



**American Foreign Policy
Where do they Stand?
OLLI Fall 2008
Beverly Crawford**



Today

- Introductions, expectations, and Organizational tasks
- Overview of the issues
- Some sources of policy choices
- A first stab at pigeon-holing the candidates

And if there's time.....

- Overview of foreign policy traditions


The Issues

McFoss
ROTHCO



Source: Ellis and Esler, *World History: Connections to Today*, Prentice Hall, 2001 (adapted)





The Issues: Questions we would like the candidates to answer

- Arms Race, proliferation and Arms Control
- Energy and the environment
- Terrorism
- Financial crisis
- Ethnic and sectarian conflict, human rights, Humanitarian intervention
- Iraq war
- Globalization
- Rise of China, Russia, India

How are Foreign Policy Positions on these issues determined?

Our judgment about what America's foreign policy is based on

- **How Dangerous we think the world is**
- what we believe America's "interests" in the world are:
The National Interest

Danger: It's an Anarchic World Out There

- **Anarchy is the**
- Lack of a central government—
- **insecurity** → **self help for survival**
- **amassing power**
- **military force**
- **others watch and feel insecure** → **build up their own power and force** → **security dilemma** → **war**

- Anarchy is the overarching feature of international politics which distinguishes it from domestic politics.
- But we can perceive anarchy as **strong** or **weak**





Strong Anarchy/Very Dangerous world

Fear-based foreign policy maxims:

1. Use Hard Power
2. Unilateralism
3. It's the capabilities stupid!
4. International Politics is a Zero-sum
5. Preemption!
6. Ignore "morality"

IT'S A DANGEROUS WORLD

Strong Anarchy

GROUPS LINKED TO AL-QAEDA

- AFGHANISTAN
 - Hizb-I-Islami
- ALGERIA
 - Armed Islamic Group (GIA)
 - Salafist Group for the Call and Combat (GSPC)
- CHECHNYA, RUSSIA
 - Islamic International Peacekeeping Brigade
 - Riyadus-Salikhin
 - Battalion of Chechen Martyrs
 - Special Purpose Islamic Regiment
- CHINA
 - Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)
- EGYPT
 - al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (IG)
 - al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
- LIBYA
 - Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
- LEBANON
 - Asbat al-Ansar



GROUPS LINKED TO AL-QAEDA

- MOROCCO
 - Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group
- PAKISTAN/KASHMIR
 - Harakat ul-Mujahidin
 - Jaish-e-Mohammed
 - Lashkar-e-Tayyib
 - al-Badr Movement
 - Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami
- PHILIPPINES
 - Abu Sayyaf Group
- SOUTH-EAST ASIA
 - Jemaah Islamiyah
 - Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia
- THE TUNISIAN COMBATANT GROUP
- UZBEKISTAN
 - Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
 - Islamic Army of Ad

Weak Anarchy: It's dangerous, but danger can be reduced

- Hope-based foreign policy maxims
- "the US should coordinate its power together with other countries according to shared ideas of what is best for the world as a whole."
coordination reduces danger.
- Multilateralism
- Soft Power
- http://www.americans-world.org/digest/overview/us_role/nat_interest.cfm

Compare these Beliefs

Fear-based foreign policy maxims:

1. **Unilateralism:** be **suspicious** of an increase in power by another country that could harm the U.S. --any country.
2. **Hard Power:** Be concerned with their capabilities not their intentions.

• Hope-based foreign policy maxims

1. **Multilateralism** "the US should **coordinate its power together** with other countries according to shared ideas of what is best for the world as a whole."
2. **Soft Power** —influence intentions

How are Foreign Policy Positions on these issues determined?

Our judgment about what America's foreign policy should be is based on

- How Dangerous we think the world is
- **what we believe America's "interests" in the world are: The National Interest**



What is the National Interest?

- self-interest should be the dominant motivation for state action.
- States regularly make distinctions between their own citizens and all others.
- Preservation of a nation's political autonomy and their territorial integrity.
- Pursuit of national power (hard and/or soft) and material well-being.

