

## Comparative Analysis of US Presidents' Barak Obama and Donald Trump Foreign Policies

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**Abstract** *The policies formed by US leadership play a vital role in establishing US hegemony all over the world. The foreign policy of a state made according to the national interest. A rational decision of a leader plays a vital role in the effectiveness of the foreign policy. The challenges faced by Barack Obama in 2008 were somehow different from the challenges faced by Trump in 2016. The comparative analysis of both foreign policies would make it easy to determine the right and wrong decision taken by both leaders. The changing circumstances of the world would be identified through this research paper. The world is moving towards multipolarity, and somehow the decisions taken by Trump after his incumbent of office had the worst impact on US foreign policy because Trump was trying to isolate the US from world affairs, including trade and security.*

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### Introduction

The foreign policy of a state change with the change in its national interest, similarly the foreign policy of the US changes with the changed circumstances. The US having two-party systems with two different ideologies made a variation in its foreign policy with the changing scenario of the world. The foreign policy of a state is defined as the relations of the state with the other state to pursue its national interest; it includes the state integrity, border security, economic progress and response to any environmental change. The foreign policy of a state is actually the reflection of its domestic policy. The rational decision of the leader of the state would change the destiny of the state, but opposite to this, any fault in the foreign policy may lead to the downfall of the state. The US, after its independence, has brought a view towards the outside world and remain mainly active before and after World War II in international affairs. The US advocated democracy and peace in the world and established diplomatic relations with states to promote trade and financial development.

US foreign policy has a great historical perspective; after World War II, US policymakers decided to shift towards promoting peace in the world. The US formed a new world order which is designed to prevent wars in the world; for this purpose, it formed organizations like United Nations. The US also enhanced diplomatic relations with states and flourished the idea of capitalism, liberalism, and democracy. In the 1990s, US foreign policy remained successful with the end of the bipolar world. US enjoyed worldwide stability, economic growth, and a powerful military under president George H.W Bush. The US remained successful in pushing Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait and also in small military engagements in Serbia and Bosnia. It was a peaceful period for US and the policy makers consider it the end of history and that US will remain superpower forever ([Congressional Research Services 16 Dec, 2020](#)).

But the incident of 9/11 threatened US security and changed the US foreign policy adjectives. New threats emerged in the form of Al-Qaeda, Taliban and many other terrorist

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groups, which increased the US engagement in the Middle East and Afghanistan. The continuous involvement of the US in two decades-long war in Afghanistan diverted policy makers from the path of policy formulation for economic growth and peaceful role in the global world order.

In 2008, when Barack Obama took the charge of President Office, US government was facing huge financial crises, especially due to the engagement of previous government of George W. Bush in War on Terror in Afghanistan, Iraq war and in many other projects relating to security and defense of the region. US lost trillions of dollars due to military expenditures in Afghanistan and Iraq. The relations with many of its allies like Pakistan were lacking understanding. In his first presidential speech at Cairo in 2009 the president Obama announced to form good relations with the Muslim world and also to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. In result of his promise, Obama also removed sanctions from Iran during his presidency. Barack Obama got the Nobel peace award for his peaceful policies. But there are also a number of drawbacks ([L.Louine, 2016](#)) of his foreign policy which would be discussed further.

Another Shift occurred in US foreign policy with incumbent of Trump new government in US in 2016. He introduced isolationist and protectionist policy of “AMERICAN FIRST” and declared that US is not the watch dog of the world, His approach towards foreign policy is somehow very different from his descendent. US withdraw from major trade agreements, and increased tariff on the imports and exports which changed the global scenario in many dimensions. Trump ‘American First’ stance also included racial differences, which made the situation somehow more complicated for the American citizens ([Sasse, February 2019](#)).

### Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this study were to find out the differences in the foreign policies of two presidents of the US Obama and Trump and its effect on the world.

### Methodology

Descriptive, analytical and comparative method was used. For comparing the two foreign policies of the United States presidents. Data used for this research was mainly secondary.

