham High School in Windham, NH. He holds a Master of Science in Education from Old Dominion University and is a National Board Certified Teacher.
Nuclear Negotiations Discussion Questions

1. What are the political factors driving nuclear production and negotiations today? Why are nuclear weapons still produced if there are treaties and agreement in place not to utilize them?

2. What are the five nuclear races in the past and present? Fill in the blanks on the handout. What was different about each of them? How have nuclear agreements impacted negotiations in the past? How has this activity changed under the Trump administration?

3. How can past strategies inform the current goal of disarming North Korea’s nuclear arsenal? How has the evolution of nuclear negotiations during the 20th century influence the current negotiations to lessen nuclear threats globally?

4. President Trump has proposed a Space Force as a new branch of the Armed Forces. How would its creation impact nuclear negotiations? Would it increase security against nuclear attacks? Why or why not?

5. Do you think that a nuclear free world might be a possibility? Why or why not?

6. What will nuclear negotiations look like in the future?
HANDOUT #3-A
How may the United States best address the emerging nuclear arms race?

NAME: _____________________

Directions: After reading and annotating the *Great Decisions* article "Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future", complete the chart using specific evidence from each historical arms race.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nuclear Arms Race</th>
<th>Options for U.S. policy today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence for weapons ban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original race (World War II)</td>
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<td>Vertical race (Cold War)</td>
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<td>Horizontal race (1962–Present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denial race (post-9/11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space race (Present)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Based on the chart above, should U.S. foreign policy seek to develop a nuclear weapons ban, take a deterrence-only posture, or modernize its nuclear weapons to address current concerns over nuclear weapons proliferation?
KEY TERMS

**Brexit**: an abbreviation for “Britain” and “exit”, which refers to the 2016 referendum vote in which a majority decided that the UK will leave the European Union, pending negotiations due in March of 2019.

**elite**: in political and sociological terms, the elite are small groups of people who exercise disproportionate power and influence, often indicating more privilege in education, wealth, and/or social status.

**economic migrant**: a person who travels from one country or area to another to improve their standard of living because living conditions or job opportunities in his or her own region are insufficient.

**liberal world order**: established in the aftermath of World War II and led by the U.S., it is based on the rule of law and respect for countries’ sovereignty to promote international free-trade and protect human rights.

**nativism**: a policy of favoring native inhabitants as opposed to immigrants.

**neo-Nazi movement**: post-World War II political movement seeking to revive values established by the Nazi party, promote hatred, attack minorities, and in some cases to create a fascist political state.

**populism**: a political movement that champions the common person, usually by favorable contrast with an elite

**pluralism**: the view that in liberal democracies power should be dispersed among a variety of a variety of economic and ideological pressure groups, not held by a single elite group and assumed that diversity is beneficial to society.

**refugee**: a person who has been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

**xenophobia**: fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign

*The following lessons were written by Leah Graham McFarlane, M.Ed in English and social studies. She is a teacher in Arlington County Public Schools, VA.*
European Populism and Nationalism Discussion Questions

1. What is the current nature of populism in Europe? What are the leanings of the populist political groups in Europe? Are they all right of center? (See handout.) Is the current wave of populism just a trend or is it here to stay?

2. What are the underlying causes of the recent wave of European populism? To what extent is it related to economic inequality (some of which stems from the aftermath of the 2007-2009 global recession) versus migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees? How can other world regions prevent similar backlashes when faced with wide-scale migration?

3. What role could the European Union play to dissipate tensions brought on by populism?

4. What similarities and differences can you see between populist parties in different European countries such as France, Sweden, Hungary etc.?

