

Ten Things You Should Know About U.S. Foreign Policy

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What does the U.S. Department of State do for the American people with regard to foreign policy? With just over one percent of the entire federal budget, it has a huge impact on how Americans live and how the rest of the world engages with America.

The State Department's main goals are:

- 1) advancing U.S. national security***
- 2) promoting our economic interests***
- 3) reaffirming our country's exceptional role in the world***

For example:

- 1. We create American jobs.** We directly support 20 million U.S. jobs by promoting new and open markets for U.S. firms, protecting intellectual property, negotiating new U.S. airline routes worldwide, and competing for foreign government and private contracts.
- 2. We support American citizens abroad.** In 2014, we provided emergency assistance to U.S. citizens in countries experiencing natural disasters or civil unrest. We assisted in 6,537 international adoptions and worked on more than 1,300 child abduction cases -- resulting in the return of over 374 American children.
- 3. We promote democracy and foster stability around the world.** Stable democracies are less likely to pose a threat to their neighbors or to the United States. In South Sudan, Libya and many other countries we worked through various means to foster democracy and peace.
- 4. We help to make the world a safer place.** Under the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction) Treaty, we are reducing the number of deployed nuclear weapons to levels not seen since the 1950s. Our nonproliferation programs have destroyed stockpiles of missiles, munitions and material that can be used to make a nuclear weapon. The State Department has helped more than 40 countries clear millions of square meters of landmines.
- 5. We save lives.** Strong bipartisan support for U.S. global health investments has led to worldwide progress against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, smallpox and polio. Better health abroad reduces the risk of instability and enhances our national security.
- 6. We help countries feed themselves.** We help other countries plant the right seeds in the right way and get crops to markets to feed more people. Strong agricultural sectors lead to more stable countries.
- 7. We help in times of crisis.** From earthquakes in Haiti, Japan and Chile to famine in the Horn of Africa, our dedicated emergency professionals deliver assistance to those who need it most.
- 8. We promote the rule of law and protect human dignity.** We help people in other countries find freedom and shape their own destinies. Reflecting U.S. values, we advocate for the release of prisoners of conscience, prevent political activists from suffering abuse, train police officers to combat sex trafficking and equip journalists to hold their governments accountable.
- 9. We help Americans see the world.** In 2014, we issued 14.1 million passports and passport cards for Americans to travel abroad. We facilitate the lawful travel of international students, tourists and business people to the U.S., adding greatly to our economy. We keep Americans apprised of dangers or difficulties abroad through our travel warnings.
- 10. We are the face of America overseas.** Our diplomats, development experts, and the programs they implement are the source of American leadership around the world. They are the embodiments of our American values abroad. They are a force for good in the world.

Complex Text Graphic Organizer: Ten Things You Should Know About U.S. Foreign Policy

Directions: After reading, cite specific examples from the text that explain each of the ten items about the U.S. State Department by listing the item number and summarizing the evidence. Once you have completed the reading and listed your evidence, write a statement in the “Summary Statement” box that summarizes what you think the U.S. State Department does.

(10 points)

Summarize specific examples from the text explaining each of the “Ten Things You Should Know.”		
Item #	Summary of Text	Domestic Connection
1		
2		
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Summary Statement. Write a summary of what you think the U.S. State Department does. (10points)