



NATIONAL INTEREST

OBJECTIVE OF FOREIGN POLICY

I. Introduction



**Henry John Temple Viscount
Lord Palmerston** (1784-1865,
Foreign Secretary and Prime
Minister under Queen
Victoria)

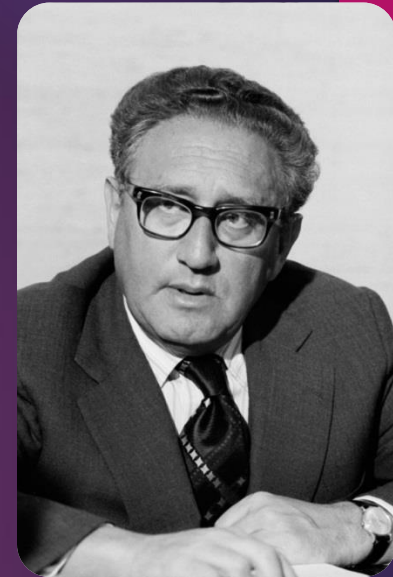
“We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow...”

(Speech to the House of Commons on 1st March 1848, available at <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1848/mar/01/treaty-of-adrianople-charges-against>).

I. Introduction

“When you're asking Americans to die, you have to be able to explain it *in terms of the national interest*”

(USA Today, November 22, 1995, as quoted in Jutta Weldes, Constructing National Interests. European Journal of International Relations 1996; 2; p. 276)



(Henry Kissinger, 1923-, US diplomat, political scientist, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, National Security Advisor and later concurrently Secretary of State of Presidents Nixon and Ford)



NATIONAL INTEREST

DEFINITION

National Interests in International Relations

- ▶ Security/Defense of the Homeland
 - ▶ Territorial Integrity: Protection against attack on the territory and people of a nation-state in order to ensure survival with fundamental values and political systems intact
- ▶ Economic Prosperity/National Well-Being
 - ▶ Attainment of conditions in the international environment that insure the economic well-being of the nation
- ▶ Prestige/Promotion of Values
 - ▶ Establishment of the legitimacy of or the expansion of the fundamental values of the nation such as free trade, human rights, and democracy

National Interests

- ▶ Maintaining and Expanding of Power
- ▶ Favorable World Order/Ideology
 - ▶ Those end states that promote conditions favorable to the values and fundamental purposes of the nation, such as stability and democratic governments
- ▶ Moral and Legal Norms