### American President Barack Hussain Obama

President Barack Obama was the student of Harvard Law School and as well as of Columbia University. From the student life he was interested both in economic equality and social justice and always conscious about the reasons that how politics influenced both the economic and social life. This was one of the main reason that how African American person attracted to politics. Being having an African American background, he always raises his voice for social welfare and racial equality. In his presidential elections, he started brainwashing the peoples to look beyond their skin tone. But he was criticized due to his background, middle-class family and that he was not an American. ([Louine, 2016](#))

### Obama Foreign Policy Legacies

President Obama priority was to improve the global image of the US, for which he outlined his goals and identify ways to achieve them ([McCormick, 2011](#)). In foreign policy from the Middle East to Asia, he hoped to end the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he also claimed that the US would not keep troops and would not establish bases in Iraq after December 2011. He also promised to resolve the issue between Israel and Palestine. In his presidency, he also withdraws from the Iran nuclear deal for few years and removes sanctions on Iran which improved the economy of Iran to some extent ([Jervis, 2017](#)).

### Obama and His Team

Ben Rhodes in his book “The World as It Is inside the Obama White House”, wrote that Obama, in the opening of diplomatic relations with Cuba, played a good role (with the help of Rhodes, his foreign policy advisor). In 2013 Rhodes pushed Obama to take military intervention in Syria after Libya, but Obama adopted the policy to control the dictatorship and autocracy in the Middle Eastern countries on the basis of humanitarian ground and with the policy of leading from behind till 2016. Obama formed good relations with his team and performed his best in running the foreign policy of the US. “He faced much domestic opposition to the discussion he did about Syria and Libya as well. He has played a role in the formation of history about the management of US foreign policy, but politics is not like cooking. We have to do more than

sharing a meal with others we have to retain over hegemonic power and became stubborn in dealing with few outside cases.” (Rhodes, 2018).

### Challenges to Obama Foreign Policy

- Former President George Bush left the new president in 2008 in a grim legacy of the Iraq war and global War on Terror, which has a huge impact on financial crises.
- Rising Nuclear disarmament issues in the world.
- And as a watchdog of the Middle East.

### Strategies of Barack Obama Foreign Policy

- To withdraw military troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- To maintain US hegemony by maintaining a global leadership role in the world.
- Restoration of diplomatic relations with his cold war enemy Cuba.
- To deal with Iran concerning his nuclear disputes and sanctions.
- A new trade agreement with Asia and Latin American states (Nunlist, March 2016).

### Lowering Financial Crises

Obama understood that the long term success of US hegemony rests on the successful economic performance by considering national interest and fulfilling good trade relations with the outside world. Bush foreign policy decision of the Global War on Terror had already depleted the US economy, for the improvement of which, Obama concluded different trade agreements, including the 'Trade Transpacific Partnership' (TTP) also. TTP was a centrepiece of Obama strategic pivot to Asia, which was a massive free trade agreement of 12 rimland Asia Pacific countries, including the US, which comprised 40 % of the world economy. (McBride 2021)

### Nuclear-Free World

For the nuclear-free world, he signed a new treaty of START with Russia in 2009 (Pifer, 2014). In 2015 July, Obama took a dual approach towards Vienna by combing economic sanctions with diplomacy (Nunlist, March 2016).

### Obama Principle of Leading from Behind

Obama, from the very start, does not link democracy with security; this is the reason he

used the principle in his foreign policy, which is known as *LEADING FROM BEHIND*; (Chesterman, 2011). In his foreign policy towards Iraq and Afghanistan, he transfers the responsibility of local security to their government but would lead them from behind.

### Narrower Focus to Al-Qaida

Obama moved his focus from George Bush policy of global War on Terror to a narrower focus against Al-Qaida operations. Obama took some security and military actions with the vision that the US has not only the aim of establishing democracy in the rogue states but also to prevent the states from re-grouping with Al-Qaeda and other extremist elements which threatened violent attacks against the United States. (Helena, 2015).

### Role of Obama Foreign Policy in the Middle East and South Asia

#### In Pakistan and Afghanistan

On December 1, 2009, Obama remarked that he believe in the 3D policy of disrupting, dismantle, and defeat Al-Qaeda and concentrate his military actions both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Wadhams, 2 December 2009)

#### Iraq

CIA convinced the president on foreign policy towards Iraq that no terrorist group or extremist could find a way or shelter inside the Iraq territory. US first plane has to leave the country, and their troops left Iraq territory in December 2011.

#### Arab Spring

Another biggest challenge for the Obama presidency was the broke out of Arab spring, when more than thousands of citizens of Arab states peacefully demanded their universal rights of job, which their governments rejected. However, Obama being a superpower leader, remain very calm and faithful and showed his great interest in the overthrowing of long term dictators and their regimes. But he remains with his principle of *leading from behind* that it is on the 'People' of the Middle East to decide their own fate. (Goldberg, J. (April 2016).

