

Introduction to **HOMELAND SECURITY**

THIRD EDITION



David H. McElreath
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This text is dedicated to the professional in emergency management and homeland security who is willing to go into harm's way to ensure our nation and world remain as safe as possible so that we can live, work, and raise our families. We also would like to dedicate this work to our families and friends who have encouraged us throughout this project.

—The Authors



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Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Management

I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail.¹

—William Faulkner

The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Familiarize readers with the concept of homeland security;
- Understand the history of homeland security;
- Introduce the all-hazards concept;
- Examine a brief history of disasters that have impacted the United States;
- Discuss the complexity of homeland security;
- Introduce multiple perspectives of homeland security; and
- Emphasize the importance of homeland security for the continuance of society and of the nation.

1.1 Introduction

As stated by William Faulkner in his speech at the Nobel Prize banquet in 1950, “[M]an will not only endure, but will prevail” (Hoyt, 2013, p. 34).² The words of Faulkner can well be used to describe disaster response and resilience and the challenges faced by the nation in regard to homeland security. Disasters challenge individuals and communities. These events change lives and in many cases are responsible for significant injuries, physical damages, financial losses, and even deaths. Disasters challenge the human spirit and test the resiliency of both body and spirit.

The world is an active, dynamic, and ever-changing place. Since the emergence of the nation-state and the concept of national sovereignty, nations have formed and competed for power, wealth, and influence. Within the global community, diversity, economics, social standing, politics, religion and ethnicity have defined and redefined us, serving as the basis for national alliances as well as opponents.

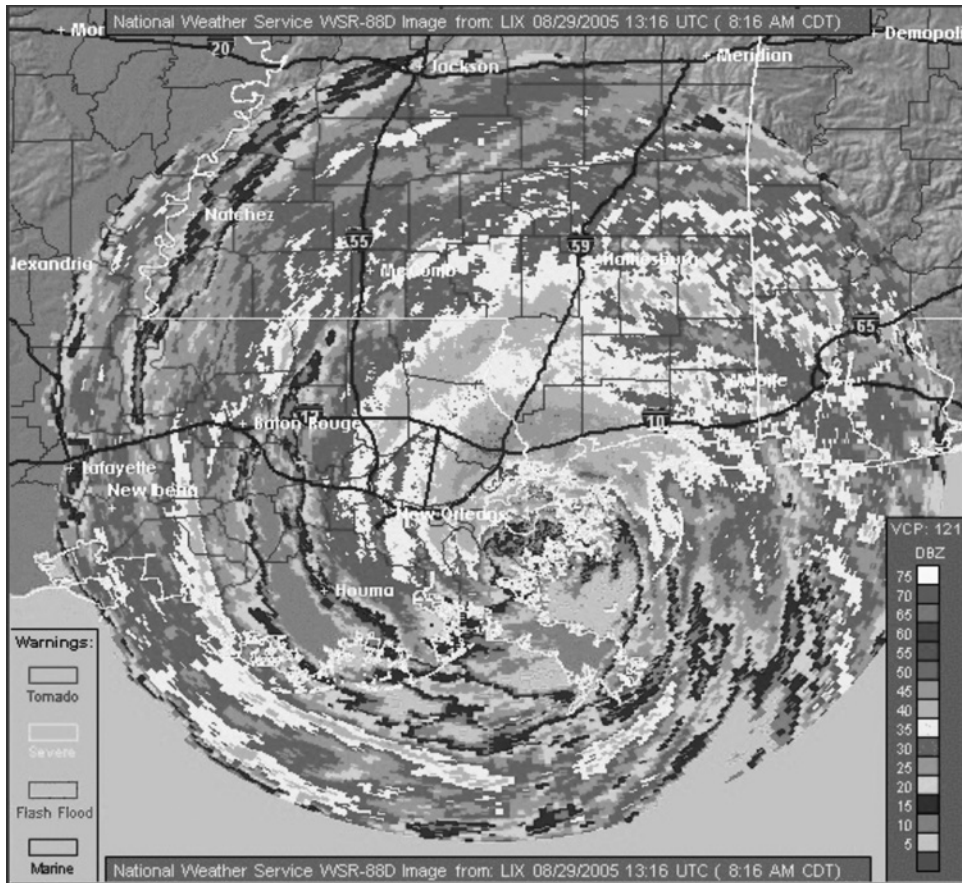


Figure 1.1 Satellite image of Hurricane Katrina.

