

Public Opinion and Foreign Policy

Public's Views on Foreign Policy

1) Uninformed and Foolish-

--local politics

--volatile and random

--masses not the elites

Effect: No Effect to Hurts FP

2) Structured and Stable

-- Lack of Specific Information

-- Uses Structures to Organize FP
Ideas

Based on US Involvement and
How to Be Involved

Cooperation Intlsm and Militant Intlsm

		Cooperative Internationalism	
		Yes	No
Militant Internationalism	Yes	Internationalist	Hardliner
	No	Accomodationist	Isolationist

Effect: Can Affect FP (Jentleson)

3) Public Mood

- sets bounds, not day to day
- affected by government and external events

- Public Moods
- A) Cold War Mood- Consensus
 - B) Vietnam Syndrome
 - C) Self Interested Mood
 - D) Pragmatic Internationalism
 - E) Anti-Terror Mood

Public Opinion and FP

-- not informed on specifics

-- Coherent and Structured Beliefs and Ideas

How Public Opinion Affects FP?

Jentleson Addresses this question

Diversionsary Theory, Wag the Dog,
and Rally Around the Flag

Assumptions of Diversionsary Theory

--Leaders want to stay in power

--Leader is dependent on some group to stay in power

--Foreign policy actions can increase a leader's popularity

In Group, Out Group - Rally Around the Flag

Demonstrate competency

Clinton and Lewinsky

Iraq, Diversion from the Economy

Problems with the Theory:

1) rally effect is short

2) no systematic empirical evidence

3) lots of conflict not preceded by domestic problems

4) wrong for a leader to use force for personal gain