*“Obama declared clearly about the countries like Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen that the US stand not for imperialism but for the right of*

*self-determination. (June 22, 2011)”* ([Selim 2013](#)).

### Libya

the military intervention in Libya, Obama justified that it was limited and on the humanitarian ground just to help the people of Libya, to liberate them from the atrocities of Dictator Qaddafi. Even when the ambassador of US Benghazi was killed the US ignored it.

About Qaddafi, Obama stated that we had to tighten his nose; we mobilized the international community through the UN and imposed sanctions. ([White House Press Release, 28 March 2011](#))

### Syria

In Syria, again, the US did not get involved directly but put strong diplomatic pressure towards the overthrow of the Assad regime. In the news conference on August 20, 2012, Obama identified that Assad had “crossed the red line” by using chemical weapons on his citizens. In the case of Libya and Syria, Obama leading from behind, hold a strong grip. He used the strategy of pressure and diplomacy on Middle Eastern countries ([Boke, 2016](#)).

### Obama Foreign Policy Role in Asia

Obama administration in November 2011 made a major shift from the Middle East to Asia Pacific Region and increased US military presence in the Pacific region. From the very beginning, US foreign policy towards China is very complicated and full of confrontational elements. The increase in the economy and geopolitical size of China in Asia remains a threat to US hegemony and security in the region. However, to counterbalance China might in the region, the US also enhances its diplomatic and security ties with Vietnam, India, Australia, Japan, Philippines. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in September 2015 contracted by the US, Japan, Australia, Peru, Mexico, Vietnam, and Canada, among others, and it was predicted to be joining by European countries also ([Nunlist, March 2016](#)).

### Criticism on Obama Foreign Policy

Obama consecutively governed the US in his two terms of the presidency from 2008 to 2016 but faced criticism from his own policymakers and also from the outside world. His foreign policy was considered by them as feckless policy,

especially in the case of the Middle East; mainly in Syria, the power vacuum created by him for the ‘Islamic State (a terrorist organization) was very disastrous for the whole world. On the other side, the death of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan without informing the Pakistani military and considering it as the failure of the Pakistan military was also unjustified. His long run game of his for multilateralism and smart diplomacy does not work better both in Asia and the Middle East. ([Goldberg, 24 March 2016](#))

### President Donald Trump

Donald Trump won elections and took charge of US presidential office in 2016. Before being the president of super power, he was a well-known Businessman of the US. Trump joined the presidential office with the help of the Republican Party, and his motto of isolationism impressed the US voters.

Change in US foreign policy occurred after 2016 with the incumbent of a new government in the US; Trump isolationist and protectionist policy that is “AMERICA FIRST” and his withdrawal from major trade agreements, and increase in tariff on the imports and exports changes the global scenario in many dimensions. In his American First stance, including racial differences made the situation somehow more complicated for the American citizens also. ([Sasse, February 2019](#))

His foreign policy made the whole world curious and almost confused because till today; this is complete chaos that what actually his foreign policy was? There was a huge debate all over the world on the foreign policy of Trump. However, his foreign policy is not easily fit in any of the ideologies. He himself, on many occasion, used different phrases and proclaimed that there were no other advisors to him on foreign policy he was enough for himself for the foreign policy decisions, but it was also impossible for only one person to deal with an important policy known to be the foreign policy of a nation. ([Anton, 20 April 2019](#)).

### Trump and his Americanism

James Curran, in his research paper “Americanism, not globalism”: wrote that after elections in 2016, the new president Donald Trump in his foreign policy, undermine the liberal internationalism order in which he opposed the basis of prosperity and stability of the Western World. His withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal,

the Paris Climate Change Accord, the Trans-Pacific Partnership or his attack on United Nations and other multilateral institutions was considered by many analysts as a direct threat to world governance. Furthermore, US President Trump claimed in his "America First" policy that the US is not the watchdog of the whole world. His first priority was to save, protect and develop their own nationalism and their own citizens by adopting the idea of isolationism (which means to overcome too much engagement in the world economy and security concerns) ([Curran, three july 2018](#))

