**Essential Themes for Global Entanglements in American History**

**U IMPOSED** – a graphic organizer

* As you complete the readings under each Tab in the History Reader for this year, think about evidence from the reading to include in **some or all** of the themes.
* Evidence for the graphic organizer could be in the form of
  + Quotes (as seen in the example column)
  + Short paraphrases
  + Examples in your own words
  + Questions
  + Other?
* We will come back to these ideas each time we meet and will ask you to engage in dialogue around these themes.

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| **Unilateralism**  *Unilateralism, often mistakenly called isolationism, has formed a powerful and enduring strain in U.S. foreign policy.* |
| **Ideology & Pragmatism**  *The ideological fervor and messianic streak that have stamped U.S. foreign policy has been balanced by pragmatism.* |
| **Mixed Views**  *Americans have had decidedly mixed views about the international order and their place in it.* |
| **Partisanship**  *Partisan politics have shaped foreign policy from the beginning.* |
| **Omnipotence**  *Despite failures, its overall record of achievement has few precedents in history, but this success spawned the “illusion of American omnipotence.”*  **What are your essential questions or themes?**  **How might you be able to track student learning with these questions or themes over their extended course of study?**  **Why might it be helpful for students to see examples alongside the themes over multiple units?** |
| **Separation of Powers**  *The United States’ unique and ambiguous constitutional division of foreign policy powers between the executive and legislative branches has added confusion and conflict.* |
| **Expansionism**  *The U.S. has in many ways acted like a traditional European power – energetically pursuing vital interests, relentlessly expansionist, exploiting rivalries among competing powers, and using infiltration and subversion as tools of expansion* |
| **Destiny & Virtue**  *Americans have had a shared faith in the nation’s special virtue and unique destiny -- a chosen people with a providential mission.* |

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| **U** | **Unilateralism**  *Unilateralism, often mistakenly called isolationism, has formed a powerful and enduring strain in U.S. foreign policy.* | “But a unilaterist approach seemed natural and essential to people who saw themselves as morally superior and understandably feared entanglement in Europe’s wars and contamination from its cancerous politics.” (Tab 1, p. 6) |  |
| **I** | **Ideology & Pragmatism**  *The ideological fervor and messianic streak that have stamped U.S. foreign policy has been balanced by pragmatism.* | “Indeed, diplomats and policymakers such as Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt went further by developing a uniquely American brand of practical idealism, conforming to the nation’s professed principles while vigorously pursuing important interests.” (Tab 1, p. 5) |  |
| **M** | **Mixed Views**  *Americans have had decidedly mixed views about the international order and their place in it.* | “To be sure, Americans have often heatedly debated the importance of domestic versus overseas markets…Yet from the Revolution to the present, the pursuit of economic self-interest has ensured a high level of global involvement.” (Tab 1, p. 3) |  |
| **P** | **Partisanship**  *Partisan politics have shaped foreign policy from the beginning.* | “Party differences have sparked vigorous debates over the nation’s role in the world. At times, partisan politics have obstructed effective diplomacy. On other occasions, opposition parties have put needed constraints on policymakers and helped rein in ill-advised policies.” (Tab 1, p. 7) |  |
| **O** | **Omnipotence**  *Despite failures, its overall record of achievement has few precedents in history, but this success spawned the “illusion of American omnipotence.”* | “Success came to be taken for granted. Failure caused great frustration. When it occurred, many Americans preferred to pin it on villains at home rather than admit there were things their nation could not do.” (Tab 1, p. 9) |  |
| **S** | **Separation of Powers**  *The United States’ unique and ambiguous constitutional division of foreign policy powers between the executive and legislative branches has added confusion and conflict.* | “In the early years, European diplomats tired toe exploit the chaos that was American politics by bribing members of Congress and even interfering in the electoral process. More recently, other nations have hired lobbyists and even public relations experts to promote their interests and images in the United States.” (Tab 1, p. 8) |  |
| **E** | **Expansionism**  *The U.S. has in many ways acted like a traditional European power – energetically pursuing vital interests, relentlessly expansionist, exploiting rivalries among competing powers, and using infiltration and subversion as tools of expansion* | “When the hunger for land was sated, they extended American economic and political influence across the world. During the Cold War, when the nation’s survival seemed threatened, they scrapped old nations of fair play…overthrowing governments, even plotting the assignation of foreign leaders.” (Tab 1, p. 9) |  |
| **D** | **Destiny & Virtue**  *Americans have had a shared faith in the nation’s special virtue and unique destiny -- a chosen people with a providential mission.* | “When the United States thrashed Spain in 1898, it signaled Americans – and others – the mature nation’s emergence as a major power. ‘The greatest destiny the world ever knew is ours,’ ambassador Hay crowed from London.” (Tab 1, p.2) |  |
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