Hegemony

• With Cold War “victory,” U.S. is sole superpower
  • Most powerful nation (militarily/economically/socially relative to others) since ancient Rome.
  • Extraordinary opportunity, but ...
    • What to do with this power?
  • Since the early 1990s, the U.S. has been in a search for a new identity/mission.
    • Uncertainty about U.S. objectives has been destabilizing for other countries.
The (first) Iraq War

- Context and background:
  - Iraq
  - U.S.
  - Soviet Union/Russia
  - China
  - Rest of World (ROW)
The (first) Iraq War, II

- Prosecution of the War
  - U.S. Strategy
  - Iraqi Strategy
- Aftermath
  - Partial re-organization of Iraq
  - De-stabilization of “triad” of enemy powers
  - Israel
Uncertain Hegemon

- Finding an identity (in a post-communist world):
  - “Thousand Points of Light”
  - Tensions over the lack of tensions in Europe
    - NATO “enemy” crisis and the WEU
    - Bosnia/Kosovo
  - Asia without a crisis
    - Wandering Allies (S. Korea and Japan)
    - China’s response to (first) Iraq war
Reluctant Sheriff

• The end to animosity (at least against the U.S.)
  • Moderation of policies by Cuba, Libya
• “Little” problems, uncertain U.S. responses
  • Dayton (former Yugoslavia)
• Rwanda
• Somalia
A (Negative) Identity

- 911 (as a pretext): the war on terror
  - Afghanistan (lost opportunities)
- The conquest of Iraq
  - War plan
  - Post-war plan
  - Strategic purpose
  - Legacy