5. What are some of the ways that the rise of populism in Europe affects the world?

6. How can pro and anti-immigration groups find common ground in a period of high demand among migrants to be accepted as new settlers in various European countries? Do your suggestions have broader implications for policies that might be followed elsewhere in the world when faced when a country or region is faced with sudden increases in immigrants? Explain.
**Graphic detail**

**European anti-elite parties support different policies**

This cluster diagram plots the ideological distance between parties based on the following four issues:

- **Immigration**  
  - Open ↔ Restrictive
- **Personal freedoms**  
  - Permissive ↔ Restrictive
- **Economic policy**  
  - Big state ↔ Small state
- **EU integration**  
  - Support ↔ Oppose

Parties that closely agree on all four issues sit nearest to each other.

- **Anti-elite parties**
- **Other parties**

Anti-elite parties with left-wing economic views, like Spain’s Podemos and Syriza in Greece, have welcomed immigrants while gaining votes →

**“Left”**

Big state, socially liberal

**“Centre”**

Although Unsubmissive France shares the right’s Euroscepticism, its far-left social and economic views push it in the opposite direction

**“Right”**

Small state, socially conservative

*Formerly National Front. Sources: Chapel Hill Expert Survey; ParGov

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**Populism in Europe**

**Aux armes, citoyens!**

Voters have turned against elites and the EU, but agree on little else

MATTEO SALVINI, the head of the Northern League, a populist party that forms part of Italy’s governing coalition, has a pithy explanation for the global rise of movements like his. “It is a common factor,” he says. “The confrontation of the people versus the elite.” Scholars would agree. Since 1995 the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has surveyed political scientists about European parties’ policy positions and rhetoric, yielding ideological ratings for each party on various issues. Sure enough, the attribute most correlated with gaining votes since 2014 has been criticism of elites. (The ratings in the survey, conducted roughly every four years, closely match those that voters give to parties when polled, as well as ideological scores that can be derived from manifestos.)

What has drawn voters to such parties? To identify what else they might share, The Economist has used a statistical clustering method to calculate the ideological distances between 244 European parties. Our analysis is based on Chapel Hill’s scores on four issues: social liberalism, economic policy, immigration and the EU.

A familiar left-to-right spectrum emerged for the first three subjects. Parties with free-market economic views also tended to endorse tighter limits on immigration and on personal freedoms. The reverse was broadly true on the left.

Mr Salvini’s League landed on the right, as did most parties with high scores for anti-elitism rhetoric. However, some of the fastest-growing upstarts—such as Syriza in Greece, Podemos in Spain and the Five Star Movement in Italy—sat in the middle or on the left. Because of this ideological diversity, no statistically significant relationship exists between the change in a party’s vote share from 2014–18 and its views on immigration, social liberalism or economic intervention by the state.

However, one policy area neatly cleaved off the “populist” parties from their “establishment” rivals. The EU is often described as an elite-driven project. So it is little surprise that anti-elite parties with little else in common generally rail against European integration—and that hostility to the EU predicts increases in vote shares nearly as well as anti-elitism does. Voters seem eager to tear down the old order, but do not agree on what the new one should be.
5. Decoding U.S.-China trade

KEY TERMS

**arable land** – land suitable for growing crops

**cap-and-trade system** – an agreement to cap (limit) harmful CO2 emissions, giving emissions-producing companies allowances and permitting them to trade these allowances

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** – the total monetary value of goods and services produced within a nation during a specific time range

**One-Child Policy** – a Chinese policy in place from 1980 to 2016 intended to reduce population growth by limiting most families to one child through incentives and penalties

**radio frequency identification (RFID) chip** – an electronic chip that can be attached to or embedded in items, allowing them to be tracked

**Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** – a 12-nation trade agreement signed in 2016 that was never ratified after the U.S. withdrew; the remaining nations entered a new deal (without the U.S.) that took effect in 2018, intended to lower trade barriers

**World Bank** – an international financial institution that provides loans to nations to promote development; collects and analyzes global economic data

**World Trade Organization (WTO)** – an international organization that regulates trade and settles disputes among member nations who sign trade agreements

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The lessons for this topic were written by Lara Maupin, M.Ed., educator and freelance writer based in Minneapolis, MN. She formerly taught history and AP U.S. & comparative government in Fairfax, VA.
Can pandas fly?

