

FOREIGN POLICY

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**COLLECTIVE NOTES FROM DR SIMON LECTURES (HOD
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FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign policy is an aspect of international policy, while international policy is a branch of politics, if that is the case; it becomes relevant for us to have the understanding of the nature of foreign politics, by this understanding we shall come to appreciate the functionality of international politics which provides the political space for formulation of foreign politics.

THE NATURE OF POLITICS

There are various definitions of politics but all definitions point that politics is the capacity to acquire, sustain and distribute the use of power for the general well being of the state. One of the earliest scholars on political thought was PLATO.

- Plato was born in Greece. He sees politics as the instrument through which justice is maintained in the society because politics is a positive human engagement designed to benefit the state, therefore for Plato only good men should involve in the art of politics. However from Plato's perspective politics is a moral issue, therefore only persons of high ethical values are considered to be the ones that should engage in politics.
- There is an opposing view to Plato's perspective, named Niccolò Machiavelli he was an Italian, he agreed with Plato to some extent, that POLITICS an instrument but not for justice, goodness, good men rather it is an instrument for the protection of ruling class and preservation of the state.

Machiavelli advocates that state must do anything and everything possible, to achieve his national interest.

To emphasize his point and importance, in the state to ambitious in its foreign policy objective, Machiavelli said "the end justifies the means"

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Between Plato and Machiavelli, two things are cleared.

The categories of politics can be divided into

- IDEALISM
- REALISM

IDEAL- what must be.

REAL- what is.

POLITICS OF IDEALISM

Plato and his likeminded, represent the class of idealist that believes the use of politics to compliment human ability with the service to the state. The idealist moralize the act of politics and centralize it on human nature, which is believed to be good and knowledgeable, therefore idealist believed that politics should be made humanity, so what of idealism concern with is how things be and it is therefore a normative approach to understanding the dynamics of politics.

POLITICS OF REALISM

This is the perspective that human nature is aggressive; therefore politic should be understood as an aggressive human engagement for the struggle for power, this means it is for the courageous, bold, determined, to achieve Objectives, devoid of human emotion. Machiavelli in his famous book "the press" speaks for those that view politics from the aggressive perspective.

UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

International politics means the application of the acts of science among countries, in the international System.

System itself now is the operation of politics among countries, the interactions in the world is for beneficial purposes as no permanent friend neither enemy in the international system.

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Policy is a generic (general) term because it has a broad spectrum of application or usage e.g. economics, social, cultural and imperial policy among countries as long as they benefit derivable in such interaction. However it is in this interaction we can refer to as international relations.

International relation can be understood as the various natures and degree of interaction among countries, in that deals with the nature of political relation among countries.

Foreign policy is therefore an aspect or instrument through which the objectives of international politics are achieved.

NATURE OF FOREIGN POLICY

Two terms must be explained for us to appreciate the composition and structure of foreign policy, these are foreign and policy.

Policy should simply be understood, as a plan of action that guides decisions makers. Therefore if the policy is for the public, it is referred to as public policy while if it is for private enterprise, we call it private policy.

Foreign policy falls under the public schedule because it influence governmental activities and reactions .therefore policy decisions made by government to guide its nature of relationship with other countries of the world is referred to as foreign policy, while decisions made to regulate the activities of the citizens within a country is referred to as domestic policy.

There are various definitions of foreign policy but all agreed on one point that foreign policy is a strategy or plan course of actions, developed by the decision makers of the state, in relations to other states or international entities, aimed at achieving specific goals defined in terms of the national interest.

However this involves the formulation and implementation of a group of principles which shaped the behavioral pattern of the state, while negotiating with other state in the international system to protect its vital or national interest.

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In other words, foreign policy refers to the decisions a nation takes in respect of its relations with another state which is an aggregate of a state procedures to achieve some defined goals taken into considerations those goal & objectives that benefits the state. However this goals are defined by variables design to promote, protect and defend a nation national vital interest, such as the preservations of sovereignty, promotion of economic, military strategic domestic interest, the increase and maintenance of power and prestige so as to influence international event and to defend whatever the state might define as its NATIONAL /VITAL INTEREST.