We can see our national interests as Broad or Narrow

- **Broad**
 - Spreading democracy
 - Prosperity through free trade
 - "the United States should use its power to make the world be the way that best serves US interests and values." (public opinion survey question)
 - Our power confers global responsibilities
- **Narrow**
 - Territorial integrity
 - Political autonomy
 - Prosperity at home—
build up American industry, protect American labor

Global Anarchy

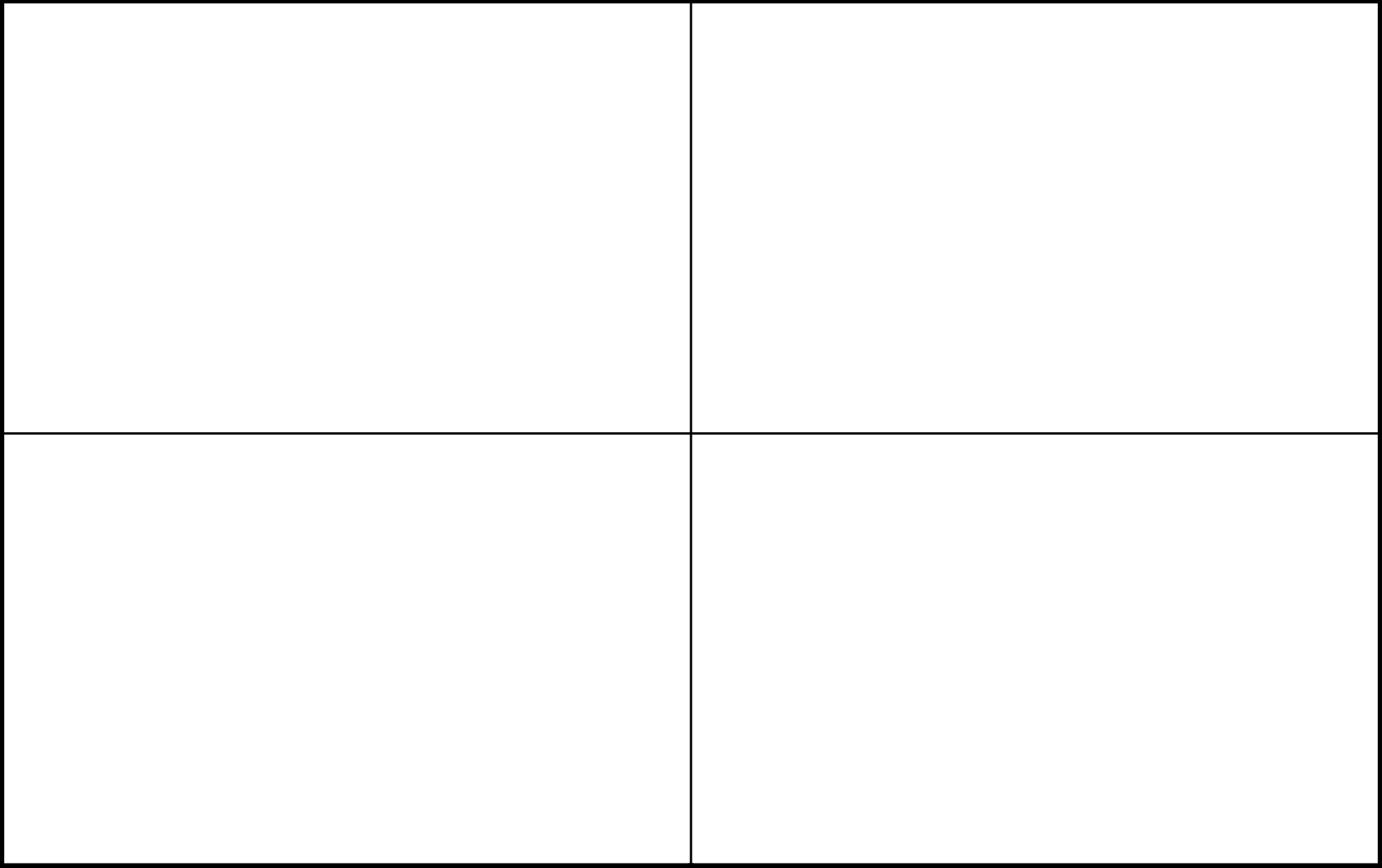
Strong

Weak

American Interests

Broad

Narrow



Global Anarchy

Strong

Weak

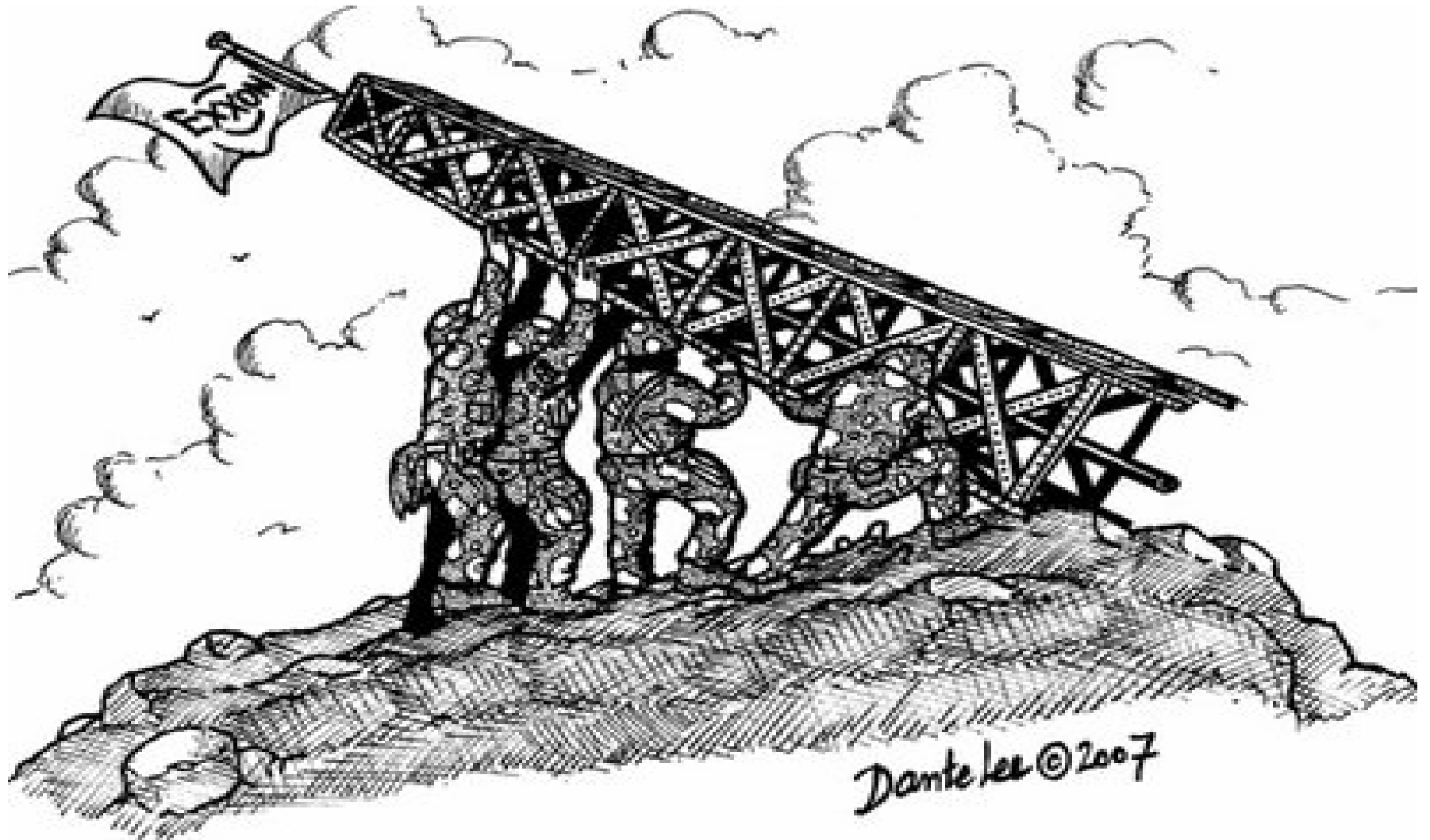
American Interests

Broad

Narrow

<ul style="list-style-type: none">•oppose immigration•Oppose “entangling alliances•Military for defense only—pull back troops•Economic self-sufficiency	

