### Abstract

Much discussion has been introduced about where the role of American foreign policy and ideological thinking will fit in the realm of the international domain in the 21st century. Since the end of the Cold War, the concrete notion of an enemy is no longer there and the realist thought that dominated American foreign policy for some forty years is now seemingly giving way to liberalist ideology. Critics have therefore described the end of the Cold War as the triumph of democratic liberalist ideas. However, the end of the Cold War is not a viable reason to assume that realist thinking then is completely replaced by liberalist thinking. Subscribing to accept one sole theory to explain, “why states act the way they do” is not a conducive means for the current study of international relations.

Thus, the thesis examines the argument of a blend of realist and liberalist elements in foreign policymaking by highlighting the key merits of realism and liberalism and examining the formulation of American foreign policy and foreign policy in general. To further support the blend of realist and liberalist elements is a brief investigation of U.S. foreign policy before the 1990’s and afterwards to demonstrate that although the Clinton administration initiated liberal programs, realist motives for liberalist ideals are prominent in Clinton’s policies directed towards the Baltic States. The Joint Baltic American National Committee and the Northern Europe Initiative policy further solidify this notion of realist motives for liberalist ideals.

### Keywords

- U.S.A. - Foreign Policy
- realism
- liberalism
- Baltic states