If Xi Jinping reforms the economy, he could both calm the trade war and make China richer

For the past two weeks Chinese and American negotiators have been locked in talks in Beijing and Washington to end their trade conflict before the deadline of March 1st, when America will ratchet up tariffs on Chinese goods or, perhaps, let the talks stretch into extra time. Don’t be distracted by mind-numbing details on soyabean imports and car joint-ventures. At stake is one of the 21st century’s most consequential issues: the trajectory of China’s $4trn economy.

Although President Donald Trump started the trade war, pretty much all sides in America agree that China’s steroidal state capitalism makes it a bad actor in the global trading system and poses a threat to security. Many countries in Europe and Asia agree. At the heart of these complaints is the role of China’s government, which funnels cheap capital towards state firms, bullies private companies and breaches the rights of foreign ones. As a result, China grossly distorts markets at home and abroad.

The backlash is happening just as China’s model of debt, heavy investment and state direction is yielding diminishing returns. Growth this quarter may fall to 6%, the worst in nearly three decades. Many suspect that the true figure is lower still. By opening the economy and curbing the state, Xi Jinping’s autocratic leader, could boost performance within China’s borders and win a less hostile reception beyond them. He is loath to limit the power of the government and the party, or to accept American demands. But China’s path leads to long-term instability.

Its leaders are entitled to feel smug. The party has presided over one of history’s great successes. Since 1980 the economy has grown at a 10% compound annual rate as nearly 800m people have lifted themselves out of poverty. A country that struggled to feed itself is now the world’s biggest manufacturer. Its trains and digital-payments systems are superior to those of Uncle Sam, and its elite universities are catching up in the sciences. Although inequality and pollution have soared, so have living standards.

Yet as our essay this week explains, since Mr Xi took power in 2013, China has in some ways gone backwards. Two decades ago it was possible, even sensible, to imagine that China would gradually free markets and entrepreneurs to play a bigger role. Instead, since 2013 the state has tightened its grip. Government-owned firms’ share of new bank loans has risen from 30% to 70%. The exuberant private sector has been stifled; its share of output has stagnated, and firms must establish party cells which then may have a say over vital hiring and investment decisions.

Regulators meddle in the stockmarket, critical analysis is suppressed and, since a botched currency devaluation in 2015, capital flows are tightly policed. Mr Xi has ignored Deng Xiaoping’s advice to “hide your capabilities and bide your time”, launching the “Made in China 2025” plan, an attempt to use state direction to dominate high-tech industries. This has alarmed the rest of the world, though it has yet to produce results.

Make no mistake, Mr Xi’s approach can continue for some time. Whenever the economy slows, stimulus is injected. In January banks extended $477bn of loans, a new record. But structural shifts are working against China. The working-age population is shrinking. Investment is a swollen 44% of GDP. As resources are sucked up by wasteful projects and inefficient state firms, productivity growth has slowed. Now that debt has surged, interest payments will amount to nearly three-quarters of new loans.

The backlash abroad risks becoming yet another drag. As barriers to trade rise, China cannot rely on the rest of the world for growth. Its share of world exports will struggle to rise above today’s 13%. Its biggest and most sophisticated firms, such as Huawei, are viewed with suspicion in Western markets (see Business section). Mr Xi promised a “great rejuvenation” but what beckons is lower growth, more debt and technological isolation.

China’s leaders have underestimated the frustrations behind the trade war. They have assumed that America could be placated with gimmicks to cut the trade deficit, and that the row will end when Mr Trump leaves the Oval Office. In fact American negotiators, with the support of Congress and the business establishment, have demanded deep changes to China’s economy. Western opposition to China’s model will outlast Mr Trump.

To deal with hostility abroad and weakness at home, Mr Xi should start by limiting the state’s role in allocating capital. Banks and financial markets must operate freely. Failing state firms should go bust. Savers must be permitted to invest abroad, so that asset prices reflect reality, not financial repression. If money flows where it is productive, the charge that the economy is unfairly rigged will be harder to sustain and the build-up of bad debts will slow.

