

American Exceptionalism and U. S. Foreign Policy

Purpose. The aim of this seminar is to examine the concept of American exceptionalism and to consider its implications for U. S. foreign policy. Throughout, we will examine the assigned readings to determine what they can tell us about the following:

- The image and role of America;
- The definition of U. S. national interests;
- The image of the world as viewed by Americans;
- The existing or proposed terms of the relationship between the United States and the rest of the world.

Readings for Monday:

John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630),
<http://www.kosmicki.com/234/cityhill.htm>

George Washington, "Farewell Address" (1797),
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/washing.htm>

John Quincy Adams, "Speech of July 4, 1821," excerpts,
<http://www.fff.org/freedom/1001e.asp>

John L. O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity" (1839), excerpts,
www.civics-online.org/library/formatted/texts/manifest_destiny.html

John L. O'Sullivan, "Annexation" (1845),
<http://web.grinnell.edu/courses/HIS/f01/HIS202-01/Documents/OSullivan.html>

Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" and "Second Inaugural"

Readings for Tuesday:

Albert Beveridge, "The March of the Flag" (1898),
http://douglassarchives.org/beve_a28.htm

Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" (1899),

Albert Beveridge, "In Support of an American Empire (1900),
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/ajb72.htm>

Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893),

<http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/primarysources/corporations/docs/turner.html>

Woodrow Wilson, "War Message" (April 2, 1917),
<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1917/wilswarm.html>

Henry Luce, "The American Century" *Life* (February 17, 1941)

Readings for Wednesday:

NSC 68: "United States Objectives and Programs for National Security"
(April 14, 1950)

Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History* (1952)

Readings for Thursday:

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American* (1955)

Jimmy Carter, "Malaise Speech" (July 15, 1979)

Readings for Friday:

George W. Bush, "Second Inaugural Address" (January 20, 2005).

Andrew J. Bacevich, *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* (2008)