### The Victory of Trump

Hal Brands, in his book "*American Grand Strategy in the Age of Trump*", wrote that it is a very debatable question after the 2016 elections of the US that how Trump would be disturbed and made uncertain the relationship with Europe, Middle East, and East Asia. The victory of Donald Trump raised questions that what would be the role of the US in handling world affairs. Trump rejected many treaties of US with the rest of the world including trade treaties and security treaties. Trump by pulling back the active role of US in global affairs by withdrawing from commitment with rest of world was somehow different from the leaders of post-cold war era. In cold war era US wanted to counter USSR and promote her ideology and democracy but even after cold war US did not withdraw from the world affairs. The Trump strategy of 'America first' highlighted that how much Trump advocated the isolationist policy which would harmful for US itself because in cold war and after that, US desired to flourish democracy and promote human rights in the world which couldn't be acquired in isolationism. The post-cold war leaders including George H.W Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama strategy was far different from the approach of Trump. They all involve in promoting US ideology in successive expansion of NATO and military interventions to counter terrorism and militancy in the following regions including Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan ([Brands, 2018](#)). They also concluded different security agreement and promoted global commitments. But Trump took another way by minimizing US role in global affairs.

### Strategies of Trump Foreign Policy

- Some important features of Trump foreign policy are following

- To Boost the US economy.
- Banned on immigration.
- Withdrawal from Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
- To Counter China economic policies.

### Major Events in Trump Foreign Policy

#### Abandonment of Paris Agreement

Paris Agreement signed by former President Obama in 2015 was left by Trump in 2017; he claimed that this agreement signed by 195 countries voluntarily, which limited carbon emissions but harming the US economy and workers both ([McBride, 1 June 2017](#)).

#### Limited Relations with Cuba

Trump limited US relations with Cuba and made the restriction on trade and travel.

#### Iran Sanctions

He declared the withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and imposed a set of sanctions on Iran in which main was ban on the export of petroleum by Iran.

#### Recognized Jerusalem as Israel Capital in December 6, 2017

Trump claimed that Israel government was right to capture Jerusalem in the case of Israel-Palestine conflict, and moved US embassy to Jerusalem

#### Tariffs

Trump imposed more tariffs on the aluminum and steel imports. Trade war also heated between US and China ([Blackwill, 2019](#))

#### Trump Foreign Policy Role in Middle East

An Israeli philosopher wrote in his book *Virtue of nationalism* that Trump foreign policy was actually the mixture of democracy and authoritarianism. ([Hazony, 2018](#)). The question was that how wisely the decision was taken by the president in running the affairs with the outside world.

Trump was trying to shrink the space in which ISIS worked, that's why he was harder towards Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and many other countries. Trump believed that to safe US means to eliminate extremism rather than showing softness. ([Carafano, 20 April](#))

[2017](#)). Trump said that he was not ready to waste US blood and economy more in the Middle East.

### “The Endless War Must End”

is Trump’s another tweet about the Middle East. He firmly believed that he was slowly bringing his great military to US back. But it was just the curtain on his un-justified irrelevant and immoral ever changing acts and tweets because there was US military engagement in almost all parts of the Middle East including Syria, Palestine, Israel, and Afghanistan and so on.

Trump claimed that by engaging in many parts of the world, US disperse her real depth and strength. He claimed that his motto was to focus on the real inner depth of the state. He was trying to add his business ideas to foreign policy doctrine. In 2017 he proclaimed with full spirit to make the US great again in the world scenario.

### Criticism on Trump Foreign Policy

Trump made the situation more complicated for the upcoming president in 2021 due to his policy of isolationism, linked with the foreign policy of US founding fathers but it was not suitable now in 21<sup>st</sup> century when the world is facing hybrid warfare and cyber warfare. His foreign policy was also criticized due to his 3am tweets, which was an irrational act of being a leader of a superpower, doing with the most important aspect of leading the country and executor of major decisions on the world. His stubborn behavior toward Muslims made the situation more badly than ever. Promoting racial differences inside and outside the US was the key towards his US nationalism, like Hitler fascism in Germany.

### Impacts of Obama and Trump Foreign Policy on the Global Issues

The presidential office of the US has a great impact on its own country and as well on its capitalist world allies and on the whole world, more especially in the conduct of their foreign policy and the capacity of leadership to govern it.

*“The world needs a policeman, the only capable and desirable candidate for that position in the United States” (Rasmussen, 2016).*

When the leadership changes, the whole administration changed in the US. Like is the case of Obama Foreign Policy of US, which changed with Donald Trump incubation of presidential

office. Obama formed good relations with the world nations, and Trump became more strict and straight forward in running the affairs of the state.

However, the foreign policy of the US mainly affects the following factors:

- Ideologies of the world.
- Security of the world.
- The economy of the world.

