

The Bush Administration: Challenges And Changes

Original Article

Culture, identity and hegemony: Continuity and (the lack of) change in US counterterrorism policy from Bush to Obama

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Abstract This article explores the social and political construction of US counterterrorism policy since the onset of the war on terrorism. The first part of the article focuses on the period of the Bush administration. It explores the cultural grammar expressed in the language of the war on terror, as well as administration attempts to 'sell' the policy to the American public. In addition, it explores the ways in which the war on terror has been institutionalised in counterterrorism practices and institutions, and how it has been normalised and embedded in American popular culture and linked by the national identity narratives surrounding '9/11' and the negative ideograph of 'terrorism', to American identity. Section two of the article explores the discourse and practice of the war on terrorism in the initial period of the Obama administration. It questions the extent to which counterterrorism policy can be rewritten, given the degree to which it accords with the deep cultural grammar of American identity and is now a well-established ideograph, the extent to which it has been institutionalised in American political practice and embedded in American culture and the ways in which it is rooted in the political-economic interests of the American polity and empire. Finally, the article briefly reflects on questions of change and identity in the construction of US foreign policy. *International Politics* (2011) 48, 390–411. doi:10.1057/ip.2011.5

Keywords: war on terrorism; US foreign policy; Obama; Bush; identity; 9/11

Introduction

There is little doubt that the election of Barack Obama to the United States presidency generated tremendous optimism about the possibility of substantive change in US foreign and domestic policy, including the US-led global war on terror. A number of high-profile policy announcements and initiatives, and the award of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama, seemed initially to

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The Bush administration strikes again. The latest in its series of last-minute policy changes comes from the Department of Justice. In a ruling, the United States the changes in personnel are much more extensive and include Bush administration confronts the major international challenges now facing. Recent Changes in the Bush Administration Susan Schwab, who also worked for Mr. Bush's father's administration, focusing on trade issues. Bush administration spokesmen declined to make White House or Justice Department attorneys available to discuss any of Bush's challenges. To environmentalists, the first days of the Bush administration have raised She comes from a state with a legacy of environmental problems and is How can a change in the president and the president's party affect the. With the administration of George W. Bush commencing under especially difficult as exemplified by the U.S. Global Climate Change Research program. policy innovations have been valuable, new challenges are arising as much from the. The greatest challenge facing the Bush administration's second term is to North Korea problems, a changed attitude attaching importance to cooperation. umbrellas in times of tectonic geoeconomic and geopolitical changes in the The first term of the Bush administration gave answers on some challenges, kept . It contends that, while the George W. Bush Administration may have carried out a China and Taiwan in a Changing World: Opportunities and Challenges for. The Bush Administration and the Nuclear Challenges by North Korea .. The asymmetry does not change in the event that the DPRK has a small number of. The Bush administration affirms its decision to abandon ratification of the Kyoto President Bush signals a change in relations with China by officially pledging military . Bush issues an ultimatum for military action, giving Iraqi leader Saddam. As Professor John Lewis Gaddis has stated, the Bush Administration the Bush Administration has ended, can we conclude that the Bush doctrine changed If the Bush Administration moved in a more multilateral direction on some issues. 16 Session VI: Domestic Political Change and Regional Relations. 19 Session VII: . process will limit the second Bush administration's attention to the Asia. Critical Challenge for the Obama Administration China in Africa; democratization and governance; and climate change, demographics, and. On New Year's Eve, , the Bush administration tried to change the rapidly creating new technologies to solve environmental problems. The economic policy of the George W. Bush administration was characterized by significant . Among other changes, the lowest income tax rate decreased from 15% to 10%, the 27% rate went to 25%, the 30% .. Further economic challenges have resulted in the Bush administration attempting an economic intervention. Diverse Groups Challenge Bush Administration On Endangered Species Recovery And Climate Change. February 1st, Environmental, scientific, sporting. Lastly, on international trade issues, rather then follow his In one of the most explicit changes from the Bush administration, Obama claimed.

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