Mr Xi also needs to temper China’s industrial policy. It is too much to imagine that it will privatise its 150,000 state firms. But it should copy Singapore, where a body called Temasek holds shares in state firms, giving them autonomy while requiring that they operate as efficiently as the private sector. Spending on industrial policy should shift away from grandiose schemes such as Made in China 2025 towards funding basic research.

Lastly, China must protect the rights of foreign firms. Within China that means giving foreigners full control of subsidiaries, including over their technological secrets. Beyond its borders it means respecting intellectual property, which will be in China’s interest as its firms grow more sophisticated.

Given China’s poor record, America will need room to respond through tariffs or arbitration if China does not meet its commitments. But America should also reward good behaviour. If Chinese firms can use greater transparency to persuade it that they are operating on commercial principles, they should be treated like businesses from any other country.

Today, these reforms seem a distant prospect. But they were accepted wisdom among China’s technocrats a decade ago. They are also popular at home. Corporate bosses and senior officials say that they want American pressure to get through to Mr Xi in a way they cannot. Under him, China is becoming trapped in a bad cycle of sluggish growth, debt, state control and hostility abroad. A more economically liberal China would end up richer and make fewer enemies. It is time for Mr Xi to change course.
Trade with China Discussion Questions

1. How important is the USA’s two-way trade with China to the overall economic welfare of the USA and its residents? Which industries are most affected? What is the impact on consumers in both the USA and China?

2. According to the video and the article in the Great Decisions book, the method used to record international trade flows is outmoded and based on nineteenth century assumptions (e.g. a conceptual limitation of David Ricardo’s theory of comparative advantage that inputs for exported products are sourced entirely from the country in which final products are assembled.) In light of global value chain sourcing practices by globally oriented and multinational firms, should the method of data collection be changed to a value-added approach (currently practiced by a handful of smaller country statistical data preparation groups)? What does China really contribute to the overall value chain of high-tech companies like Apple and Dell? Are trade deficits with other Asian and European countries understated and is the trade deficit with China overstated? On the other hand, are exports to China from major manufacturers like Caterpillar and Boeing overstated in terms of the value added in their US production facilities?

3. Some imports from China have been found to be defective or unsafe with respect to health standards? What steps can the US government and/or private sector take to protect US consumers from the deficiencies of these Chinese exports?

4. What is the current status of trade negotiations between the USA and China? Do you think that a trade war might happen? Why or why not? If a trade war were to take place, what would be its potential impact on the US and Chinese economies including workers and consumers? What would be the ramifications for the multilateral global trade regime under the auspices of the World Trade Organization?

5. How would the outcome of the current trade negotiations between the USA and China affect the overall political and cultural relationship between the two countries? Could it have a positive or negative rollover effect on foreign policy relations with other nations?

6. China has a very high level of unfavorable emissions. Should a revised trade pact between the two nations address climate change and other environmental issues? How?
6. Cyber conflict and geopolitics

KEY TERMS

Alfred Mahan’s *Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783* — The naval historian’s 1890 book detailed how a nation’s navy might have influenced its geopolitical position and wealth. Its argument would influence international relations throughout the 20th century.

**Cyber psychological operations** — The use of cyber technology, especially social media, to foment dissension and undermining the legitimacy of established political institutions in other nations.

**Cyber technology** — Term generally referring to computers and computer networks, including telephones, telecommunications networks, and data.

**Cyber-enabled economic espionage** — The use of cyber technology to collect information from commercial targets in order to gain an upper-hand in economic competition.

**Geopolitical pivot** — Political science term referring to a change in a nation’s economic, political, and military position compared to other nations.

**"Gerasimov Doctrine"** — The Russian Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov’s 2013 argument that the Russian military should use cyber technology to pursue espionage and manipulation of public opinion of their adversaries.

