

Introduction to Session Three
R704 Ramifications of the 2012 Election

In session 3, we will shift from the domestic issues facing the second Obama term to foreign policy. This area of government policy will involve sharp partisanship just as the domestic agenda, as those of you who watched the Hagel hearings yesterday well know. I have written an essay that attempts to summarize this complex subject, but I'm not sure I captured the true nature of the different ideologies of the two parties. The comments by the major Republicans on the Committee, Inhofe, McCain, and Graham, presented what I must accept as the Republican ideology—as I describe it in my essay. In essence, it is a hawkish, unilateral strategy that emphasizes what has been termed “muscular militarism.”

After some theoretical background on foreign policy, my essay focuses on three specific issues: Israel, Iran, and terrorism. All three issues are closely related, as I will point out in my essay. As I listened to the hearings, those seem to be the central issues of the Committee. I am posting a second item on this website, an op-ed article I published in the New York Times in November 2011, which gives my views. That has some links that you can click on to read some of my sources. I believe it is safe to say that my views are similar to Hagel's.