

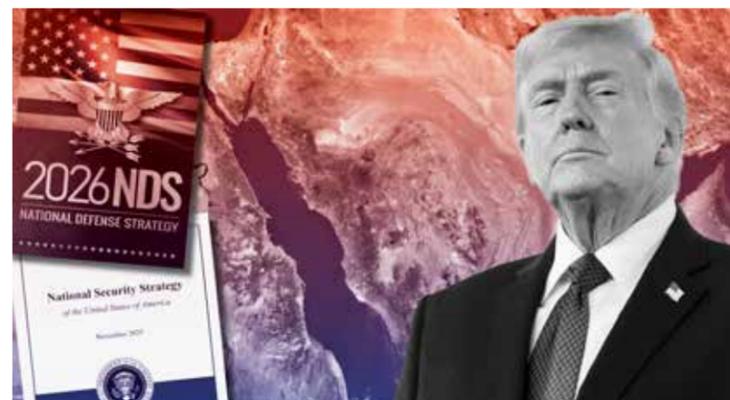
Rereading United States' 2025 National Security Strategy, 2026 National Defense Strategy

Strategy of terror production

PANEL "US and Its New Approach in the World" was the title of a specialized panel convened under the goal of "Rereading of the 2025 National Security Strategy and the 2026 National Defense Strategy of the United States," held at the premises of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) with the participation of the Islamic World Peace Forum.

Strategic elucidation and analysis of the two aforementioned documents necessitate a perspective transcending a merely military text; for these documents not only reflect the American defensive doctrine, but also constitute a window to understanding profound transformations within the international order, this country's perception of threats, and its self-ascribed station within a world undergoing transition. The National Defense Strategy may be regarded as the nodal confluence of policy, power, technology, economy, and ideology; a text wherein past experiences, anxieties regarding the relative decline of American global power, and anticipatory projections of the future are represented in an interwoven configuration. In view of the significance and ramifications of these documents, particularly for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Messrs. Davoud Ameri, Seyed Jalal Dehghani Firouzabadi, Ali Fekri, and Hamidreza Dehghani Poudeh, as experts in the domain of politics and international relations, presented their perspectives and analyses in the presence of a coterie of intellectuals and elites.

What follows constitutes a translated account of the first part of the panel:



The illustration shows US President Donald Trump and the cover pages of the United States' 2025 National Security Strategy and 2026 National Defense Strategy.
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The focal point of attention here concerns the orientation of these two documents — the 2025 National Security Strategy and the 2026 National Defense Strategy of the United States — toward the principal security issues of the United States within the arena of international relations. Kindly expound upon major world regions, such as the Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Israel, the Far East, Russia, China, and others. Please also indicate the convergences and potential divergences between these two documents.



A man with an oversized Make America Great Again (MAGA) cap participates in a rally at Southern New Hampshire University Arena on February 10, 2020, to support US President Donald Trump.
● DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES



Davoud Ameri

AMERI: One addresses the general orientations of American national security, and the other is devoted specifically to defensive and military matters. We, who presently confront America directly — on one flank, with the possibility of a war and, on the other, with the atmosphere of negotiations — must attain an exacting comprehension of these two documents, scrutinize their context, and deliberate collectively regarding the strategies and measures that the Islamic Republic must adopt in response to American stratagems and its novel orientations.

If one adopts a macroscopic vantage, one may assert that what emerges from the 2025 American National Security Strategy indicates that, beyond the disseminated media version, latent and classified orientations also subsist, from whose diction certain inferences may be deduced. Nonetheless, we remain uninformed regarding the classified sections and perhaps may infer them from American conduct, particularly through the contradictions extant between the document and operational performance. Consequently, this document requires meticulous dissection.

A historical survey of American National Security Strategies reveals that Americans have consistently pursued two principal approaches, whether overtly or covertly. The first concerns soft dominion over the world's strategic resources and movements. With a decorous exterior, a liberal-democratic veneer, and an embellished image, Americans have endeavored to dominate global power resources and currents.

The second pertains to the globalization of American liberal democracy. The potent liberal-democratic current has persistently attempted to introduce American culture and values as the prevailing universal values, and American National Security Strategies have functioned as custodians and defenders of this orientation.

In the shadow of these two approaches, Americans have sought to fabricate an image of a utopia out of the US and to transform it into a universal aspiration across diverse regions of the globe. The phenomenon of migration has for years been interpreted within this very framework.

However, in recent years — particularly with the accession of the new American administration — alterations have become manifest. It appears that this administration, describable as modern and inclusive of trans-governmental actors, has introduced novel orientations, for American strategies have undergone modification. One factor was the collapse of

the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the supposition of unrivaled American supremacy. The US endeavored, through a unipolar and unilateralist view, to designate itself the "global steward," yet this claim did not attain durable consolidation among scholars and policymakers worldwide.

Another factor was the gradual erosion of America's superior position subsequent to the Cold War and its incapacity to satisfy global expectations. Likewise, failure to perpetuate a unilateral model of global leadership and the proliferation of contradictions within American governance — between rhetoric and conduct, between idealized image and domestic realities — contributed to this reorientation.

Concomitantly, the emergence of new powers such as Russia and China challenged America's station.

It appears that in its new documents, the US has entered with a different orientation. The macro-objectives may be enumerated thus: first, the guarantee of survival and national security in all political, economic, military, and technological dimensions; second, reversion to efficacious global hegemony.

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Another orientation involves the containment of multilateralist tendencies that circumscribe American power. With the arrival of emergent powers and the formation of organizations such as BRICS, American unilateralism has encountered contestation. Therefore, one objective consists of the disruption or attenuation of multilateralist processes and the redefinition of American hegemony within a novel framework.

Within the 2025 document and the new Trump administration, two macro-strategies become discernible: first, an imperially inflected and explicit diction; second, a strategy of threat, terror production, and — if exigency dictates — recourse to war.



● HOMELAND SECURITY TODAY

Of course, efforts aim at the realization of objectives prior to war or without war; however, if necessary, the utilization of military power is deemed legitimate. This naked unilateralist diction seeks resolution of American predicaments through the fabrication of dread and deterrence — an atmosphere previously observed in certain regional transformations wherein mere engendering of fear yielded desired political outcomes absent extensive confrontation.

At present, America appears intent upon generating such an environment internationally. In Asia, across numerous global regions, and even in Europe, this American orientation becomes observable. We confront operational components: redefinition of

American national interests with an extraterritorial orientation; realization of peace through power or pacification grounded in authority; flexible realism in foreign policy; and management of balance of power commensurate with rival ascendancy. One prevailing orientation in these documents is movement toward containment and restriction of rival power globally.

Revitalization of the defense industry and reconstruction of domestic industries constitute serious orientations. Confrontation with migration as a domestic security issue, assurance of sustained access to supply chains, supremacy in energy, and alignment of countries with American interests through controlled — or even uncontrolled — coalitions are

also observable.

This document designates the Western Hemisphere as its primary priority and employs a proprietary language regarding it. Events in Venezuela and American conduct therein emanate from this perspective. Another point concerns the elimination or restriction of rival influence; that is, besides other goals, the US also seeks the eradication of any rival penetration within the Western Hemisphere.

In the second document (the defense document), it is again explicitly affirmed that this domain was acquired through military power. Thus, concealment recedes, and naked discourse oriented toward power attainment prevails.

In Asia, leadership from a position of power and management