**Halford Mackinder’s “The Geographical Pivot of History”** — The historian’s 1904 article that argued the era’s emerging railroad technology would lead to Britain losing its position of primacy in world politics to continental powers like Germany and Russia.

**Malware** — Computer software that is intended to damage or disable cyber technology.

Andrew Haemker is currently a social studies teacher at Windham High School in Windham, NH. He holds a Master of Science in Education from Old Dominion University and is a National Board Certified Teacher.
Cyber Conflict Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of the analogy of the current level of stolen cyber technology by the Chinese and others with the theft of railroad technology from the British by Germans and other central and Eastern European countries in the late 19th century? What do you think about the analogies that economic, military and political strength of countries comes from technologies (e.g. sea power of countries with Atlantic coast ports in the 16th and 17th centuries, land power from those possessing railroad power in the 19th century and global power from those possessing advanced cyber power in the 21st century)? See the attached graphic.

2. On an earlier topic, you discussed the Trump proposal for a Space Force to be added as a separate branch of the US Armed Forces. Would this proposed new military branch help protect US cyber security? Why or why not?

3. Various nations have used cyberspace to hack into US social media or corporate databases. What are the differences in motivations for doing so by the Russians, the North Koreans and the Chinese?


5. How could cyber conflict and cyber advances affect regional or global military conflicts? Suggest ways that cyber conflict could be used by a country to get “its way” (including the protection of existing geographic territory or addition of geographic territory.)

6. How could cyber hacking in the future impact governments, companies and private individuals? What steps can be taken to minimize the negative impacts of such hacking practices?
# HANDOUT #6-A

How are nations using cyber technology to promote their interests?

Name: ______________________

**Directions:** After reading and annotating the *Great Decisions* article “Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics”, complete the chart using specific evidence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>What methods or policies have they used in the cyber conflict?</th>
<th>What has been the effect of these methods and policies?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Based on the chart above, how does the current cyber conflict threaten United States interests?

Based on past geopolitical pivots and the information from the chart above, what do you consider the necessary steps the United States needs to take to adequately respond?
Directions: Compare and contrast past geopolitical pivots to the current cyber conflict.

Based on the chart above, do the lessons of past technology-based geopolitical pivot indicate the current cyber conflict is leading to the end of Pax Americana?
The U.S. and Mexico

KEY TERMS

**Dreamers** – migrants brought to the U.S. illegally as minors and raised in the U.S.; they take their name from the failed DREAM Act which would have granted them legal residency status

**drug cartels** – criminal organizations responsible for supplying illegal drugs to drug traffickers; run by drug lords known as capos

**Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)** – the Mexican political party that dominated Mexican government and politics for most of the 20th century

**maquiladoras** – U.S.-owned factories along the northern Mexican border that employ lower-wage Mexican workers to assemble products for export back to the U.S.

**nativism** – preference for native inhabitants of a country and their perceived interests over immigrants and their interests

**protectionist** – favoring government protection of domestic producers and manufacturers over foreign competitors through trade policies such as tariffs

**remittances** – money sent by immigrants from their wages back to family in their country of origin

**xenophobia** – fear or hatred of foreigners

The lessons for this topic were written by Lara Maupin, M.Ed., educator and freelance writer based in Minneapolis, MN. She formerly taught history and AP U.S. & comparative government in Fairfax, VA.
USA and Mexico Relations Discussion Questions

1. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has recently been inaugurated as Mexico’s president. How will his policies affecting relationships with the USA differ from those of his predecessors? How will those policies interact with those of the Trump Administration? (Think beyond the controversy concerning the border wall.)

2. Starting with the Bracero program, several programs have impacted the relationship between the US and Mexico. (See the list on the handout.) Which of these have had the most significant impact on the current political and cultural relationship between the US and Mexico? Why?

