

**AMERICAN POWER AND THE LEGACY OF THE GREATEST  
GENERATION**  
**THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY OF HOW WE USED IT DURING THE  
“AMERICAN CENTURY”**

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**Course Description:** U.S. global influence is advanced by foreign policy decisions and interventions to accrue allies and partners and stymie adversaries. Constructive foreign policy utilizes diplomacy, trade, intelligence, foreign aid, and global environmental cooperation. The US military has been used (and at times misused) throughout the last 75 years along with our covert paramilitary forces to bend other nations to our will. The course will review some of the previous material involving the structure and cost of the military (with a deeper dive), assess where foreign policy and military action intersect or overlap, and evaluate return on investment from some of these interventions – both successful and unsuccessful. We will review case studies of American military use – overt and covert interventions which resulted in both foreign policy wins and losses. Then a look at the most dangerous friction zones on the planet that could start a global conflagration, and how I anticipate future wars might be conducted.

**Course Director:** Dr. Michael Baker has practiced general surgery and trauma for more than 40 years. He also had a parallel career in the military and teaches combat casualty care, triage, trauma, and response to complex disasters and humanitarian emergencies. He has published over 60 peer reviewed articles, and lectures on strategy, global health, medical intelligence, world events -- and serves on the Board of the World Affairs Council of Northern California. As a Navy Officer, he has experience in operational medicine, overseas deployments, war gaming, and strategic planning. He worked on contingency planning for various potential theaters of conflict including the Persian Gulf area as Naval Forces Central Command Medical Officer, plans and exercises for potential events in Korea / Asia as the Commander of US Naval Medical Forces Korea and Deputy Surgeon for U.S. Pacific Fleet, and served at US Strategic Command – America’s nuclear deterrent force. He served his country in uniform for 30 years and retired with the rank of Rear Admiral, and on retirement was awarded his 3rd Legion of Merit, which he proudly wears alongside his Marine Corps Combat Action ribbon and the Combat Craft Riverine Warfare pin with his other awards.

Using his experience in both careers, he will inform the students about US foreign policy and the use and misuse of the military and other agencies that conduct “interventions” in other countries, to show where the U.S. have had good and bad results in spending the Legacy of the Greatest Generation.

**AMERICA IS THE SOLE SUPER POWER AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II**

- a. Peace Dividend
- b. U.S. Establishes Global Norms - Promotes Stability + Peace

- c. Rebuilds Europe And Asia To Prevent Communism
- d. UN, IMF, NATO, WHO
- II. INTO THE 1950'S -- SOFT POWER VS HARD POWER ... and COVERT POWER**
  - a. Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, and influence operations
  - b. Operation Ajax, Operation PBS Success, and the Bay of Pigs fiasco
- III. AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND MILITARY – the full spectrum of operations**
  - a. Review the structure of State Department and Department of Defense
  - b. A closer look at Facilities, Personnel, and costs
  - c. Combat, Deterrence, Stability Operations – Peacekeeping + Nation Building, HADR – Humanitarian Aid And Disaster Relief
- IV. GETTING IT RIGHT AND GETTING IT WRONG**
  - a. Getting it right: Ebola response, Fukushima, Colombia, Desert Storm
  - b. Getting it wrong: Somalia, Rwanda, Syria, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq
- V. CURRENT GLOBAL THREATS AND ZONES OF FRICTION**
  - a. The top 10 current threats to global safety and security
- VI. FUTURE WARS AND FUTURE WARFARE**
  - a. **Biologic**
  - b. **Cyberwar**
  - c. **Robots and AI**

## SUGGESTED READING

### IRAN COUP

All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror by Stephen Kinzer

Countercoup: The Struggle for the Control of Iran by Kermit Roosevelt Jr.

CIA Confirms Role in 1953 Iran Coup <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB435/>

64 Years Later, CIA Finally Releases Details of Iranian Coup <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/20/64-years-later-cia-finally-releases-details-of-iranian-coup-iran-tehran-oil/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953\\_Iranian\\_coup\\_d%27%C3%A9tat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953_Iranian_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat)

Prime Minister Mossadegh and Ayatullah Kashani from Unity to Enmity: As Viewed from the American Embassy in Tehran, June 1950-August 1953 <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a239339.pdf>

<https://archive.org/details/allshahsmena00kinz>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/20/cia-iran-coup-documents-acknowledges-classified/2675911/>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/08/19/cia-admits-it-was-behind-irans-coup/>

U.S. Perceptions of the Communist Threat in Iran during the Mossadegh Era

[https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/jcws\\_a\\_00898](https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/jcws_a_00898)

### GUATEMALA COUP

Congress, the CIA, and Guatemala, 1954 <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/kent-csi/vol44no5/html/v44i5a03p.htm>

### BAY OF PIGS FIASCO

Howard Hunt

<https://web.archive.org/web/20071106000444/http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/episodes/18/interviews/hunt/>

Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Alabama Air National Guard

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2134>

The Bay of Pigs Invasion and its Aftermath, April 1961–October 1962

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs>

A Crime So Immense by James K. Galbraith

<https://web.archive.org/web/20060904201459/http://utip.gov.utexas.edu/jg/archive/2000/crimesoimmense.pdf>

Idealism and pragmatism in American foreign policy rhetoric: The case of John F. Kennedy and Vietnam

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/goldzweig.htm>

Foreign aid <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R46367.pdf>

School of the Americas McSherry, J. Patrice. (2012). Predatory States. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. ISBN 978-1283599610. OCLC 817812594.

Congressional Brief SOA <https://fas.org/irp/crs/soa.htm>

Exercise of Power: American Failures, Successes, and a New Path Forward in the Post-Cold War World,  
by Robert Gates

### **Future Warfare**

<https://listverse.com/2016/08/26/10-horrifying-future-wars-we-will-live-to-see/>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/us-military-is-preparing-for-new-wars-china-russia/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOTYgcdNrXE>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/01/12-depressing-previews-of-americas-next-war/>

<https://www.darpa.mil/about-us/about-darpa>

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2019/09/13/future-wars-will-be-won-with-open-mission-systems/>

**A Novel of the Next World War 2034** - Ackerman and Stavridis

### **THE SOLE SUPERPOWER**

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/new-global-power-after-world-war-ii-1945>