

## **THE STRUCTURE OF SECURITY STATECRAFT OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**

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### **Abstract**

*The security landscape in the 21st century is characterized by multifaceted challenges, ranging from traditional military threats to cyber warfare, climate change, and pandemics. Using the secondary research approach and a descriptive research, findings show that President Joe Biden's administration faced multifaceted challenges, necessitating a comprehensive approach to national security. The security statecraft of the United States plays a pivotal role in shaping global dynamics. President Joe Biden's approach to security statecraft reflects a nuanced understanding of these complexities. Under President Joe Biden, the United States has pursued its essential interests and navigate the complicated global terrain according to a crucial framework of their National Security Strategy. Biden security statecraft emphasizes diplomacy, alliances, and multilateral cooperation. This research delves into key aspects of Biden's security strategy, including alliances, technology, global leadership, and the impact of geopolitical tensions. By analyzing policy decisions and their implications, the paper explores how the Biden administration navigates the evolving security environment.*

**Keywords:** security; statecraft; National Security; security Strategy, Security Statecraft  
Introduction

President Joe Biden assumed office in January 2021, inheriting a world marked by geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, and transnational threats. President Biden assumed office during a period of heightened geopolitical tensions. Biden security statecraft emphasizes diplomacy, alliances, and multilateral cooperation. President Biden's administration aims to strike a balance between cooperation and competition, ensuring a secure and prosperous world. His security statecraft aims to address both immediate threats and long-term strategic interests which includes, the **Rebuilding Alliances** Biden emphasizes revitalizing traditional alliances (such as NATO) and forging new partnerships to counter shared challenges using a collective security approach in which the administration seeks collective responses to regional and global security issues, promoting stability and cooperation. Biden also recognizes the significance of cyber threats and invests in bolstering cybersecurity capabilities, while balancing innovation with security concerns, the administration navigates the impact of technologies like AI, quantum computing, and 5G. Biden's commitment to addressing climate change extends to its security implications. Knowing that environmental degradation can exacerbate conflicts and instability, the

administration confronts strategic competitors while seeking areas of cooperation. Managing tensions with China and addressing Russia's assertiveness are key priorities (Hoffman, 2012).

## **Literature Review**

Under President Joe Biden, the United States will pursue its fundamental interests and negotiate the complicated global terrain according to a crucial framework called the National Security Strategy. The National Security Strategy, which included important priorities and strategies, was released by the Biden-Harris administration (The American Presidency Project, 2023). This strategic framework clarifies how the US tries to navigate the complexities of the global environment while defending its interests. The Biden administration has released several key policy documents that shed light on its strategic thinking and approach to global security. Notable points from these documents are as follows;

**National Security Strategy (NSS):** President Joe Biden's National Security Strategy (NSS) for the United States lays out the administration's strategic vision for defending American interests in a complex international context and offers direction on how the country will handle opportunities, dangers, and difficulties, such as competition among great powers (The American Presidency Project, 2023). To keep its position as the world's leader, the United States has developed a competitive strategy. The National Defense Plan (NDS), which emphasizes great power competition, especially with China and Russia, is one component of this strategy. Major world powers that vie for supremacy in a variety of areas, such as trade, technology, military might, and ideological sway, include the United States, China, and Russia. Each has a unique effect in the geopolitical, economic, and military spheres. A country uses its national strength across a variety of aspects, including military power, economic power, diplomatic power, informational power, cultural power, technological power, human power, and geopolitical positions, in order to outcompete other great powers (National Security Strategy, 2022). Released on October 12, 2022, the NSS emphasizes the United States' leadership role and strengthening of alliances, it had an unprecedented focus on the threat posed by the **People's Republic of China** and labels China as "America's most consequential geopolitical challenge" (Noor, 2022). The NSS's main goal is to "outcompete" Beijing in terms of regional and global goals. ("Outcompeting Beijing: A Roadmap For Meeting China's Commercial Challenges. The Biden administration views Russia as a secondary threat that needs to be constrained (Noor, 2022). The document has an Indo-Pacific Focus to address China's rise and ensuring regional stability.

**Nuclear Posture Review (NPR):** Contrary to Biden's election promises, the 2022 NPR enhances the centrality of nuclear weapons in U.S. Security Policy (Noor, 2022). Evolving threats from adversaries have shifted the focus on the usability of nuclear weapons. This shift may create an acute security dilemma in China and Russia, impacting their capabilities (Noor, 2002).

**Missile Defense Review (MDR):** This document was released alongside the NPR to address missile defense capabilities and threats and reflects the administration's strategic vision and priorities (Staff, 2022).

**U.S. “Pivot to Asia”:** This began during the Obama administration due to China’s rise. Under the Biden administration, China has replaced Russia as a primary competitor. The new policy line doubles down on labeling China as a significant challenge (Noor, 2022) Notably, the Biden administration has labeled China as “America’s most consequential geopolitical challenge.” The focus on China is reflected in the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review, which emphasize the centrality of nuclear weapons in U.S. security policy. This shift may create security dilemmas for China and Russia (Staff, 2022).