(Source: National Weather Service)

From a perspective of security, domestic as well as from international threats, safety and security are the critical themes. The safety and security of our families, our homes, our nation, and our global community remain critical concerns. Though some may debate the point, we are very fortunate to live in the United States.

Our nation is not without its threats, but it remains a nation of hope and promise. Since its founding, it has proven to be a land of opportunity. It is a nation that many risk their lives to enter, understanding the nation presents countless opportunities. For many, it remains, as stated by President Ronald Reagan, a “destination, a shining city upon a hill whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere, where the hope of a better life can be achieved” (DeMarco, 2013, p. 69).³ It is a nation built on the concept of freedom and respect for individual rights, but it is not a nation without challenge. Though reexaminations of immigration and immigration policies are underway, the nation remains remarkably open.

The safety and security of our nation, our communities, and our citizens cannot be taken for granted. Life is fragile, often much more so than many realize. Events can and do occur that

change or even end lives. What we know about the future is that it is a balance between certainty and uncertainty. From a homeland security and emergency management perspective, we can be certain that something uncertain will occur in the future. What we hope is that we will be prepared to respond to events that threaten our safety as quickly and as effectively as possible. Often, lives, property, and related infrastructure depend upon rapid and efficient responses by our nation's first responders.

1.2 Safety and Security

Our nation has been shaped by moments and events in times of both conflict and peace. The origins of our citizens reflect what may be considered the most diverse of any nation. The United States of America is a nation that continues to be a melting pot from which emerge Americans. It is a nation that plays a major role on the world stage. As a powerful member of the global community, it exerts significant power and influence.

The attacks on September 11, 2001, were a substantial game changer for our nation. The threat posed by radical international extremists became painfully apparent. The destruction inflicted (both physically and psychologically) would serve as a catalyst for change, not only domestically, but also globally. The results of the attacks led to diplomatic, economic, and military action that continue two decades later.

Eleven days after the September 11, 2001, extremists' attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge was appointed as the first Director of the Office of Homeland Security in the White House. The office was tasked with the oversight of the development and coordination of a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard the country against extremism and to respond to any future attacks. Within this national strategy, local, state, tribal, and federal agencies gained new roles and expectations toward ensuring domestic security.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, a major reexamination of domestic security occurred. President George W. Bush proposed the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security. Bush stated, "America needs a single, unified homeland security structure that will improve protection against today's threats and be flexible enough to help meet the unknown threats of the future"⁴ (Cook & Raia, 2017, p. 136).

A decision was made to create a new agency, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), that was entrusted with the protecting of American society. As a result, in November 2002, Congress enacted the Homeland Security Act creating the Department of Homeland Security as a Cabinet-level department tasked with coordinating and unifying national homeland security efforts. Opening its doors on March 1, 2003,⁵ the Department of Homeland Security included over 20 agencies with various domestic security roles into the new organization. The role and mission of the DHS is to "ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards."⁶ All missions of the DHS involve a variety of goals and objectives that "prevent, to protect, to respond, and to recover, as well as to build in security, to ensure resilience, and to facilitate customs and exchange."⁷ The DHS does not accomplish its missions alone. Instead, it involves the cooperation of a plethora of individuals, government agencies, and private entities.⁸

Over the years since the founding of the Department of Homeland Security, the United States and much of the world were transformed. Conflicts, attacks, and threats of attacks, combined with the impact of natural and man-made disasters, forced many nations to reexamine domestic safety and security. Within these examinations, national security, vital national interests, and the safety of nations and their populations became even greater concerns.

For any nation, domestic security does not occur in a vacuum; rather, it is multidimensional and depends on the role of the nation in the international community. It has potentially global ramifications. Security includes responders and the development and implementation of response strategies, including local responders to an international recovery effort. It includes professionals and volunteers and is built on a foundation of the philosophy that every disaster is local in nature and that event response must involve a whole community response strategy. Event response is also built on the understanding that it unfolds in a setting of uncertainty. Threats facing our nation and allies are often complex, fluid, evolving, and changing, and in some cases, they are difficult to characterize. From each new event, new lessons are learned. It is hoped that, from those lessons, event response and resiliency are improved.

The United States is a major player on the world stage in a wide range of areas; economically, socially, politically, informationally, and militarily. Our nation's economy is a major part of the global economy. Imports and exports, fueled by domestic consumption, have redefined trade and with it global economics and market access. Our nation is dependent upon international trade and commerce. As a result, it is important that the international community maintain a reasonable level of stability economically, socially, and politically.

1.3 Threats Are a Step Away and Often Walk among Us

As mentioned earlier, the future is uncertain. Intentional man-made events, natural disasters, and accidents change and dramatically disrupt lives. As an example, over the span of a few short days in April 2013, the United States experienced two events that captured our attention and, in different ways, displayed an essential need for coordinated efforts between homeland security, public safety, emergency management, and the community.

The 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and the explosion of a fertilizer plant in Texas are examples of events that may challenge the safety of our communities, the capabilities of our response community, and the resiliency of our people. In both cases, responders reacted quickly to save lives and limit damage. Of these two events, one was a tragic industrial accident whereas the second was an intentional attack. These events are just two examples of the types of events that may occur and how the response community responds in an environment of uncertainty.

Throughout our history, our nation and our communities have demonstrated significant response and resiliency when faced with adversity. Our nation has endured wars and military conflicts, responded to and recovered from natural disasters (e.g., droughts, pestilence, and diseases), and internal disputes associated with hate crimes and domestic terrorism and endured a plethora of natural disasters and man-made accidents. Each experience presents lessons from which steps may be taken toward the improvement of response capabilities and abilities, ultimately contributing toward improved societal security and safety.

As an example, the enactment of fire codes, building safety standards and inspection, and advancements in fire technologies have resulted from lessons learned from fire-related disasters, many of which resulted in loss of life and property. Similarly, many of the changes in airport security, including the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, occurred in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001. Despite any increase in knowledge or changes in safety and security standards or policies, our nation and the communities within our nation remain vulnerable to natural and man-made threats.

Our history serves as an outstanding point from which we can anticipate our future. From this historical analysis, today's homeland security and emergency management professional may determine the reasonable threats most likely to impact their communities and, with that determination, plan for and develop response strategies, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery: the basic components of emergency management.

The need to remain vigilant regarding our preparedness for both natural and man-made incidents is important. We must possess a strong ability to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover quickly from any event. We must glean lessons learned from our experiences with events and apply these lessons toward reducing the chances of the reoccurrence of such incidents.

As the second decade of the twenty-first century draws to a close, homeland security and emergency management continue to evolve. These disciplines are more than merely acknowledging the dangers of man-made and natural events. These are disciplines that involve art and science and contain organizations that are important to our nation's infrastructure. These disciplines involve professionals and volunteers working for hundreds of agencies, with the goal of protecting lives and property. The response community is composed of our friends and neighbors, working to ensure that, in times when our nation and the communities of our nation are in the greatest of need, responders are ready to assist.

As stated, homeland security and emergency management are much more than mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Homeland security and emergency management are complex domains working to respond to hundreds, if not thousands, of threatening possibilities with imaginative countermeasures. They integrate numerous agencies, organizations, and people; affect laws, regulations, and policies; and require a vast range of tangible and intangible resources. These disciplines are viewed from a variety of different perspectives and involve every facet of American society.

