

# The Pivotal States

# *The PIVOTAL STATES*

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR  
U.S. POLICY  
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD



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A bold, controversial prescription for a new direction in American foreign policy, from Paul Kennedy and an outstanding array of area specialists. Since 1945, American foreign policy has enjoyed a record of overall success when dealing with friends or foes among the great powers. But the American record is mixed in handling the rest—the many nations that are not allies, enemies, or rogue states. For most of this period the Cold War set the framework for U.S. relations with these countries. But now there is no framework and, except for occasional humanitarian interventions and trade initiatives, no real policy. The foreign policy framework proposed here assumes that of the world's 140 developing states, there is a group of pivotal states whose futures are poised at critical turning points, and whose fates will strongly affect regional and even global security. These nine states are the ones upon which the United States should focus its scarce foreign policy resources. In original, cogent essays, the authors explore the pivotal states strategy and its implications for U.S. foreign policy.

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