

## **Executive Summary**

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### **Title: From the Nixon Doctrine to Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy: A Study of U.S. Declinism and Persistence of U.S. Primacy**

The Nixon Doctrine, also known as the Guam Doctrine, was first announced in 1969 during Nixon's visit to the island of Guam, marking a shift in U.S. foreign policy. Amidst the harsh conflicts in Vietnam, America decided that it had had enough of foreign problems. From then on, America would expect self-reliance in Asian defense. This paper examines the prevailing view of American decline since the Guam Doctrine, arguing that global leadership by the United States has not waned as recent trends suggest. As a case study, America's presence in Southeast Asia will be studied. Using analysis of both qualitative historical data and quantitative data, the paper aims to study U.S. hegemony since the Guam Doctrine in 1969 to the end of the Presidency of Joe Biden. The paper finds that despite prominent narratives of decline, from the tragic loss in Vietnam to the chaotic leave in 2021 from Afghanistan, the U.S. maintains its power. America still boasts significant military power, alliances, and economic and diplomatic leadership. A case study of U.S.-ASEAN relations further shows American hegemony through its growing militaristic, economic, and diplomatic initiatives in ASEAN. By conducting a holistic approach acknowledging power dynamics such as China's rise and recent U.S. foreign policy, the paper finds that America still holds its ground. The United States' ability to leverage demonstrates power that is far from declining. But the paper's findings also indicate that this wave of declinism is unique from previous

waves. Thus, American policymakers ought to act accordingly to keep American primacy. (252 words)