1.4 Why Homeland Security and Emergency Management?

As stated, our nation is not the only nation to face a wide range of threats from natural and man-made events that can well overwhelm the resources of local communities. Within our global community, hundreds of examples exist of events that threaten individual and community safety. During recent years, a few of the major events that have been witnessed include earthquakes, industrial accidents, and attacks by extremists. History is filled with events that have inflicted devastation, havoc, property damage, injury, and death on a major scale. As examples, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the 2010 Gulf Coast oil spill from a British Petroleum platform both inflicted millions of dollars in damages.

Endangerments do not respect national boundaries. One of the significant concerns within our nation is related to the dangers posed by extremists of both domestic and international origins. Extremism, once viewed as either international or domestic in origin, is now less clear. As an example, the extremists involved in the attacks of September 11, 2001, originated from a foreign country. Those responsible for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, though foreign born, included two brothers who had lived in the United States for years and who were educated in our public school system. Timothy McVeigh, who perpetrated the Oklahoma City bombing; Ted Kaczynski, the nefarious Unabomber; Eric Rudolph, the Atlanta bomber; and Dylann Storm Roof, who attacked and killed nine in the 2015 Charleston church attack, were native-born citizens of the United States.



Figure 1.2 Deepwater Horizon, April 21, 2010. Fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the offshore oil rig. A Coast Guard MH-65C dolphin rescue helicopter and crew document the fire aboard the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon while searching for survivors. Multiple Coast Guard helicopters, planes, and cutters responded to rescue the Deepwater Horizon's 126-person crew.

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense)

The nation's security is a serious responsibility of the federal government. Domestically, that security falls greatly upon law enforcement, first responders, emergency management personnel, and homeland security officials.

Since its founding, the Department of Homeland Security and the general response to the threats facing the nation have involved natural disasters, intentional attacks, and accidents. Such experiences contributed toward the emerging of an "all hazards" or "all reasonable hazards" approach to homeland security planning.

This "all-hazards" or "all reasonable hazards" approach is intended to be comprehensive and to consider natural and man-made threats to the communities of our nation. Threats, both natural and man-made, may erupt into events that impact the safety of local communities, states, the nation, and global partners. Natural threats, such as major hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, or fires, will always occur. Threats to the national supplies of food and water will always be of great concern. The safety of national resources will always be a vital national interest.

1.5 What Are Homeland Security and Emergency Management?

Homeland security itself is diverse and complex. It can be viewed as a series of organizations, located at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels of government; it can be viewed as a process, one that today attempts to embrace preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. It represents an all-hazards paradigm through which American society is protected from natural



Figure 1.3 *Eric Robert Rudolph.*

(Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation)

and man-made events, and its implementation affects every individual within the nation. Emergency management has many of the components of homeland security but in itself is also unique. Emergency management is one element that can be included within the spectrum of homeland security.

Certainly, homeland security can be viewed from a variety of perspectives. Some common views are as follows:

Science—Homeland security is, without question, a science. Quantitative analysis permeates homeland security in a variety of ways, ranging from the financial and economic attributes of disasters to the metrics of evaluating organizational preparedness. Forensics examiners may quantitatively investigate the chemical, biological, geological, and physical attributes of incidents.

Art—Homeland security is also inexact and imprecise in many ways. Despite the best intelligence and best attempts to forecast and predict dangers, there is no guarantee that any estimate or projection will become reality. Further, protective and preparedness activities and measures that may be appropriate for one organization may be completely inappropriate for a different organization; no universal paradigm exists through which homeland security activities and practices may be integrated among all organizational environments.

Philosophy—Homeland security may be viewed from a philosophical perspective. Morals, ethics, and values differ among cultures and societies globally. The attacks against the United States perpetrated on September 11, 2001 are a testament to the many differences of ideological and philosophical beliefs that permeate societies around the world.



Figure 1.4 Wildfires.

(Source: U.S. Department of the Interior)



Figure 1.5 A Coast Guard member deployed to Puerto Rico in support of Hurricane Maria relief efforts delivers water to residents of Moca, Puerto Rico, in an example of the “all-hazards” concept and flexible event response.

(Source: Department of Homeland Security)

Strategy—Homeland security may be viewed strategically. It involves facets of vision representing the perceived future state of existence that is desirable for the continuance of American society through time. Typically, strategic periods encompass an average of five years (or longer) wherein the long-term concerns of homeland security and emergency management are addressed. Therefore, the federal government

pursues homeland security strategically, incorporating numerous missions, objectives, goals, contingencies, values, and evaluations over time.

Policy—Homeland security may be considered from a perspective of policy. Across the nation, local, federal, state, and tribal entities have policies regarding organizational behavior and conduct that affect processes and procedures that are enacted when disaster and inclement conditions strike. For example, within the Department of Homeland Security, its Office of Policy is tasked with providing “a central office to develop and communicate policies across multiple components of the homeland security network and strengthen the Department’s ability to maintain policy and operational readiness needed to protect the homeland.”⁹

Management—Homeland security involves management practices representing the concepts of controlling, leading, organizing, planning, and coordinating. Most notably, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) expresses the principles, tenets, and concepts that are necessary for determining “how to manage emergencies from preparedness to recovery regardless of their cause, size, location or complexity.”¹⁰

Economic—Economic interests represent a salient perspective of homeland security. Simply, economics examines the allocating of scarce resources to satisfy the unlimited wants and needs of humans over time. When disasters occur, personnel, materials, and other necessary resources are not limitless; they have constraints. Thus, three primary economic questions are addressed throughout the emergency management cycle: for whom to produce, what to produce, and in what quantity to produce. Therefore, practitioners of homeland security must be mindful of how to allocate their available resources to achieve the best and highest benefit of their use when experiencing inclement circumstances.

Creative—All incidents are unique; no universal, one-size method is appropriate to accommodate the needs of all localities. Homeland security encompasses a variety of imaginings through which possible scenarios that endanger society are expressed and examined. Examples range from how terrorists may attack the nation to what may happen if a chemical spill occurs in a small town involving certain characteristics of weather (e.g., wind patterns). Crafting countermeasures is just as creative—the protecting of society at all levels requires much thought and imagination.

Chronological—Homeland security may be viewed from a chronological perspective. Since the founding of the nation, numerous man-made and natural disasters have endangered society. A review of history easily shows acts of war in every century that followed the American Revolution that necessitated the involvement of the United States. Natural incidents of national severity have been recorded in every century since the origin of the nation. Even the outcome of the American Revolution was impacted by hurricanes contributing to an American victory.¹¹ During the 1780s, over 35,000 people died because of hurricanes.¹² These hurricanes destroyed much of the British Navy. The British incurred more losses from hurricanes than “from the battles fought in the Revolutionary War itself.”¹³

Lifestyle—Homeland security may be viewed from a lifestyle perspective. People must be vigilant to observe anything that may be threatening and report it accordingly. Before the events of September 11, 2001, people could flow through airports relatively unimpeded without experiencing any searches of persons or baggage. However, modern times and security concerns now disallow the friends and families of travelers from meeting them directly at an airport terminal.

Business and Commerce—Homeland security is big business for both the commercial and government sectors of the American economy. Many organizations were created in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. Most notably, the U.S. Department of

Homeland Security is the primary example of a government organization. Within the private sector, numerous entities have crafted business models to support homeland security endeavors. For example, numerous organizations, such as DynCorp, Intercon, and American Security Group, have protected various American resources and interests, both domestically and internationally, with respect to both man-made and natural incidents.¹⁴

Infrastructure—Homeland security may be considered from the perspective of critical national infrastructure. Across the nation, roadways, rivers, and airlines connect American society, thereby facilitating the logistics of goods and services. Television, radio, and telephone networks provide a basis for communication within American society. Hospitals and medical laboratories provide a basis for treating people who may be harmed during inclement incidents. Dams and nuclear facilities generate electric power. Many other components of critical national infrastructure (CNI) exist, and all CNI components are integrated with varying levels of extensiveness. Any failure in one area may incite cascading failures that impact related areas of CNI. Protecting CNI is a paramount interest of homeland security to ensure the production, logistics, and availability of resources throughout the nation.