The nature of foreign policy is summarized into one constant dominator, i.e. the security of national or vital interest.

Furthermore it is imperative to briefly understand what nations mean by NATIONAL INTEREST.

However it is a bit challenging to define national interest, because such interest is not constant due to the changing nature of domestic and international politics, but there can be common understanding among scholars that national or vital foreign policy is designed as regards the need of the country per time. National interest is assumed to be ends of foreign policy.

National or vital interest are those benefits such as security, political, economic, military, culture etc. countries have to derive either in acquire, sustain or prospective, in the process of interacting with other state because all state are interested in self preservation, it is the benefit derived that influence the nature of foreign policy. It is however important to stress that the content of any foreign policy is determined by the perception and pragmatic nature of relationship among countries in the international system, e.g. the nature of foreign policy relations between America and united kingdom cannot be the same between America and Russia, this is so because the relationship between America and U.K is believed to be cordial while on the other hand, that of America and Russia is perceived to be rust full

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The nature of foreign policy objective of Nigeria towards developing countries, while Nigeria look up to the developed countries for assistance, other African counties regards Nigeria as big brother that can and should assist them.

The nature of foreign policy objective is determined by the domestic and international interest.

To appreciate the structure of national interest as it influenced the factors that determine the formulation of foreign policy, it is therefore important to understand the concept of NATIONAL ROLE CONCEPTION (N.R.C) in the international politics. See AAUA African studies review volume 10 June 2011.

NATIONAL ROLE CONCEPTION

Before we go into study of NRC, it is important to understand some of the key variables that constitute national interest.

Holistic has identified four key elements of national interest. These are security, autonomy, ware fare and prestige.

ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST

SECURITY; the word security is generic in nature because it can be used to qualify various circumstances, when we talk about political, social, economical, geographical, military and cultural security. However in this discourse we shall focus on armed force, security without this type of security, other generic forms of security may be compromised. Therefore security is needed to secure, protect and advance national interest against and form of vulnerability. E.g. armed security is needed to protect the political ideology of the state, otherwise the state with conflicting political ideology capable of affecting development. The Nigerian example will be relevant now. The so called book haram is pursuing the establishment of an Islamic political state in Nigeria, which is conflictual with the Nigeria constitution. In other to protect the country from such occurrences, the Nigerian military in collaboration with foreign government military have wage war

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on book haram, in spite of the presence of the military in Nigeria; the boko haram has wrecked havoc on the North Eastern part of Nigeria. It becomes imaginable if the county had no military force. Therefore a capable arm force is required providing internal security and to curtail or prevent external aggression. The arm force is also required to protect and secure state socio-economic institution, no state will fold its hands and allow its institutions such as hospitals, telecommunications and other social facilities to be destroyed, the strength of any society is often measured by the size and proficiency of its economic states, actually require the arm forces to require the arm force to secure some of their vital economic structure such as industries and technology e.g. any major kind of attack on the Nigeria oil industry. Swiss banking system, Japan manufacturing industry and Chinese agricultural sector, would have profound negative effect on these societies, since these industries and system are the economic foundation of the state.

Security is needed to also secure the natural resources of the state in the international system. These natural resources can be summarized as located on land and sea boundaries through armed security, personnel nations can go to war, if their space is entered into without permission by other countries, because one of the fastest means to acquire information especially geographical informations is through air, this can be through the use of satellite, North Korea is among the few states in the international system, that is effectively using the arm force to protect most of its national values. Western materials capable of influencing the thought and attitudes of are banned. It becomes a crime against the state, for any Korean to publicly express anti-Korean or western sentiments, the former USSR is one of the countries that display the use of threat and force to protect the republic from western capitalist interest. This led to the era of the cold war between America and Russia. However, there are various ways state can handle their security matters, which includes but is not limited to the following alone.

VARIOUS WAYS COUNTRIES HANDLE SECURITY MATTERS

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- Isolation
- Self reliance
- Neutrality and non alignment
- Alliance building
- Contracting out
- Autonomy

ISOLATION; this is the situation where by state may deliberately formulate policies that that will prevent them from getting involved in international crises. State can also adopt isolation to protect from external trade aggression. State that refuses to enter into any form of military commitment, restrain itself from interference

FDI (FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT)

And close its borders to foreign influences, could be said to have adopted the policy of isolation, it is believed that if states do not interfere in the affairs of state, the likelihood of aggression towards that state is limited. From historical point of view, a few nations have used the isolationist policy at one time or the other in their national history such as USA, BURMA and ALBANIA. For example, the USA adopted this policy in other to concentrate all efforts at developing its economy and therefore refused to be involved in European affairs. The US involvement to stopping the first world in 1917 did not stop its isolation policy, which prevented it from being a member of the League of Nations. However the US has abandoned the isolationist policy in the cause of the Second World War. Since 1945 America has being involved in international politics for the sole purpose of promoting and preserving its national interest.

SELF RELIANCE; This is another form by which states can secure their foreign policy objectives i.e states will concentrate effort at developing their military capacity and ability to protect themselves without relying on other nations for protection. This policy of self reliance creates in the mind of other states the fear of attempting to frustrate their foreign policy objectives. It is however important that the self reliance strategy is limited to

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the military and not all aspect of the economy because no state can survive entirely on its own, for example AMERICA, RUSSIAN, CHINA can boast of self reliance strategy is that it gives states the confidence to depend its policies at the military capacity and ability to wage war.

NEUTRALITY AND NON ALIGNMENT;

In policy discourse, neutrality simply means when states in the in the international system refused to get involved in the conflict of other nations. The idea behind the neutrality policy and non-alignment is to save guard state from taking action that may compromise or affect their foreign policy objectives.

NON-ALIGNMENT;

In this instance represents the position when state group together with the agreement that they would not be involved in other peoples war, however in a world of inter-dependency no state can really maintain a neutral position in its foreign policy objective, it is also important to clarify that the policy of neutrality and non-alignment is only limited to military engagement, one of the advantages of this policy is to limit the changes of state attracting hostility to themselves because less hostility will provide more time for states to concentrate on their development.

CONTRACTING OUT;

This is the strategy where by states try to avoid the heavy cost of maintaining a regular army. Such state would sign out their internal and external security to a more powerful nation. One of the advantages of such strategy is that the contracting out state is better secured because of the availability of modern military hardware.

The implication for such contracting out state will be protected by the more powerful state that have accept the contract of protecting the state, for example Iceland has contracted its internal and external security to the united state of America, in that wise, any nation that attempt to frustrate Iceland's foreign policy

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will have to face USA. This invariably means that Iceland's foreign policy may be an indirect American foreign policy.

AUTONOMY;

This is when state in the international system desire to operate without interference; it is this strategy of freedom that is referred to autonomy.

However this will enable states to pursue a foreign objective, it is confident that only few states, if any, can frustrate their objectives. Though states strive to be autonomous in their foreign policy drive but in reality no state is completely autonomous because of the high level of inter-dependency already discussed. In contemporary military strength only USA and RUSSIA may have the capacity to aggressively pursue their foreign policy objective with less resistance; this is not to say that USA and RUSSIA are absolutely autonomous because the economy, political and military strength to preserve, protect are needed pursue their foreign policy objectives

WELFARE;

The core objective of any foreign policy is directed at seeing the welfare of its citizens. It is the desire and expectation of all sovereign government to provide for the welfare of every citizen of the state, no state in the international system can fully generate all the resources required to meet the welfare need of its citizen. Therefore foreign policy is designed to attract Foreign Direct Investment FDI, as this will generate fund for the state to sustain and improve upon. Its welfare responsibility to its citizens, the welfare package could be but not limited to some of the following, provision of good roads, hygienic water, light, functional hospital, social life and security.

PRESTIGE; every nation in the international system seek for respect, once respected, it's conferred on that nation some element of thrust from other nation. The presence of respect from other nation can determine the extent a nation can achieve their foreign policy objectives, for example, over times, western countries

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have built trust to the extent of products from such countries like America as considered genuine or original and that brings pride and wealth to such nation.

There are various and many way nations attract prestige, this could be through military might such as USA, GERMANY and CHINA. Also in political stability such as USA and BRITAIN, also in cultural heritage such as ITALY and FRANCE etc. states therefore do what they can do to enhance their prestige in the international system as this strategy will help promote their foreign policy objectives.

REVISIONIST ROLE CONCEPTION OF FOREIGN POLICY

The revisionist role conception of foreign policy is based on the reality that state must complete for available scarce resources, therefore to survive in the struggle of competition state seek to influence the direction of international politics, in other meet their national interest. That would mean that states with revisionist role conception would always do anything and have aggressive like foreign policy drive (system). If states insist on that kind of mentality, it is therefore possible to argue that such states would always be at conflict with other states, in fact a revisionist, conflict are not only acceptable but permissible as long as the goal of the national interest is achieved. State like the US, ISREAL, RUSSIA fall into this category, however it is equally important to emphasized that the role perception of state in connection with the process of role conception.

NATONAL ROLE CONCEPTON

NRC is the external roles states desire to play in the international system, this is based on the scheme of international policies. This role is primarily directed at satisfying national interest. NRC can be expressed as what state desire, how they act and they acquire their desires based on what they think of themselves. The role conception can be summarized into two categories, STATUS-QUO and REVISIONIST.

STATUS-QUO

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This concept of foreign policy arises from concept of purpose that stresses from concept of purpose that stresses satisfaction and conservation. The status-quo states seek to preserve it own status against the rest of the other states. This means that such state role conception is to maintain and try to preserve whatever strategy position it found itself without and deliberate attempt to massively influence events in the international system. So states that adopt this type of foreign policy accept whatever happens in the international system without an question, such states also try to avoid conflict as best as it can slow to initiate conflict.

However National Role Conception is the way states sees itself in the international system, the way it will achieve its foreign policy

INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN POLICY

Formulating foreign policy objectives is however influenced by combination of the following

- Leadership perception
- State interest
- And the nature of international politics

These factors can be used to understand the compositions of foreign policy objective.

LEADERSHIP in this instance will present whole structure of foreign policy decision makers which includes the political, economic and bureaucratic personalities involved in the collection and analysis of data require to make decision. This perception especially of the political class is influenced by the domestic and external policy. For example if president A is friendly with president B it is most likely that the foreign policy objective of both states will be cordial.

STATE INTEREST; this represent the situation whereby policy maker rely on the sentiment when formulating state foreign policy, by this we mean that the state interest over write any personal interest and that the political class must subject itself to dictates of the state, America and Israel represent two of the state

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that have sustain the primary motive of foreign policy objective, which is to achieve National or Vital Interest

NOTE

This is when the state interest over shadows that of the leader, that is when the state interest is paramount

THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

This has its own impact in the formulation of foreign policy objective, we have earlier mention that state are dependent on other state for survival, therefore state tend to co-operate especially on economic and security matters. In this kind of situation it is the international environment that generate action and reaction for states for example the present coalition of state to helping Nigeria against the activities of BOKO_HARAM, is in response to the dictate of the international system.

The thought and initiation of foreign policy centers on one fact which is the National interest that is constant and has remain so over times, this is so because all nations are expected to design their foreign policy objectives in the way that will benefit them. However at times some foreign policy may appear doubtful or stupid, this policy is designed to protect what is considered as NATIONAL INTEREST, at that time for example, the General Abacha regime in Nigeria banned the Nigeria super Eagles from participating in the 1996 African Cup of Nations, hosted in South Africa, because of criticism of Abacha regime. The perception of political leadership can influence foreign policy because the leadership is part of the National Interest.

To understand why Nations behave the way they do in the international system as they pursue their foreign policy objectives, is to first understood or appreciate the capacity and ability of states to defend their interest.

However the decree at which states can define their foreign policy objective is mostly determined by the power of the states.

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INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN POLICY

This refers to some of the various methods on which nations pursue their foreign policy objectives, it should be however be noted that whatever approach a state adopts at any point in time will determine the kind of instrument to achieve its foreign policy objective, some of these instruments are

- Diplomacy
- Propaganda
- Economic/ colonialism/ neo-colonialism
- War

DIPLOMACY; this is defined as the peaceful conduct of relationships among political entities in other words and from the foreign policy perspective, diplomacy could mean the willingness of a state to adopt peaceful means in pursuing, sustaining and defining their national interest, one of the most peaceful of diplomatic practices, negotiation and bargaining, this involves a process of clarifying issues and at times compromises are reached in other minimize conflictual areas that can evoke violence and war. Professionals involved in the act of diplomacy are called diplomats, they are trained in the technique of diplomatic engagement for the interest of the state, however before a state can involve other states in diplomatic relations, some conditions that should be present are:

- Recognition of states by the international community
- Recognition of the incumbent government of the state
- Recognition of channels of diplomatic relations
- Respect for diplomatic ethics

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PROPAGANDA; this is the deliberate emphasis, repetition, manipulation, miss-information, dis-information or and distortion of fact and event in other to achieve foreign policy goals. Some of the medium of propaganda are

The various mean of communication technology

Increase level of illiteracy

New paper, books and magazine

Pictures, Radio, Television

However the success of the use of propaganda by state depends on the method and techniques.

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

There are several methods and technique but four shall be discussed, because they adequately represent most of the techniques identify.

- Presentation
- Daily attention
- Attracting response
- Acceptability

PRESENTATION

The purpose and objective of a state may determine how the propagandist will present the information, for example in the process of unifying the various entities that now make up the German state Otto-von Bismarck, had to distort the content of a document that contain sensitive information between the king of Prussia and a French ambassador, that distortion led to the war between France and Prussia in 1870.

DAILY ATTENTION

It is not enough to just present the issues, but to also make sure that the targeted state is attracted to the issue, for example if a state threaten to use war to

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settle an issue, such a state will have to display his military weapon, in order to show that it has the capacity to carry out its threat. Other means of gaining attention could be through seminars, advertisement, sponsorship of programs and at times direct interference in the state policy

ATTRACTING RESPONSES

Continuous repetitions and emphasis would surely attract response, the intensity of response would possibly guide the propagandist to access whether its methods is working, if the response is in negative, state may adopt other means such as indirect provocation or appeal to the emotion of citizens in the targeted state

ACCEPTABILITY

State strives to make sure that their policy, action or in-action is acceptable by the majority of international communities. The goals of foreign policy are easily fulfilled when citizen of the targeted states accept the ideas or message of the propagating state for example the popularity of America and its culture in the international system, is due to sustain use of propaganda, therefore most citizens of the world, have come to believe that everything America is good or Superior.

ECONOMIC INSTRUMENT OR STRATEGY

State often initiate economical policy intended to promote, protect domestic and international trade, policy of such is designed for the sake of achieving foreign policy objectives.

However about 14 economic instrument have being identified, but we shall limit our discussion to just eight because, this eight summaries the fourteen instrument

- The protective tariff
- International cartel
- Dumping
- Pre-emptive buying

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- Loans and grant
- Quotas and license
- Subsidies
- Embargo and boycott

THE PROTECTIVE TARIFF

This is the economic policy where by some specific goods attract heavy taxation. The purpose of this is to protect local industries against external competition. This is believed will help protect job at the local level, because where industries are producing, employment tends to increase, so any policy that could affect local industries may cause unemployment in the economy.

INTERNATIONAL CARTEL

A carter is termed by member state producing similar product in other to monopolize production and sale, OPEC is a good example of international cartel, OPEC can be used to redirect an hostile foreign policy by preventing its member from trading with non-member.

DUMPING

This is a strategy of selling exported product cheaper than it should be, this act of foreign policy technique is targeted at achieving divine objective, it could be used to build the capacity of other nation product, or to undermine the economic influence of other nation.

PRE-EMPTY BUYING

This is the purchase of some goods or item by a country from another country, so as to limit or prevent the goods from falling into the hands of another person or nation e.g country A may buy most or all of a particular product or service from country C so that country B would not have access to the product or service because country A consider country B as an enemy to his foreign policy objectives.

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The nature of goods or services must be such that if not purchased are capable of undermining the country of the other country.

LOANS AND GRANT

In international politics, no country is a Father Christmas that freely distributes gifts to willing residuals; in fact it is difficult this day to receive free gift dis days from the so called Father Christmas without paying some token. In the same plight when country decides to give grants or loans to other countries, they do so for the sake of achieving the foreign policy objective, most often all of the money to be borrowed are not directly handed over to the country that need the loan, instead the lending country supply some of the needs required instead of giving out cash, the aim of such practice is to promote local industries of domestic economy from the lending country, again some country programs of international dimension, as long that, the support would advance their country's interest, e.g the united nation sponsored program on family planning, immunization, save sex, polio eradication etc used items produced by powerful country in the international system

QUOTAS & LICENCE

In other to regulate income of some certain goods, state can adopt the practice of deciding what percentage of goods to be imported into their country. However it is restriction on importation that is referred to as quota, the quota system is practice either to protect local industries or balance the term of trade between import and export, also high license fee can be used to reduce import or export to serve the same purpose as quota.

SUBCIDES

This is an economic practice whereby companies are giving some amount of money to balance their cost of production or sales of product, in other to make sure that the product is available for domestic or international market.

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EMBARGO AND BOYCOTT

This mean prohibition or rejection of goods and service, this economic instrument is usually adopted by strong nations over weaker nations.

Embargo and boycott are effective on state whose national GDP depend on one or two major production. For example any form of embargo or boycott on the following counties may produce relative effect on their economy for example

Bolivia- tin

Brazil- coffee

Chile- copper

Cuba- sugar

Indonesia- Rubber

Thailand- rice

Nigeria- crude oil

COLONIALISM\ IMPERIALISM\ NEO-COLONIALISM

Imperialism and colonialism are often of the same concept but they are not, in terms of functionality.

Colonialism; a policy in which a country rules other nations and develops trade for its own benefit

Imperialism; the political, military or economic domination of one country over the other, for the sake of promoting industrial trade and investment opportunity

However from observation it seems to have combined the definition of both imperialism and colonialism, but for the sake of this discussion imperialism should be understood as the power of or influence of a country through business, culture or by other subtle strategy in influencing people,

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however this influence can be through propaganda, diplomacy, economical engagement or even war.

In this instance there is no direct involvement in the government of another country in order to achieve foreign policy objective, but in the situation when the government of a country take over the governance of another country for the purpose of achieving foreign policy objective, we refer to such situation as colonialism, therefore colonialism can be defined as the direct involvement of a country taking over the political economy and social structure of another country for the sole purpose of exploiting the colonized society, for the colonizing state .

Neo-colonialism is another form of imperialism, in the sense that formal colonized society though have political independence, still depend on their formal colonial masters for economic development, this means that the economy of the formal colonized state are still being control by external powers or forces

However despite conceptual differences they all have a common objective to advance the foreign policy goals of the state, some of these objectives are economic gain, national, prestige, civilization evangelism, national defense and to disprove off surplus population.

WAR; within the preview, fore views of international politics, war is often consider as a method of achieving purpose, the use of war as instrument of functionality is as old has human documented history, the popularity of war even to the 21st century shows that war has its function in modern politics. In foreign policy study war is the deployment of nation's element of power annexed by the arm forces to forcefully achieve, sustain and defend their foreign policy objectives.

However from the political realist perspective, the movement of civilization is a product of war, all the biggest and powerful nations in the international system are product of war, in 1776 America, 1789 French, 1917 Russia revolution, were made possible through the instrument of war, most

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interesting the emergence of the modern international system from 1648 is the outcome of war in Europe , though it would have being interesting to discuss the causes, functions, approaches, legality and morality of war.

However it is advisable to discuss these at a different forum because of time and space limitations, however war seems to be the fastest instrument of pursuing foreign policy objective, that is why ware is still being practice in modern society, whether war is good, bad, legal or unjustifiable are not the issues in international politics, rather with the discuss of foreign policy study war is a powerful instrument in foreign policy study.

DETERMINANT OF FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION

All state depends for their survival, in such situation state design their foreign policy to protect their nation.

The capacity of states to protect their nation, the capacity of states to protect that interest is the determined by the power of the of the state , therefore states would always pursue their foreign policy objectives to the extent of their power and capacity. In the international system power of a state is determined by some variables such as;

- GEOGRAPHY
- ECONOMIC STRUCTURE
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY
- POPULATION
- NATIONAL CHARACTER
- MILITARY CAPACITY
- QUALITY OF DIPLOMACY

This variable are a few part of the several variables used in accessing the power of a state, at this juncture it is important for us to have a brief conception of what this power is used in the international politics. However it is difficult to

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have a précised definition of what power is, this is so because the term power means different things to different people, but at the level of international politics power represent the capacity of state to cause change in their own favour, in other words power is the ability of state to make things happen or not to happen in the international system. States are therefore clarified as either powerful or not, based on their capacity and ability to influence decision at the international level, this capacity is determined by the variables identified above or explained below.

GEOGRAPHY;

The geography of a state and its location plays a big role in the power equation of the state, because it influences how other nations view such states for example the geography of Britain and Russia had help in many way in protecting these states from external attack, the size of Russian land space saved the country from the forces of napoleon Bonaparte in the cause of French revolution, again the America Island has served as protection to the state because it is surrounded by water, which makes it difficult for easy invasion, in the west Africa globe, the location of Nigeria has also added to the power of the country in some continent because of the easy access to land, air, sea transportation.

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE;

Development economist has argued that the economic activities of a people equally give birth to the quality of polities, instigated to guild domestic and external activity. The economy power of any nation is access by how it is use in global politics; economic interest is one of the biggest objectives of foreign policy formulation. For example America and China have two of the biggest economy in the world, this means when there are crisis in their economy, the impact would be felt all over the world, by economy we mean the capacity of states to purchase this goods and services, unemployment and loose of job may or will occur in other state of the world.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

The quality and quantity of natural resources a nation has, goes a long way in determining his power, Saudi Arabia is able to influence American foreign policy in the Middle East because of its crude oil.

The presence of some vital natural resources can serve as instrument of protection for example the un-seriousness at which the international community treated the economic sanction on Nigeria between 1994 and 1998 it influence the country crude oil, which is regarded as one of the best in the world .

The relevance of Nigeria and some middle eastern countries in the Middle East in the international system is perhaps due to the presence of crude oil and other natural resources.

INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY

Industrialization is much more than assembling heavy duty machines, it includes the protection of the skill and technology to produce and maintain this machine, Britain industrial revolution in the 19th century made the country so powerful enough to colonize half of world including American states (Europe), no matter a nation may possess, its need the industry to process their materials. The ability to overcome natural barriers and respond to daily challenge by ways of production of instrument and equipment or production of the industrialization, in other words the ability and capacity of states to process their natural resources makes them powerful, because they will depend less on other states for their industrial development. The power of western nation is centered on technology; this has given (Europe) an edge over other state in the international system

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NATIONAL MORALE

MORALE –anything that encourages you, this means the confidence of the citizen to support the government policies. Such support can encourage a government to be resolute in pursuing their foreign policy objectives. However the ability of state to take care of its citizens, can encourage and sustain nation morale, but in absence of government impact on governing impact on the citizens can reduce morale, such situation can limit the confidence of government to enjoy full support while pursuing its foreign policy objectives. Let us imagine a situation of the man who has no money cannot provide food for himself and family, is sick and is not sure of help from anywhere, will such a man be happy to defend his nation or support government processes ?

NATIONAL CHARACTER

This should be understood as the dominant, external display of predictable traits citizens. National character is the aggregation of pride, fulfillment and accomplishment of being a member of a society. Americans are perceived to be resolute, focus, proud, intelligent, aggressive and are always ready, willing to defend their nation. The presence of national character in a society makes it difficult for members of that society to work against their society. The Russians, British, Germans, Israelis and few military Arabic states are associated with such display of national character. The difference between national morale and character lies on attitude while morale talks about the confidence of the citizens on government policy and support. National character therefore is the belief that the society is a system and the citizens are part of the system, therefore national character makes citizens believe that anything that happens to the nation will have effect on them. It becomes imperative for citizens to protect their nation

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MILITARY CAPACITY

It may amount to over stating the obvious of the importance of the military of a nation. The arm forces are expected to protect the nation from internal and external aggression. The relative between military capacity and national power is easy to comprehend (understand) for a nation to effectively pursue its foreign policy objectives, it must possess formidable arm forces, for example the America invasion of Iraq in 1990 and 2003 its war against terrorism, it is based on the nation's military capacity. The quality and quantity of the arm forces are very important to strength of military. However it cost money to produce, purchase and upgrade military equipment and personnel. For example, the USA spent 682.478.000.000 us dollars in 2012 and spent 640 billion dollars in 2013.

Country	2012 dollars	2013 dollars
USA	682.478.000.000	640 BILLION
CHINA	116.107.000.000	188 BILLION
RUSSIA	90.749.000.000	87.800.000.000

In summary military expenditure should not be misunderstood for military capacity rather efficiency of any military is determined by three variables.

- TECHNOLOGY
- LEADERSHIP
- QUALITY OF ARMED FORCE

POPULATION

There is strength in number, the size of a country population should be an advantage in the international politics if well utilized, having a high population ensure a large workforce to keep the economy growing and also has the power to mobilized a large army, however the usefulness of the workforce whether civil or military, is mostly influence by the quality of the population, therefore it is not enough to have a large population but the quality of that population in terms of skill and knowledge makes the state powerful. The powerful influence of the developed state is due to high level of literate and skilled population, a huge

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population is also a potential market for investors, for investors would always want to avoid the population that is considered to be un-educated.

QUALITY OF DIPLOMACY

Diplomacy is traditionally presented as a technique of achieving foreign policy objective without going to war, rather through peaceful means. In fact the use of war to achieve any foreign policy objective is considered as the failure of diplomacy.

However, political realist would define diplomacy as the method by which government pursues its foreign policy.

External Determinant of foreign policy objectives, once a nation has accessed its capacities, it also needs to define its approach to international politics, in order to achieve its national objectives.

APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

However there are five approaches to inter-national politics NAMELY

- REALIST
- RADICAL
- IDEALIST
- BUREAUCRATIC
- SYSTEM

However we have discussed the idealist approaches, but just to add that idealist view politics as a game where rules are supposed to guide player. They believe that observer of the rules such as international laws and treaties that are capable of reducing conflicts in the world, while realist believe that rules can be broken, if need be as long, it satisfy national interest.

RADICAL APPROACH

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Those who advocate for this kind of approach view international politics as violent struggle between the forces of domination and autonomy (freedom). They therefore persist that foreign policy objectives must be designed to counter threats to national interest.

BUREAUCRATIC APPROACH

This holds that it is the selfish interest of government officials that often influences foreign policy objectives more than state interest system or national interest.

SYSTEM APPROACH

States in the international system are inter-dependent, therefore, the foreign policy of a state should complement rather than frustrate other states' foreign policy objectives.

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