

**U. S. Foreign Policy in the
Western Balkans:
A Re-assessment for
Meaningful Re-engagement**

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U.S. Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans

- **Little Substantive Change for the Past 15 years**
- **Does not Fully Reflect the Current Needs of the Region and Its Governments**
- **Not Part of a Comprehensive and Global Foreign Policy Framework**

Pillars of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans

- 1. Maintain Stability**
- 2. Support the EU to Manage the Region**
- 3. Restrict Russian Influence**

Pillars of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans in 2015

- 1. Maintain Stability – The region and nations need much more than stability**
- 2. Support the EU to Manage the Region – EU cannot continue in this role**
- 3. Restrict Russian Influence – Russian dominance not likely**

Systemic Issues With Current U.S. Foreign Policy Process

- ❑ U.S. Foreign Policy lacks global coherence and direction**
- ❑ U.S. Foreign Policy is resistive to change and innovation**
- ❑ U.S. Foreign Policy tends to confuse urgency with importance**

Problem 1

U.S. Foreign Policy Processes are often highly politicized, with an emphasis to protect and enhance the reputation of the President.

Problem 2

U.S. Foreign Policy Processes neglect planning, review, and reassessment, and do not function at a grand strategic level.

Problem 3

**U.S. Foreign Policy Processes
are not well attuned to external
checks on U.S. behavior.**

Problem 4

U.S. Foreign Policy Processes have become overly comingled with domestic politics, public opinion, and partisan politics.

Problem 5

U.S. Foreign Policy Processes have not been able to respond effectively to asymmetric threats, such as terrorism.

Reassessment of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans

- ✓ **Need to declare success on the original pillars and move on to the new challenges**
- ✓ **Ignoring the new challenges could endanger the hard won stability.**

Reassessment of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans

- ✓ **Respond to issues including:**
 - ✓ **Legitimate and Democratic Institutions**
 - ✓ **Ethnic power sharing**
 - ✓ **Foreign Direct Investment**
 - ✓ **Reconstruction of the Economy**
 - ✓ **Effective Border Controls**
 - ✓ **Corruption**

New Principle for U.S. Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans

- ✓ **Reduce the emphasis on regional policy in favor of bilateral issues.**
- ✓ **Act on the reality that each of the countries in the Western Balkans have their own agenda and mix of needs with distinctive solutions.**