

**Standard 5-6:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of developments in the United States since the fall of the Soviet Union and its satellite states in 1992.

**5.6.5** Summarize the changes that have taken place in United States foreign policy since 1992, including the globalization of trade and the war on terrorism. (P, H, G, E)

**Taxonomy Level:** B 2 Understand /Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous/future knowledge:** All concepts associated with United States foreign policy since 1992 are new for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students will explain the impact of increasing global economic interdependence in the late twentieth century and the early twenty-first century, including the significance of global communication, labor demands, and migration; the European Economic Community (EEC) and other trade agreements; and the oil crisis of the 1970s (7-7.6).

In Global Studies, students will summarize the impact of economic and political interdependence on the world, including efforts to control population growth, economic imbalance and social inequality and efforts to address them, the significance of the world economy for different nations, and the influence of terrorist movements on politics in various countries (GS 6.4).

In United States History, students will summarize key events in United States foreign policy from the end of the Reagan administration to the present, including changes to Middle East policy, the impact of United States involvement in the Persian Gulf, and the rise of global terrorism (USHC-10.1). Students will also summarize key economic issues in the United States since the fall of communist states, including recession, the national debt and deficits, legislation affecting organized labor and labor unions, immigration, and increases in economic disparity (USHC 10.2).

**It is essential for students to know:**

Changes that have taken place in United States foreign policy since 1992 are primarily related to the fall of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s and the end of the Cold War. In order to summarize *changes* the student has to understand that the fundamental policy driving foreign policy pre-1992 was containment. The Cold War influenced all American foreign affairs for almost a half-century. In the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has been the dominant military power.

As a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has taken an increasingly active and leading role in addressing the issue of **global terrorism**. Centering its attention on the terrorist group known as al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, the United States has directed its efforts by taking military action in Afghanistan, against the Taliban government suspected of protecting bin Laden, and against the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, who was suspected of developing weapons of mass destruction. The Taliban government in Afghanistan was defeated and a newly elected democratic government is beginning a new era. The Saddam Hussein-led government in Iraq was defeated. However, no weapons of mass destruction have been found. Free elections were held in Iraq; however, the fighting between rival factions of Islamic militants continues to threaten the stability of the new democratic government. As of the spring of 2008 [the date of this writing], the United States continues to be committed with both military and diplomatic efforts to the establishment of democratic governments in each nation and to the rebuilding process in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Although the United States continues to be a leading world economic power, this role is being challenged by an increase in the worldwide globalization of trade. **Globalization** allows for people and products to freely travel from one nation to another. The economies of many nations are greatly affected by one another. One example is that labor costs are lower in some parts of the world and therefore companies are able to produce goods at lower costs in developing countries. Consequently, some countries lose jobs as other countries gain them. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the European Union (EU), and the rising influence of China, are examples of globalization that have helped to increase international trade but have had a negative impact on some industries and jobs in the United States.

**It is not essential for students to know:**

Since this indicator requires some understanding of current events, it is essential that students understand that conditions described in the ‘essentials to know’ may have changed since they were written. Students will not be tested on any changes that were not addressed in the ‘essentials to know’. Although students do not need to memorize a definition of terrorism, they should understand that terrorism is a term used to describe violence or other harmful acts committed or threatened against citizens by groups of persons for political or ideological goals [5-1.5]. Students do not need to know about other areas of United States involvement in foreign affairs such as the Balkan regions or Somalia. This indicator does not require students to be able to identify the various products that are freely traded throughout the world. It does not require them to recall the nations who signed NAFTA (United States, Canada, and Mexico) or the many members of the European Union. The names, dates, and locations associated with the global war on terror are not required.

**Assessment guidelines:**

Appropriate assessments require students to **summarize** the changes that have taken place in United States foreign policy since 1992. Students should be able to **explain** the main effects of the globalization of trade and the war on terrorism. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to **identify** the various events associated with the global war of terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq.