

A Grand Strategy To Effect U.S. Foreign Policy

When the Cold War came to an end in the early 1990's, with no threatening enemy or enticing frontier to confront, the United States experienced a strategic disorientation during the Post-Cold War period. We lost our sense of strategic direction and balance. Instead of shaping events going into this century, we let events shape us. Lack of a well-defined grand strategy these past 20 years has led to a flawed approach to decision-making at the national level. An embarrassing strategic thinking deficiency has been the norm.

America needs to move to a new kind of strategic thinking, one that adapts to changing times and circumstances quicker; one that anticipates what lies ahead better. It should be based on our contemporary adversary-uncertainty. We must bring our available resources – political, economic, military and diplomatic – to bear on the “decisive point” when they can and should be deployed to confront an objective or adversary. Through the use of hard power, soft power and smart power, we must find the calculated means and ends while addressing the what and how of implementing an effective foreign policy.

This talk will outline the attributes and characteristics of an effective grand strategy. It will also propose a means for providing the President with visionary advice in making the important decisions on behalf of the Nation and the People.