

POLICING THE WORLD: AN OVERVIEW  
ACTIONS OF AGGRESSION BY THE UNITED STATES AROUND THE GLOBE  
DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Concepts:

<i>Police Action</i>	The use of force or threat of force to bring about compliance to some measurable objective (i.e., that reflects the interests of the United States)	
<i>U.S. Interests</i>	Objectives guided by policies which are determined by key decision makers (i.e., executives, diplomats, legislators, military leaders) and perceived to be advantageous for the people of the United States	
<i>Agents</i>	governmental military mercenaries	ambassadors, CIA, diplomats regular military, special forces, paramilitary United Nations forces, others
<i>Methods</i>	covert, overt	
<i>Rationale</i>	needs of United States needs of Allies, others needs in a particular region deteriorating situation	personal, institutional compelling, demonstrable balance of power, stability reactionary, unplanned
<i>Reactions</i>	cooperation, condemnation, resistance, retaliation direct, indirect	
<i>Results</i>	continuum—none, minimal, mild, medium, strong, severe, magnanimous better, worse, neither short term, long term country effects, regional effects, global effects	
<i>Costs</i>	to Americans, to others in life, in resources, in money	

History:<sup>1</sup>

Jimmy Years 77, Panama Canal treaty signed (Sep 7)  
78, Egypt/Israel Camp David Accords (Sep 17)  
78, Jonestown, Guiana mass suicide (Nov 18)  
79, Brezhnev/Carter sign SALT II (Jun 18)  
79, Shah of Iran and Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua flee revolutions, Iranian militants seize US Embassy in Teheran, taking 66 American hostages (Nov 4)  
80, Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, US embargo of grain and high tech exports to USSR, boycott of Olympics in Moscow  
80, Secret rescue mission for Iranian hostages fails, crash of US Navy helicopter kills eight (Apr 24)

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<sup>1</sup>*The New York Times Almanac 2000* (New York: Penguin, 1999). See too, Peter Huchthausen, *America's Splendid Little Wars: A Short History of U.S. Military Engagements, 1975-2000* (New York: Viking Penguin, 2003); and Max Boot, *The Savage Wars of Peace: Small Wars and the Rise of American Power* (New York: Basic Books, 2002). And, for the more recent "policing" in the Middle East by the U.S., see John Keegan, *The Iraq War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004); William R. Polk, *Understanding Iraq: The Whole Sweep of Iraqi History, from Genghis Khan's Mongols to the Ottoman Turks to the British Mandate to the American Occupation* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005); Anthony Shadid, *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2005); Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2004).

- Ronnie Years
- 81, US sends military advisors and aid to El Salvador
  - 82, Congress rejects nuclear freeze (Aug 5)
  - 83, US condemnation of Soviet downing of Korea jetliner that killed 269 people (Sep 1)
  - 83, US Marines join multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon, where terrorists kill 240 in suicide bombing (Oct 23)
  - 83, US invades Grenada to down Cuban-backed regime (Oct 25)
  - 83, Regan calls for funding of Strategic Defense Initiative, or “Star Wars”
  - 84, US Marines leave Lebanon (Feb 7)
  - 84, Congress censures President for misusing funds to mine Nicaraguan harbors
  - 85, Terrorists hijack TWA jetliner, kill one American hostage, then release rest in Beirut (Jun 30)
  - 85, Palestinian terrorists kill American hostage aboard hijacked Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* (Oct 9)
  - 85, Gorbachev/Reagan hold summit in Geneva (Nov 20)
  - 86, US Navy repels attack by Libyan forces during maneuvers in Gulf of Sidra (Mar 24)
  - 86, US retaliatory raids on Tripoli and Benghazi for terrorist attack on Americans in West Berlin disco (Apr 14)
  - 86, Gorbachev/Reagan summit in Reykjavik, Iceland (Oct 12)
  - 86, Iran-Contra scandal revealed (Nov 19)
  - 87, Iraqi warplane accidentally attacks *USS Stark* and kills 37 sailors (May 27)
  - 87, Gorbachev/Reagan summit in Washington produces agreement to dismantle medium-range missiles in Europe (Dec 8)
  - 88, US pressure on Manuel Noriega to step down plunges Panama into economic turmoil
  - 88, Iran lays mines in Persian Gulf, US Navy warships destroy two Iranian oil platforms and repel Iranian counterattacks (Apr 18)
  - 88, *USS Vincennes* accidentally shoots down Iranian passenger plane, killing 290 people (Jul 3)
  - 88, Pan Am Flight 103 downed by terrorist bomb near Lockerbie, Scotland, 270 killed (Dec 21)

NOTES:

David W Fletcher, February 2000 [footnote amended August 2013]

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Georgie Yrs. 89, Panama declares “state of war” with US, and US invades with 24,000 troops (Dec 20)  
90, Iraq invades Kuwait (Aug 2), and US responds with Operation Desert Shield  
91, US and Allied Forces quickly crush Iraq during Operation Desert Storm  
91, Bush/Gorbachev sign first nuclear arms reduction treaty (Jul 31)  
91, Soviet Union’s government and economy begin to crumble  
92, Bush/Yeltsin officially end Cold War (Feb 1)  
92, US commits 28,000 troops to protect delivery of supplies to war/famine ravaged Somalia (Dec 3)

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- Billy Years
- 93, More than 120 nations pledge to ban chemical weapons (Jan 13)
  - 93, World Trade Center in New York bombed, killing 7, injuring 1,000 (Feb 26)
  - 93, Twelve US soldiers killed and 78 wounded by Somali gunmen during UN operations in Mogadishu
  - 95, Bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City kills 169 (Apr 19)
  - 95, President announces full diplomatic recognition of Vietnam (Jul 11)
  - 95, About 20,000 US troops dispatched to Bosnia as part of international peacekeeping force to enforce Dayton peace agreements
  - 96, Truck bomb blows up US military housing complex in Saudi Arabia which kills 19 and wounds 300 (Jun 25)
  - 97, Clinton/Yeltsin meet in Helsinki about arms control agreement and possible Russian inclusion in NATO (Mar 20)
  - 97, First US Ambassador to Vietnam in 22 years arrives in Hanoi (May 9)
  - 98, NATO expanded to include Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic (Apr 30)
  - 98, Two bombs explode outside US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killing 190 and wounding nearly 5,000 (Aug 7)
  - 98, US deploys 75 cruise missiles on targets near Kabul in Afghanistan and in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, in retaliation for bombings of Embassies, seeking to destroy activities by terrorist fanatic Osama bin Laden
  - 99, US led NATO assault on selected targets in Belgrade and Serbia (Mar, Apr)

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