Individuals—Homeland security is a matter that affects everyone. Anyone can contribute to a safer nation. For example, truck drivers may be used as the eyes and ears of the road. They may observe the actions and behaviors of others during their journeys, notice strange situations, and relay information to proper authorities when they believe they have observed something that is suspicious.

Many more perspectives may be listed if one only ponders the many ways in which homeland security influences daily life and impacts the nation. Homeland security is not relegated to the constraints of government coffers or the confines of protected offices; instead, it is a concern of every American citizen and resident. Homeland security is many things to many people and organizations and involves a myriad of different, complex perspectives. Regardless, homeland security is an essential concept embedded within every facet of American society.

1.6 Emergency Management: A Key Element in Homeland Security Operations

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters. The primary objective of emergency management is to sustain life, minimize damage to property, and maintain the safety and welfare of a community. Fundamentally, emergency management is a two-fold comprehensive process. The first part necessitates knowing what to do, which involves the coordination of the personnel, procedures, and provisions that are essential for the prevention of, the preparation for, the response to, and the recovery from the effects of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, man-made hazards, disasters, emergencies, and critical incidents.

The second part requires doing what you know, which involves an inclusive collaboration among all key stakeholders, including the government, the private sector, the public, and the media. The collaboration aspect must be designed to identify functions, roles, and responsibilities and requires a commitment to promote the communication and trust components that are essential to sustaining the functional effectiveness of all service deliverables during a disaster event. Comfort and Cahill acknowledge the essential nature of collaboration within the emergency management function: “In environments of high uncertainty, this

quality of inter-personal trust is essential for collective action. Building that trust in a multi-organizational operating environment is a complex process, perhaps the most difficult task involved in creating an integrated emergency management system.” The importance of collaboration is a critical dynamic of emergency management. In essence, collaboration involves the development of mutual cooperation within a community, which creates the environment in which coordination can function effectively.

The profession of emergency management has become an inclusive triad of process, responsibility, and discipline. First, the process of emergency management can be found in the actual response, or “boots on the ground,” to an emergency, disaster, or critical incident after it happens. Because every incident/event seemingly has a life of its own, this often requires different response and recovery approaches that were not documented in standard protocol, were unforeseen, or demanded immediate modification of “best practice.” Understanding that every incident or event is different, it is important to understand each event can serve as a valuable learning tool when objectively reviewed and the lessons learned captured.

Invariably, the process or “game plan” results in the often-used paradigm of “adapt, improvise, and overcome.” The Four Ds can serve as a basic foundation for the emergency management process: 1) Discover—lessons learned, achievements, deficiencies, effectiveness; 2) Determine—what needs to be done, necessary resources, relationships, readiness; 3) Develop—mitigation, preparedness, operational response/recovery methods; and 4) Deploy—when, where, set out, set up, step up, stand down. The continuously shifting dynamics associated with an adverse event will continue to develop and influence the emergency management process to the extent that there will never be a panacea or “one method fits all” approach.

The responsibility of emergency management involves key stakeholders, including local/state/federal government agencies, first responders, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs), and community members. For example, during the response and recovery phases, the leadership involved must take the responsibility to ensure that the necessary provisions, such as personnel and supplies, are adequate to the extent that the front-line responders and the public can depend upon and trust those tasked with the readiness to react when needed. Emergency managers often have few resources under their immediate control but have access to an incredible amount of assistance from government, nongovernmental partners, and the private sector.

Specifically, the emergency manager must act responsibly and “diplomatically” to create and sustain an environment of cooperation within which they can engage with community and emergency response partners, envision and understand how agencies may work together in an effort to make the best use of partner-agency resources so needed in an emergency, and exercise responsible leadership often under some of the most trying of conditions.

In addition, communication is the responsibility of everyone involved prior to, during, and after an incident. The absence of or a deficiency in communication may hinder the response of those involved with the emergency management process and compromise the safety and welfare of the public, responders, property, and the environment.

