

This resource was developed for APSA's Summer 2020 Virtual Teaching Workshop: Innovative Approaches to Online Teaching and is part of a collection of online teaching resources available through APSA Educate.

CLASS ACTIVITY: American Foreign Policy in Sub Saharan Africa



INTRODUCTION: Our goal is to identify American foreign policy in Sub Saharan Africa. We will be applying a case study model to identify how American foreign policy in Sub Saharan Africa changed between different administrations, over different time periods and over different geographic regions. More specifically, we will evaluate how presidential style and idiosyncratic factors affect American foreign policy.

The goal of this foreign policy analysis is twofold:

(1) Understand how American foreign policy evolves (or remains constant) over regional, temporal, and cultural spaces in Sub Saharan Africa,

(2) Explore the differences in presidential leadership over time through different political party administrations at the White House.

Have each student (or group) prepare a synopsis of US relations with one of the following Sub Saharan African countries during the Carter, Reagan, Obama, and George W. Bush years:

1. Ethiopia
2. Zimbabwe
3. Kenya
4. Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire)
5. Nigeria
6. South Africa

7. *Angola*
8. *Somalia*
9. *Liberia*
10. *Ghana*

The summary should highlight the following areas:

- Develop a timeline of the major events between the country in question and the USA
- Policies pursued by the different leaders
- Reactions of leaders in the different countries to US policy
- Success and failure of American policies in each country
- Differences between *Carter, Reagan, Obama, and George W. Bush*
- Similarities between *Carter, Reagan, Obama, and George W. Bush*

Video references:

1. [Foreign Policy: Crash Course Government and Politics](#)
2. [Black Hawk Down](#), Columbia/Tristar, 2002
3. [The Fog of War](#), Columbia/Tristar, 2002
4. Center for Strategic and International Studies : "[Does the US need a foreign Policy for Sub Saharan Africa](#)"
5. University of California TV (UCTV): "[The making of US foreign policy toward Africa](#)"
6. US State Department: "[Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities in US Africa Relations](#)"
7. Council on Foreign Relations "[State of Security in Africa](#)"
8. Atlantic Council: "[US South Africa relations](#)"
9. Al Jazeera: "[New Scramble for Africa](#)"
10. C-Span: "[US Policy on Africa](#)"
11. C-Span: "[US Policy-South Africa](#)"
12. C-Span: "[US-Nigeria relations](#)"
13. C-Span: "[US-Kenya relations](#)"
14. C-Span: "[US-Ghana relations](#)"
15. C-Span: "[US-Zimbabwe relations](#)"
16. C-Span: "US-DRC relations"
17. C-Span: "[US Somalia relations](#)" & "[US Somalia-UN Intervention](#)"
18. Chatham House: "[Understanding US policy in Somalia](#)"
20. Council of Foreign Relations: "[US-Angola Relations](#)"
21. PBS Frontline: "[Firestone and the Warlord](#)"
22. Department of State: "[US Relations with Kenya](#)"

Resources for further reading:

1. Congressional Research Service: "[Ghana: Current Issues & US Relation](#)"
2. Congressional Research Service: "[DRC: Background on US relations](#)"
3. Congressional Research Service: "[Kenya: "US Kenya relations"](#)"
4. Congressional Research Service: "[South Africa-US relations](#)"
5. Congressional Research Service: "[Liberia - US relations](#)"
6. Council on Foreign Relations: "[US-Angola relations](#)"
7. Congressional Research Service: "[Nigeria-US relations](#)"
8. JSTOR: "[History of US-Ethiopia relations](#)"

Additional Resources:

1. [Department of State](#)
2. [Department of Defense](#)
3. [Rand Corporation](#)
4. [Central Intelligence Agency](#)
5. [Center for Defense Information](#)
6. [Carnegie Endowment for Peace](#)
7. [World Affairs Councils of America](#)
8. [Council on Foreign Relations](#)
9. [Carter Center](#)
10. [Reagan National Library](#)
11. [Obama Center](#)
12. [George W. Bush library](#)
13. [Brookings Institute](#)
14. [Foreign Policy Association](#)
15. [United Nations](#)
16. [National Security Council](#)