

**Enduring question:**

***How do we explain the foreign policy behavior of different states across the international system?***

1. The text offers an example (the Paris Climate Agreement) that shows how the study of international relations and the study of foreign policy are not identical. Can you think of another example and explain what students of international relations would focus on versus what students of foreign policy would focus on?
2. Compared to today, it used to be a more common view among some realist scholars that public opinion and foreign policy had little to do with each other. Can you think of examples of national elections in democratic countries in which foreign policy issues played a large role in the discourse and outcome?
3. Refer to Box 4.6 in the textbook, which discusses why the United States and European community imposed sanctions against South Africa in 1986. Which explanation(s) do you find the most compelling? Why do you think sanctions weren’t imposed much earlier?
4. Generally, a state attempts to bring about its foreign policy objectives using persuasive policy instruments and only turns to coercive means if persuasive means fail. Is a state ever justified in turning to coercive policy instruments? If so, when?
5. Do you think that domestic pressures outside of elections, such as interest groups and NGOs, should have a strong influence on foreign policy? If so, what sorts of pressures ought to have influence? If not, why not?
6. Do you think covert operations are inherently an act of war? Was the United States justified in entering Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden without alerting the Pakistani government? If these operations can be justified, what constitutes a just covert operation?
7. How much influence do you think the content from the foreign affairs media that you read, watch, or listen to has on your perception of foreign policy? Separately, how much do you think state-run media might affect an individual’s perception compared to free and independent media?
8. To what extent do you believe geography affects the foreign policy of your country? Discuss some examples of both real and potential cases in which geography had an impact on your country’s foreign policy, recently or historically.
9. Thinking in terms of the levels-of-analysis framework, explain some possible reasons why Iran continues to pursue its nuclear program.
10. Do you think the United Nations has a considerable impact on the foreign policy of most individual states? If so, what sort of impact? Do you think international institutions should have more of a role in determining foreign policy?