

Kelly Grimsley

PLSC 102-007

Professor Endless

19 September 2022

Should the US Seek to Remain the 'Indispensable' Country

With global political instability at a high in 2009, with 2 wars and traditional alliances between states falling apart, many American citizens were left unsure of the United States' roll as a global leader. However, its arguable that the role of President Obama had a beneficial impact on these issues that many Americans faced, by putting an end to the Iraq war, and by assassinating a major terrorist leader who brought chaos and international instability to the US. The US and its allies in a post WWII world unified to create institutions such as NATO, the UN, and IMF which benefit peoples and nations around the world w protecting their interests and values. Although these institutions were instilled, the presence of threats beyond international policies such as climate change, human/wildlife trafficking, etc. were becoming more prominent than ever. With this, the US is faced with the issue of what it should do with its power in a world that has shifted its balance of powers in terms of international relations.

Although it's assumed that the US will remain a global leader due to its economic and military prosperity, the institutions which the US works with such as NATO and the UN must evolve to maintain peace among nations as different threats to security arise and develop in the modern age. To enable the US to evolve with the world in this era of change, it's important for the US to be strategic in all aspects of international relations, especially with those of other international powers and continue to search for new facets of decision making that have emerged in the new century. With this comes the ideology of 21st century statecraft, which came with the agency with specialists who expose terrorist organizations and lines of communications between these organizations with advanced technology and strategists. In doing so, the US can maintain a free and safe online environment for its citizens as well as global citizens from threats. Another way in which the US has aimed to remain the Indispensable Country while working with other global powers would be through their nonproliferation agenda, which aims at keeping powerful and harmful weapons of terror out of the hands of potential terrorists. The US also created diplomacy with other potentially dangerous powers such as Iran and North Korea and supported the diplomacy with insurance companies, banks, and updated technology in financial institutions. Another key component in ensuring the US's position as the Indispensable country is its economic strategies. Because economics and politics have intersected as more states have emerged through the centuries, the US finds it important to prioritize economic engagement in every region globally. The power of the US is also maintained economically through their support in economic transitions of other countries which inherently increases the economic integration of said regions. In doing so the US hopes to modernize trade and transit connections globally. Another aspect of maintaining the United States position it holds is development in a variety of fields economically which inherently will become an investment in the future economics for the United States. The aspects in which the US intends on implementing these economic developments are aiding countries in their trade, their governance, their political participation (especially amongst women), their participation in the private sector, etc. By engaging in these aspects of smaller, growing economies, the US is spreading their power. By

strengthening other countries economically and attacking their security problems as they are developing, the US is preventing threats that could emerge as these countries gain power.

The energy and climate crisis are another issue that stands in the way of the US holding its position of power, however developments made by the US have been established to combat these crises. These actions made to avoid conflict and aide in economic prosperity include imposing international diplomacy and partnering with activists to curb carbon emissions as well as creating new bureaus to directly target these issues, as well as working with other countries to develop energy sectors and diffuse disputes of energy consumption between multiple regions to create stability. In doing so, the US will see a notable increase in domestic energy production, which once again inherently aids the power of the US to be maintained. In addressing the issues of humanitarian crises, the US established universal rights, which other allying countries set as a standard for protection of their citizens. These universal rights address issues of LGBTQ+ citizens and their freedoms as individuals, religious protections, and aims to increase freedoms of women in places in which they are not treated equally. With a heavy focus on gender inequality and working to integrate women into positions of power, the US intends on increasing political and economic progress globally and has been recognized by the US as a central issue of foreign policy that must be addressed on a large scale. By acknowledging these fundamental rights of all humans, the US portrays itself as a country of dignity, for it respects and upholds issues of morality and will not be a nation that stands for mass inequality.

After addressing these major issues that impact international relations on such a wide scale, the speaker identifies that the limits of 'soft power' and 'hard power', which is why having the US maintain its presence as the Indispensable Power is of utmost importance. Being able to adapt to different issues that arise globally, as well as strengthening alliances and imposing economic and security implementations that are 'new' in foreign countries is a main component to the strategy of the US to maintain its position. Knowing how to navigate issues in a specific country that they may not have encountered before and being able to address the issue in a way that's beneficial to said countries culture, economy, and politics is vital. Addressing these issues may include engaging with political leaders, signing treaties into place, negotiating trade deals, etc. These strategies that the United States have implemented were tested when approached with issues of human rights at a summit meeting, and the US managed to maintain its relationships with other countries and defend their fundamental values without waiver whilst simultaneously promoting their personal interests. And although more issues shall arise and the US may not have every solution to such issue, the country has proven itself capable of finding a mean to the solution through working with diplomats, working with the citizens, protecting the citizens' rights through the process, investing in countries' economies and societies, while maintaining the culture and political structure in place and acting with dignity.

In closing, the United States is a country with openness to development and innovation, with a diverse group of leaders and citizens, which has devoted to upholding human rights and a democracy. The agenda of the US to promote these values in other countries and match the demands of the world with such respect for others has proven to the world that the US has earned itself the title of being the Indispensable Country, not because it has the God given right to, but because it has proven itself with respectable, understanding, educated leaders who can act accordingly and with dignity when faced with a major crisis. It's maintained its position by being the only country amongst the major global powers that is willing to act whenever necessary to

resolve tensions other countries are confronted with. The United States acts as a power that works towards making the world a place of peace, prosperity, freedom, and safety.