**Africa Focus:** The Biden administration aims to enhance U.S.-Africa partnerships by prioritising and addressing climate change, pandemic preparedness, violent extremism, terrorism, and global health (*Biden’s National Security Strategy, 2022*).

**Approach to security policymaking, as outlined by the Biden administration (House, 2023):**

1. **Leveraging National Power Effectively:** The Biden administration recognizes the importance of leveraging all elements of national power to address security challenges. This includes not only military strength but also economic, technological, and diplomatic capabilities. By effectively harnessing these resources, the U.S. aims to protect its interests and maintain stability globally (House, 2023).
2. **Collaborating with Allies and Addressing Shared Challenges:** The administration places significant emphasis on alliances and partnerships. Strengthening existing alliances (such as NATO) and building new ones is crucial. Collective efforts are essential to tackle shared challenges like terrorism, cyber threats, and climate change. Diplomatic engagement and cooperation with other nations play a pivotal role in addressing global security issues(House, 2023).
3. **Shaping International Norms and Rules:** The U.S. seeks to influence international norms and rules through active participation in multilateral forums. By shaping norms, the administration aims to promote stability, human rights, and adherence to international law. This involves advocating for responsible behavior by state and non-state actors. The U.S. also works to prevent the erosion of established norms, such as those related to nuclear non-proliferation and arms control (House, 2023).

**Strategic Clarity**

President Biden’s security strategy emphasizes collaboration, effective use of national power, and active engagement in shaping global norms and rules. These principles guide the administration’s approach to safeguarding U.S. interests and maintaining international security. Biden’s administration emphasizes strategic clarity. Clear priorities and objectives guide decisionmaking. The first 100 days of Biden presidency demonstrate strategic acumen (Gvosdev, 2022).

## **Ethical Consideration**

Ethical considerations are crucial in statecraft, especially when handling challenging international situations. The Biden administration must balance strategic and ethical considerations while resolving these conflicts in order to find solutions that advance both security and humanity. Biden's security statecraft is beset by moral conundrums (Gvosdev, 2022). This conundrum consists of

- a. **Climate Change:** The challenge lies in harmonizing national security interests with the urgent need for environmental protection. Climate change impacts can exacerbate conflicts, migration, and resource scarcity. Striking the right balance requires policies that mitigate climate risks while safeguarding national security (Pike, 2019).
- b. **Pandemic Response: Global Coordination:** The pandemic transcends borders, necessitating international collaboration. Ethical dilemmas arise in distributing vaccines, sharing medical knowledge, and ensuring equitable access. Balancing national interests with global health imperatives is a delicate task (Pike, 2019).
- c. **China-U.S. Relations: Economic, Technological, and Geopolitical Competition:** The U.S. faces ethical choices in managing its relationship with China. Striving for economic prosperity, technological leadership, and geopolitical influence while respecting human rights and democratic values is a tightrope walk.
- d. We must remember that statecraft, at its core, involves making decisions that impact lives, nations, and the world—decisions that resonate far beyond political boundaries *Statecraft, Strategy, and Ethics* (Hoffman, 2022).

## **Theoretical framework**

President Biden's security statecraft combines realism, constructivism and complex interdependence theories.

**Realism:** Realism emphasizes the pursuit of power as a central objective for states. Biden's administration recognizes the importance of maintaining U.S. power and influence on the global stage. Actions such as rebuilding alliances, investing in military capabilities, and countering potential threats align with realist power dynamics. Realists argue that states act primarily to safeguard their own interests. Biden's policies reflect this by prioritizing domestic concerns—such as economic recovery, infrastructure investment, and healthcare—while also addressing international challenges. The withdrawal from Afghanistan, for instance, was driven by a reassessment of national interests. Realism acknowledges that states are rational actors seeking survival and security. Biden's approach to foreign policy reflects this pragmatism. For instance, engaging with China involves a mix of competition and cooperation, recognizing the need to manage a rising power while safeguarding U.S. interests. However, realism is not the sole lens through which statecraft operates. Ethical considerations, humanitarian concerns, and multilateral cooperation also shape policy decisions. Balancing realist imperatives with moral values remains a delicate task for any administration. Biden's challenge lies in navigating this complex landscape while safeguarding both national interests and global stability (Hoffman, 2022).

