



[CONGRESS BLOG HOME](#) | [CONGRESS BLOG TOPICS](#) | [THE HILL](#) | [PUNDITS BLOG](#) | [BLOG BRIEFING ROOM](#)

## THE BIG QUESTION, July 7: Justin Logan

The Big Question for Tuesday, July 7:

**How have President Obama's foreign trips changed America's standing in the world?**

[Justin Logan](#), Associate Director of Foreign Policy Studies at [The Cato Institute](#), said:

President Obama's foreign trips have been aimed in part at repairing America's image in the world. From fulminations about "Old Europe" to its push to bring Georgia and Ukraine into NATO and emplace missile defenses in Central Europe, the Bush administration laid the foundations for rocky relationships with Western Europe and Russia.

But it will take more than hope and rhetoric to put the United States on a more sustainable footing in the world. It will take change. Today the United States dominates world defense spending, maintains all of its cold war alliances, and attempts to control the security environment in every industrialized region of the globe. A grand strategy that encompasses these policies is bound to provoke problems with other powers in the world.

America's national interests—to say nothing of its image in the world—would be better served by a grand strategy of restraint: devolving responsibilities to regional powers and ceasing to administer the entire globe. Unfortunately, the substance of the Obama administration's foreign policies is much closer to the Bush administration's vision than to a strategy of restraint. To the extent that American foreign policies remain largely unchanged, uplifting speeches and hope can only accomplish so much.

[Share This](#)