### The Ideology of the World

There was a conflict of ideology during the cold war between the US and USSR, which was fought for the promotion of capitalist and socialist ideology, respectively, from 1949 to 1990. But after the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, the world changed to uni-polarity, and the US became the only superpower in the world. Many writers and philosopher quoted Francis Fukuyama for his belief at the end of history ([Fukuyama, 2006](#)) and also the clash of civilization of Huntington ([Huntington, 2007](#)).

Nevertheless, Obama was a liberal, soft and relax president who governs his foreign policy by forming even somehow good relations with the rogue states and with the socialist and conservative world too. He offered a peaceful negotiating table for his cold war enemies like Cuba and also did soft power diplomacy in the case of Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Obama promoted relations with allies and even with enemies, which not only flourish US ideology of capitalism but also of the liberty, freedom, equality advocated by Obama.

On the other hand, Trump started hard policy with the rogue states even ban economic and military aids to his weak allies which made the situation even more chaotic. He used the phrase of protection of borders and state sovereignty which shifted US foreign policy from broader term of spreading democracy and liberty to the narrow conservative superiority of white races. It cannot be neglected that any act of the US leader in the realm of foreign policy, not only affected his own country’s ideology but also the nations who followed that ideology.

### Security of the World

The world needs policeman to run the global affair. It was proved that super power played this role with more consistency than any other state. The office of president which runs the foreign affair must have to fulfil the best qualities of

leadership. Security of the nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century for both the nations themselves and also for the superpower is a very necessary factor. Without security fulfilment, it is very hard to ensure the rights and duties of the people.

When Barack Obama took charge of his office, the very first challenge was the engagement of the previous government in Iraq and also in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the form of 'War on Terror (to eliminate Al- Qaeda and other terrorist groups to secure the US security). But Barack Obama narrow the concept of Bush's War on Terror and focused on Al-Qaeda, but the game was not over because of the emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Middle East. Here too, Obama used the strategy of leading from behind and raised voice for humanitarian law violation in the Middle East. The US advocated democracy as a suitable government for the resolution of such problems and also for Arab spring uprisings. Obama engaged his troops in these countries, justifying it on the basis of humanitarian grounds.

Donald Trump further narrows down US military actions in these regions by claiming that the US lost blood, economy and prestige by engaging in world affairs, and it would be better for us to isolate from the outside world. For achieving the goal of isolationism, Trump strengthened the ban on illegal immigration, increase tariffs and stop providing military and economic aids to developing countries. According to Trump US is not the watchdogs of the world. This is the duty of states to do their best for their own security and other affairs. But the isolation from the world affairs is in a disadvantage of the US because the world is going to change to multipolarity due to the rising of China as superpower and good technological development of the Russian state in military equipment. In such situation, disengagement from the world, the affair could be fatal for national superpower interests.

### **The Economy of the World**

As US believe in capitalist system which promotes consumerism and free market economy. Capitalism is the key of US trade with the world. This era of globalization stands on multilateral trade system like European Union organization for the promotion of economy. Similarly, US multilateral economic organizations play the same role but unfortunately US forget her direction by neglecting trade and engaging in

military actions. China through her peaceful economic policies dominated the pacific region and moving towards oil and warm water resources regions. This is the reason that how China economy became threat to US.

In the era of Barack Obama he made trade policies and signed multilateral treaties with many countries and promote trade in the region, also signed the Paris Climate Treaty for control of environmental pollution. He even reduced sanctions on Iran and promoted trade with Cuba also. But Donald Trump cancelled all these treaties and increased tariffs on trade, and promoted bilateralism. His foreign policies made the situation difficult for the coming president, it was very hard for US to reconsider Trump again as a leader.

Questioning the working of international organization (United Nations) and the violation of norms of international law and imposition of forced diplomacy by Trump, threaten world and also US. It is very difficult to identify that what meant foreign policy to Trump? Is it the 3am sudden tweets or the violation of liberal order or the self-business of the US leader?

## **Comparative Analysis of Barack Obama and Donald Trump Foreign Polices**

### **Discouraging Racial Differences**

Obama being Afro-American, discourage racial differences and strengthened relations with states devoid of racialism.

### **Securities and Peace**

Obama was most conscious about the security and peace he was awarded by the nobel prize for his peace policies. While on the other hand, according to Trump, the US was not the watchdog of the world; his main motto is to secure US borders and ban immigration.

### **Promotion of Democracy**

Being a capitalist state, the president of the US must have to promote democracy and liberal order. Obama was very clear about it and Trump followed a slightly different approach by having a very negative, narrow conservative mindset.

