National Security Policy in the Clinton Administration

1993-1999
Setting

- Soviet Union dissolved
  - Central organizing threat for five decades is gone
  - Russia is weak politically & economically
    - Strong nuclear power
      - "loose nukes" threat
    - Regional destabilization & breakup
Setting

“World Order” Structure Unclear

- Polarity (constellation of great powers)
  - Bipolar (1945-1972)
  - Multipolar (1972-1991)
  - Unipolar (1992-?)
  - *How might system polarity affect national security policy?*

- Democracy & Capitalism as norm
  - End of competition of social systems
  - “democratic peace” theory [major war impossible]

- Nuclear Weapons as war deterrents
  - Nuclear weapons make major war impossible
Setting

US & European publics turn to domestic focus
- Bush foreign policy triumphs fail to win electorate
  - Collapse of WP/E. European communism
  - Collapse of USSR
  - Gulf War
- Clinton Elected (it’s the economy, stupid!)
Policy Debates

- Academics, policy wonks, insiders, politicians
- 4 Options
  - Isolationism
  - Liberal Internationalism (Carter)
  - Primacy (Realist 1)
  - Selective Engagement (Realist 2)
    - A strategy of no strategy or vision
    - Watch & see
Clinton National Security Orientation

- US must play a role in the world commensurate with its power
- Economic growth is essential
  - tied to global economic growth
- Cold-War "orphan" international problems need attention
  - environment
  - population growth
  - political repression
- International institutions should be engaged in pursuit of US goals
  - UN
  - World Bank
Implementation: Intervention I

- Humanitarian Intervention & Nation Building for Regional Stability
  - change from humanitarian mission to nation building → US Deaths
  - UN pulls out in 1995 → Somalia syndrome
- 1994 Rwanda
  - 1 million deaths
  - no UN intervention, Somalia syndrome
- Haiti
  - 1990-1994: turmoil following coup against Aristide → thousands of refugees at sea → US problem
  - 1994 US sends 20,000 troops to end turmoil
  - US pulls out in 1999
Implementation: Intervention II

Collective Security – NATO
war in Europe is dangerous to US national security interests

Yugoslavia
- Croatia & Slovenia (1991)
- Bosnia
- Kosovo
Yugoslavia
Terrorism

WTC I 1993 [truck bomb]
- 6 killed
- >1000 injured

Khobar Towers 1997 [truck bomb]
- 19 servicemen killed, 500 Americans & Saudis injured

Embassies 1998 [truck bombs]
- Tanzania
  - 11 dead
- Kenya
  - 213
  - 4000 wounded
Clinton Response to Terror Attacks

Cruise-missile strikes on Afghanistan & Sudan
- Was this adequate?
- Why nothing more forceful?
  - Somalia & Haiti-syndrome
  - "Monica" affair

What was the message to Al Quaeda?
Africa
Nuclear Proliferation

- Russia & “Loose Nukes”
- North Korea 1993-1994