**Constructivism** theory sheds light on how norms, identity, and social context influence security decisions. Constructivists argue that norms shared expectations and rules shape state behavior. These norms emerge from interactions among states, international organizations, and non-state actors. This includes the Humanitarian Norms, which is the responsibility to Protect (R2P) that influences decisions on intervention in cases of mass atrocities, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Norms on agreements like the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that guide states' nuclear policies and the Norms Against Torture where states adherence to or violation of anti-torture norms reflects their identity and commitment to human rights. Constructivists emphasize that states identify how they perceive themselves and others and this shape their security choices. A State identity is not fixed; it evolves through interactions (Cohen, 2022). A state's self-image influences its security priorities. A pacifist nation may prioritize diplomacy over military force. (Hoffmann, 2010). Constructivism highlights the importance of social interactions. States learn from each other, adapt practices, and internalize norms. States learn norms through diplomatic exchanges, international institutions, and cultural ties. In practice, constructivism challenges realist assumptions. It emphasizes that security decisions are not solely driven by material power but also by ideas, beliefs, and shared meanings. Biden's administration, like any other, navigates this intricate interplay of norms, identity, and context when formulating security policies (Cohen, 2022).

**Complex interdependence** is a concept that underscores the intricate connections between various global issues and the necessity for cooperation. Complex interdependence recognizes that challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and economic shifts are interconnected. Biden's administration acknowledges that addressing these issues requires holistic approaches that transcend traditional boundaries. For instance, climate change impacts security by exacerbating resource scarcity, migration, and conflicts. Biden's commitment to rejoining the Paris Agreement and promoting clean energy reflects this interconnectedness. Rather than relying solely on military power, Biden emphasizes cooperation, strengthening alliances, engaging in multilateral diplomacy, and collaborating on global challenges are central to his approach. The interconnected nature of threats demands resilience. Investments in domestic infrastructure, healthcare, and technology bolster America's ability to navigate complex interdependencies (Pike, 2019). Biden's administration bridges the gap between domestic and foreign policy, recognizing that strength at home and abroad are intertwined, they prioritize investments that enhance competitiveness and resilience. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) reviews evolving national security risks, ensuring that America's edge remains intact (House, 2022). Biden's security policy aligns with the idea of complex interdependence by emphasizing cooperation, resilience, and holistic solutions to interconnected global challenges (Pike, 2019).

## **Findings and Discussion**

The National Security Strategy of the Biden-Harris administration evaluates the nation's strategic objectives and sheds light on the administration's statecraft ethics. It covers important topics like the pandemic, competition with China, climate change, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The geopolitical agenda for the 2020s revolves around these issues. The strategy emphasizes the

requirement of responsible and moral statecraft while attempting to strike a balance between national security interests and ethical considerations. The competition with China has brought nuclear weapons back into the spotlight, but this lessens the chance of arms control negotiations and increases the risk of nuclear use. The challenging job of overseeing nuclear deterrence while preventing escalation falls to the Biden administration. The Ukrainian crisis of 2022 serves as a reminder of how crucial it is to replace grand strategy with statecraft. Even though, China is the main rival of the United States, as the Biden administration properly noted, many were taken aback by Putin's decision to invade Ukraine, underscoring the necessity of quick and efficient statecraft.

### **Conclusion**

Realistic thinking, constructivism, intricate interdependence, ethics, and strategic vision are all combined in President Biden's security statecraft. His administration will adjust to new problems as the geopolitical environment changes. For a safe and prosperous future, scholars and decisionmakers need to keep examining and critiquing these tactics. The strategic reviews that President Biden has conducted emphasize competitiveness and have wide-ranging effects on international security. Strategic clarity is emphasized by the Biden administration. Decisions are made with specific priorities and goals in mind. His first 100 days as president show a keen sense of strategy.

Not everyone, though, is in favor of Biden's strategy. Critics contend that worries over Russia's ties to China and Iran have jeopardized US security. These discussions highlight how difficult security statecraft is. In order to navigate complex global difficulties while upholding ethical ideals, Joe Biden practices security statecraft. The National Security Strategy provides direction, but wise diplomacy and strategic insight are needed to make actual decisions. In conclusion, the United States, under President Biden's direction, aims to strengthen the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. security policy, strike a balance between cooperation and competition, solve moral conundrums, and create a safe and prosperous world via strategic statecraft with China.

### **Recommendations**

The following are the recommendations for better implementation of the security strategy of the United States of America:

1. Modernize and strengthen the military to ensure it is equipped for the era of strategic competition by implementing a modern industrial and innovation strategy to maintain a competitive edge while investing recognizing that human capital is a critical effort and invest in people.
2. Building Strong Coalitions by cooperating with other nations to address shared challenges by building the strongest possible coalition to enhances collective influence and shapes the global strategic environment. Transformative cooperation with allies and partners is essential.
3. Out-Competing China Prioritize efforts to out-compete China in areas such as technology, economic influence, and climate action and Constraining Russia by addressing Russia's actions through a combination of deterrence, diplomacy, and cooperation.

4. Energy security is crucial for national resilience and stability. So, the US needs to Combat climate change by investing in clean energy, promoting sustainable practices, and collaborating globally.
5. Collaborate with international partners to prevent and mitigate biological threats by strengthen global health security by enhancing pandemic preparedness and response.
6. Uphold human rights and democratic values by strengthen democracy home and abroad. These recommendations are part of a comprehensive strategy, and their successful implementation requires agile diplomacy, strategic foresight, and ethical statecraft.

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