Broad economic interests/ Dangerous world



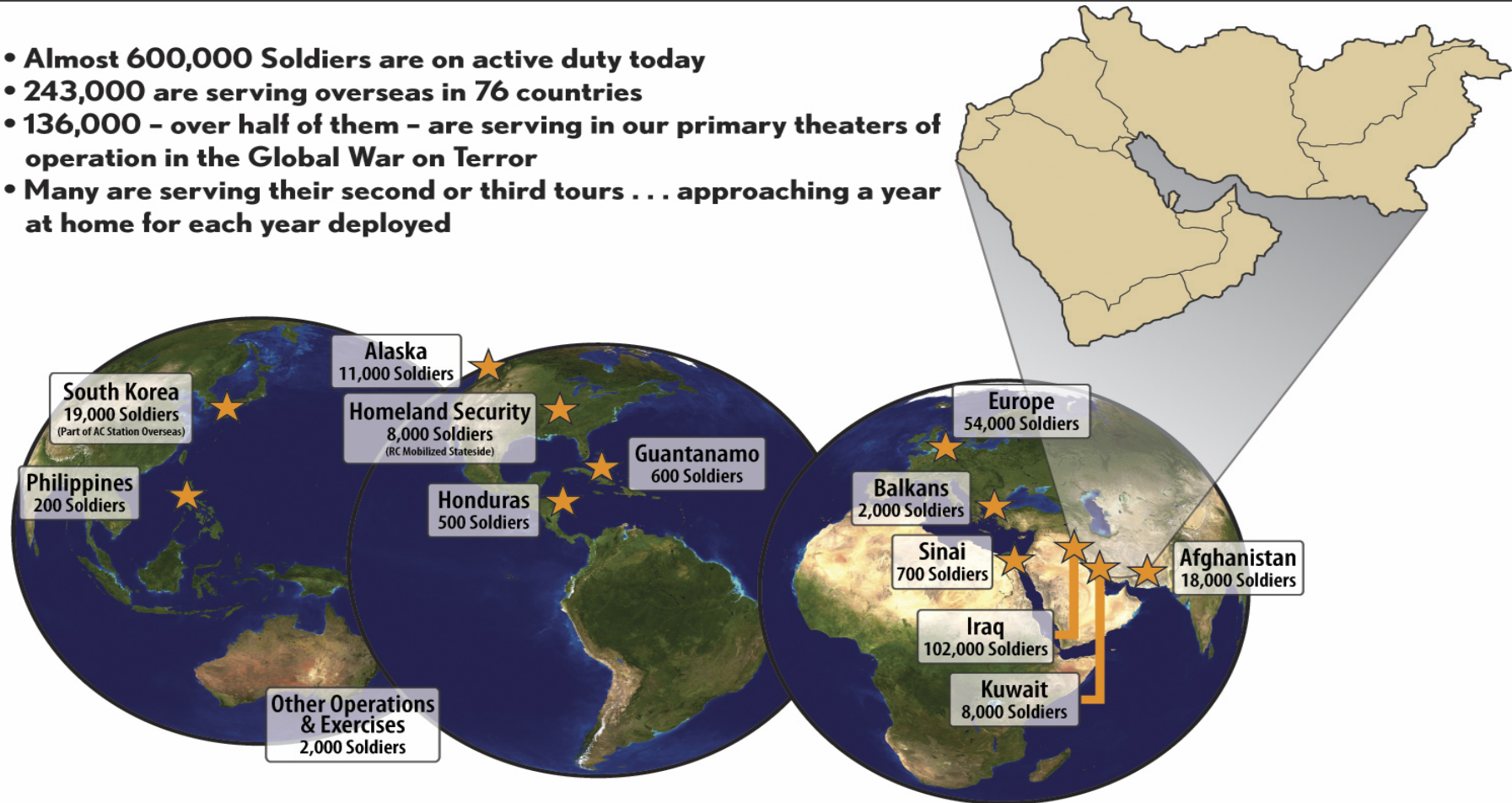
Broad interest in spreading American Values/ Dangerous world



Broad interests and Dangerous World

Army Global Commitments

- Almost 600,000 Soldiers are on active duty today
- 243,000 are serving overseas in 76 countries
- 136,000 - over half of them - are serving in our primary theaters of operation in the Global War on Terror
- Many are serving their second or third tours . . . approaching a year at home for each year deployed



As of 30 January 2007

Global Anarchy

Strong

Weak

American Interests

Broad

- Use military if necessary to protect American economic interests and spread democracy
- Act unilaterally—
- But.. If in an alliance, dominate it

Narrow

- oppose immigration
- Oppose “entangling alliances
- Military for defense only— pull back troops
- Economic self-sufficiency

Global Anarchy

Strong

Weak

American Interests

Broad

- Use military if necessary to protect American economic interests and spread democracy
- Act unilaterally—
- If in an alliance, dominate it