3. NAFTA was recently renegotiated. The name of the agreement was changed to the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA.) Although it was approved by all three heads of government, it may still be awaiting approval by the US Congress. What are the major changes in the provisions of the agreement? (For example, consider local content requirements.) What are the pros and cons of these changes?

4. Immigration is portrayed in the media as the center of the US/Mexico relationship. Do you agree? Why or why not? What other issues should also be dominant concerns?

5. The war on drugs has also been a major concern of both governments. What steps has each taken to lessen the international flow of illegal drugs? What further steps should each nation take?

6. Going beyond immigration and drugs, what further steps should the current and future administrations in Washington and Mexico City take to enhance and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the US and Mexico?
### U.S.-Mexico Policies & Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>PURPOSE / GOALS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES / RESULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bracero Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation Wetback</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986 Immigration Reform</td>
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<td>NAFTA</td>
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<td>1995 Aid Package</td>
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<td>DACA</td>
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<td>Merida Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>USMCA</td>
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What generalizations can you make about the U.S.-Mexico policy based on the programs the U.S. has implemented since the 1940s?
8. The state of the State Department

**KEY TERMS**

**diplomat** – a person trained and skilled in international negotiations intended to avoid or reduce conflict

**Manifest Destiny** – the 19th-century doctrine that held that the U.S. was destined to expand across the entire North American continent

**Marshall Plan** – the American economic assistance plan that provided aid to European nations rebuilding after World War II

**Mike Pompeo** – former Republican Congressman from Kansas and former CIA Director under President Trump; Secretary of State since April 2018

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** – a political and military alliance between the U.S. and European nations formed after World War II intended to provide mutual defense for member states

**United States Foreign Service** – members are selected through competitive oral and written exams to serve in American embassies, consulates, and other facilities abroad as well as in government offices that administer foreign policy

*The lessons for this topic were written by Lara Maupin, M.Ed., educator and freelance writer based in Minneapolis, MN. She formerly taught history and AP U.S. & comparative government in Fairfax, VA.*
The State Department and American Diplomacy Discussion Questions

1. What do you perceive to be the unique role of the State Department and its diplomatic role in American foreign policy? What are the benefits of the State Department to you as an American citizen?

2. The Trump Administration sought to reduce the State Department’s budget by one-third. Why did the Trump Administration make the proposal? What would have been the impact had the proposal succeeded?

3. What do you perceive to be the roles played by career foreign service officers? How important are these career civil servants to individual citizens so that the jobs of these foreign service officers should be protected? How do these officers add to or complement the roles of political appointees in leadership positions in the State Department? How does the purpose and role of the State Department complement other governmental bodies such as the National Security Council, the CIA and the military?

4. As the focus on terrorism gives way to a return to great power rivalry with China and Russia, what kind of diplomatic assets will the US need around the world to be effective?

5. Is the US entering an era when it needs a stronger focus on diplomacy to go along with its emphasis on military power since 9/11? Explain

6. The US and other nations are facing common transnational issues such as climate change, drug and crime cartels, global health, reduction of poverty and the rising importance of women in business and government. How can the US use its diplomatic power to push these advances forward and to make the world more stable, just and peaceful?

See the attached handout for additional questions.
HANDOUT #8 - B
Foreign Policy Tools

NAME: ________________________________

"Each new administration chooses from a menu of military, economic, diplomatic, and information capabilities, and invests in those instruments accordingly."—Robert P. Haifa, Jr. (page 7)

1. List tasks State Department officials are responsible for – at home and abroad.

2. Why has the U.S. emphasized the use of military power over diplomacy during the past two decades?

3. Why is the use of diplomacy likely to be more critical for the U.S. in the next decade?

4. How has President Trump shown a preference for the use of the military over diplomacy?

5. How has President Trump’s foreign policy differed from that of all previous presidents since World War II?

REFLECT: Should the U.S. attempt to maintain primacy (leadership) in the world order? What role should diplomacy play relative to other foreign policy tools such as military force, economic sanctions, and information warfare? How should the State Department be funded and organized to play this role?