

PROVIDE FOR A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE WITH PRUDENT FOREIGN POLICY

Ensure Alliance Commitments Advance Vital U.S. Interests

America should cultivate alliances when they directly advance U.S. security; it should not pursue them merely out of an abstract commitment to partnership. The United States should maintain friendly relations with its allies and partners, while recognizing where U.S. interests do and do not overlap.

THE ISSUE The United States has treaty commitments to defend a quarter of the world's nations—over [1.4 billion people](#). Growing constraints at home and abroad will bring U.S. commitments increasingly out of balance with U.S. capabilities if America seeks to continue shouldering the main security burden across the Middle East, Europe, and Asia all at once.

POLICY SOLUTIONS Instead of trying and failing to do everything at once, U.S. foreign policy should prioritize America's most formidable threats to its vital interests. As this readjustment unfolds, capable U.S. allies should take greater responsibility for their regional security.

BURDEN-SHIFTING IN EUROPE

NATO-Europe is wealthy enough to take primary responsibility for its own regional security, but a large regional U.S. military footprint undermines its will to do so. A more capable Europe would benefit both sides of the Atlantic: European allies would be more secure regardless of U.S. obligations elsewhere, and America would be better positioned to prioritize greater challenges in Asia.

- The president should redeploy the 20,000 additional U.S. troops sent to Europe in 2022.
- The president should further draw down U.S. forces in Europe through 2028, [transitioning the U.S. role](#) in NATO from frontline defense to logistical support.
- To encourage greater European leadership in NATO, the United States should support a European general officer as the next Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), the commander of NATO forces. 20 successive Americans have filled the post since NATO formed.
- Congress should support NATO burden-shifting by rejecting any proposals to restrict the president's ability to redeploy troops from Europe.

AVOID THE RISKS OF PERMANENT NEW SECURITY COMMITMENTS

U.S. forces have too many missions for their available personnel and munitions stockpiles. The United States needs to avoid further overextending itself with new security commitments.

- The president and Congress should reject risky new additions to NATO, such as Ukraine or Georgia, which would overstretch the alliance and permanently increase the risk of war with a nuclear-armed adversary.
- Policymakers should reject attempts by Saudi Arabia to extract U.S. security guarantees in exchange for normalizing relations with Israel. Saudi Arabia already has an interest in greater cooperation with Israel against Iran, regardless of whether the United States promises to fight on its behalf.