Narrow

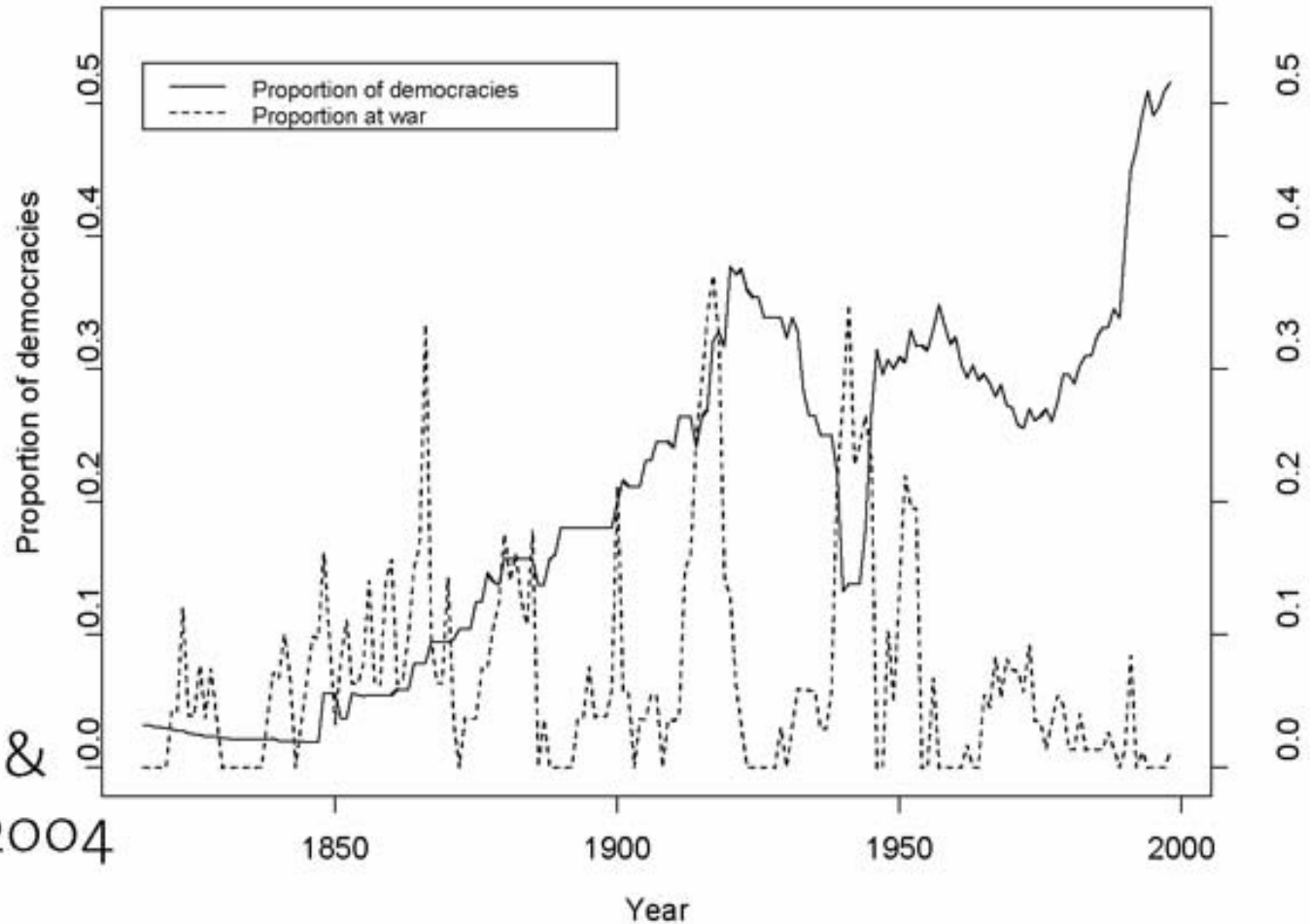
- oppose immigration
- Oppose “entangling alliances
- Military for defense only—pull back troops
- Economic self-sufficiency

- Independent Energy Policy**
- Strengthen domestic environmental legislation**
- Against “globalization”**
- Against NAFTA**
- Focus on Domestic Issues but....intervent to protect human rights**
- Cooperate when necessary with other states**

Broad Definition of Interests/ danger can be muted

- U.S. can spread its values through example,
- International cooperation—multilateral governance of globalization
- Free Trade
- Spreading democracy will bring peace and thus is in America's interest
- Alleviating global poverty will weaken threat of terrorism

Simulating global democratization



Source:
Cederman &
Gleditsch 2004

Global Anarchy

Strong

Weak

American Interests

Broad

- Use military if necessary to protect American economic interests and spread democracy
- Act unilaterally—
- If in an alliance, dominate it

- Govern globalization
- Alleviate global poverty
- Peaceful spread of democracy

Narrow

- oppose immigration
- Oppose “entangling alliances”
- Military for defense only—pull back troops
- Economic self-sufficiency

- Independent Energy Policy
- Strengthen domestic environmental legislation
- Against “globalization”
- Against NAFTA
- Focus on Domestic Issues but....intervene to protect human rights
- Cooperate when necessary with other states

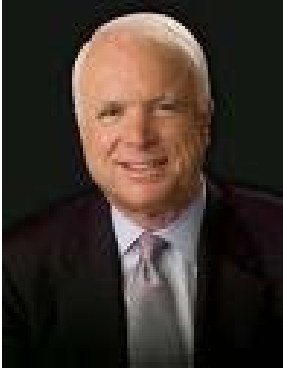
Global Anarchy

Strong (fear based)

Weak (hope based)

American Interests

Broad



Narrow