### **Method of Foreign Policy Implementation**

Barack Obama used the traditional method of foreign policy implementation with the help of the actors, factors and domains of foreign policy, but Trump alternated it with the help of his tweets and comments on social media.

## Trade Policies

Obama favored the multilateral approach in the form of TPP and, like many other trade treaties,

but Trump canceled it in favoring the bilateral approach

Table 1

S. No	BARACK OBAMA DOCTRINE	DONALD TRUMP DOCTRINE
1	Used strategy of leading from behind.	Isolationist, protectionist
2	Lessen Racial differences	Promote white Americans
3	Ensure security and peace throughout the world	Strengthening border defences
4	Give 3 years duration to immigrants for the clarification of their documents	Ban on immigrations
5	Weaken sanctions on Iran and leave nuclear deal	Imposed sanctions on oil and petroleum trade of Iran
6	Promote peace	Used strict foreign policy
7	Comparatively Good towards Muslims	Ban on many Muslim countries to travel to the US for more than 90 days in 2017
8	Promote values over interest	Promote interest over values
9	Shrink global War on Terror policy to specific operations against Al-Qaeda and terrorist organizations	Defence policy based on the fear of American security
10	Afghanistan local security would be in the hand of their country local government.	Not ready to invest more money in Afghanistan war
11	Discourage forced regimes in Syria to make serious statements on the Assad regime	Retaliate against the use of nuclear weapons by the Assad regime on the citizens of Syria
12	Promote Democracy	Promote authoritarianism.
13	Used traditional methods for the promotion of foreign policy	Promote his foreign policy with the help of his tweets and comments
14	Signed Paris Climate treaty for the control of methane and chlorine gas with China and many other countries in 2015	Withdrawal from Paris Climate Treaty in 2017
15	Promote multilateralism	Promote bilateralism
16	Signed TPP with many nations	Withdrawal from the TPP
17	Friendly relations with Cuba	Limited the relations
18	Signed treaties with Russia for disarmament	Promote relations with Russia
19	Encourage the sacrifices of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the global War on Terror	Blamed Pakistan to the miss-use of the aid of global War on Terror

## Discussion

The main interesting thing about discussing the foreign policies of Obama and Trump is that as a result, both are not much different. Both the policies have the reflection of not fulfilling the real spirit of the global War on Terror and the failure of the policy of containment of China. The challenges faced by Obama in 2008 are almost the same as the challenges faced by Trump. Both the leaders remained to engage in re-arranging their combat forces in Afghanistan and to hold peace talks with the Afghan Taliban, and root out terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS. But the more immature acts and isolationist policy of Trump lost the real direction of US foreign policy. Both of them did not fulfil all the promises they had made at the time of the presidential campaign, that's why by comparing both foreign policies, although there seems difference but impact wise there is not much difference.

## Conclusion

The most important question that which government of the US, Obama or Trump, has a better foreign policy in achieving US interests, is not quite clear because there is always a good and bad side to every policy. It is manifested that the foreign policy decision taken by the US government, reported and considered by media and analysts as beneficial for the world, may have some negative dimensions also, and this might be the case with both former presidents of the US. Both of them have weakness in the foreign policy of the superpower and informing a role model for the other nations. Even the citizens of the US became direction less than where actually their country was leading. They lost the real enthusiasm and spirit of their foreign policy, especially under the leadership of Donald Trump because he considered the isolationist prospect of the foreign policy of the country.



The situation became even more critical due to the following reasons

1. The world was moving towards multipolarity.
2. The increase in nuclear proliferation, as nuclear arsenal, even manufactured by the developing countries.
3. Threat to Peace in Subcontinent due to the changed status of Kashmir by India making Kashmir constitutionally part of India followed by increased Indian atrocities in Held Kashmir, which made
4. the situation very threatening as Kashmir can become the nuclear flashpoint
5. CPEC can become an economic revolution in the rising economies of many other underdeveloped countries with the help of China.
6. Arab with oil-rich countries is almost seized in the ideology of extremism
7. The issue of Islamophobia in the west and the rising hatred from western imperialism is alarming for the US hegemony and containment of China policy. All this is against US interests which showed the failure of US foreign policy. To prevent the multipolarity of the world and retain the superiority of the state, it is necessary for the US to have a capable leadership, and it is the foremost and major challenge for the citizen's, officials and policymakers of the US.

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