

BIDEN ROBERT



Republican leaders need to remember what happened the last time America chose to be isolated — CNN
apple.news

Jul 21, 2018, 9:58 AM

+1 (202) 436-1087

Good article. Trump’s foreign policy seems to combine Jacksonian populism and social Darwinist concepts from the 19th century with protectionism and elements of isolationism of the interwar period in the 20th century. I say “elements,” however, because Trump is not a pure isolationist.

Like isolationists, Trump has no interest in investing blood, treasure, or diplomatic efforts in defending allies or preserving an American-led rule-based international order. This is consistent with patterns during the interwar period as well as the “aloofness” from geopolitics and entangling alliances that was common in the early period of the Republic.

At the same time, Trump *is* quite active on the world stage and desires US global dominance (narrowly defined as getting our way). This posture is different from the interwar years and has more in common with the emphasis on US preeminence in the post-WWII and post-Cold War periods (minus the commitment to upholding a rule-based order that characterized those periods).

So Trump’s approach represents a particularly toxic blend of US foreign policy traditions. It is more accurate to describe his foreign policy as “Offshore Hegemony” (a kind of hyper-transactional “dictate at a distance”)—a recipe for alienating our allies, disrupting global order, and isolating the United States, even if it is not pure isolationism.

Jul 22, 2018, 6:32 PM

tedkaufman@comcast.net

Interesting. I agree more with this because it does not require us to believe that Trump could ever have something as complicated as a “foreign policy”.



Andrew Sullivan: Why Trump Has Such a Soft Spot for Russia
nymag.com