The profession and practices of emergency management have continued to evolve as a valid discipline and necessary subject matter that has earned its rightful place in the national headlines as well as in the mindset of the public. Emergency management has evolved into the discipline of ensuring that communities, businesses, and organizations are able to successfully endure through all aspects of an emergency or significant critical incident. Thus, the field of emergency management has become in itself a science that does more than just “deal with” extreme events. The discipline employs methods, means, and mindset to ensure

the protection of people, property, and the environment. This goal is accomplished through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

1.7 What Are the Threats and Dangers Facing Our Nation?

For the United States and its allies, the threats faced are extremely diverse. Natural events, such as earthquakes or hurricanes, may inflict wide-ranging damage; other events, such as tornadoes, though deadly, will normally, though not always, be limited in the area they impact. Attacks against the national or the global economic and banking systems, domestic communications, energy reserves, or supplies of food or water could well have devastating effects.

Accidents, such as industrial or transportation incidents, also may be devastating within the immediate area of the event, but they are typically limited in scope. Regardless, the individuals whose lives are adversely impacted feel the detriments of devastation and rely upon the assistance of others to recover from inclement circumstances and events. Other accidents, such as major chemical spills, fires, or nuclear disasters, are prevented by constantly improving and monitoring a variety of safety procedures. Pandemics pose their unique threats to the population. Intentional attacks against the national infrastructure remain a possibility. The diversity of the threats facing the nation is so great that it is impossible to completely eliminate the risk of a disastrous situation occurring at any time. Because of such a great range of threats, it is also impossible to completely envision and imagine a complete array of endangerments that could possibly be harmful. Even as a potential threat is identified, it may be impossible to determine all the combinations and permutations of events that may be harmful. Thus, great complexity exists regarding the threat domain.

Intentional attacks upon the nation may come in many forms. Attacks against the communications and financial systems, attacks against the industrial sector, attacks against the agricultural sector, pandemics, and transnational crime (including drug smuggling) are examples of potential dangers that challenge the nation. Those that would harm the U.S. are typically



Figure 1.6 Medical teams assist those injured from the bombing at the 2013 Boston Marathon.

(Source: FEMA. Photo by Robert Rose)

motivated by deeply held views that the nation, the population, and the American lifestyle should be shocked or forced into radical change. This notion is commensurate with the behavioral modification goals of terrorism. Therefore, potential aggressors define the legitimacy of targets with respect to the inciting of behavioral change.

Domestically, Timothy McVeigh viewed a federal building as a legitimate target. His choice of targets had little regard for the welfare of the individuals who were killed during his murderous attack, which resulted in the destruction of the building, the city infrastructure, and the lives of many Oklahomans. His actions showed little concern regarding the effects of collateral damage.

Even the most innocuous appearances may conceal the deadliest of dangers. The 2013 bombing at the Boston Marathon is another example of how the freedom of the nation makes the nation vulnerable. In the case of this attack, two young men from Europe, allowed into the United States, used the freedoms of the nation to attack the nation.

Since the origin of the American government, numerous anti-government crimes against both property and persons have occurred. Regardless of their motivations, potential aggressors and threat elements identify their targets. The vulnerabilities of potential targets are assessed and evaluated to determine the feasibility of successfully completing an attack. Afterward, depending on the outcomes of such evaluation and assessment, strikes against the target may occur.

1.8 When and Where Does Disaster Strike?

In a nutshell, disaster is only a heartbeat away; it may strike anytime, anywhere. Some incidents may have little or no warning, whereas other incidents may be preceded by numerous warnings and countermeasures. Often, disaster strikes with speed, surprise, and violence. During 2005, Hurricane Katrina was preceded by various warnings and evacuation activities. Hurricanes may be tracked across the ocean, and their trajectories may be plotted to determine potential impact locations along the coastline. Any changes in their intensities may be observed as they travel across the ocean. These observations may be used to forecast quantitatively over time a range of possible storm strengths that may or may not occur upon landfall. Although no one can guarantee with 100% certainty that such storm intensities and landfalls will occur exactly as projected, there is generally time to issue warnings, if necessary.

In contrast, some incidents may have little or no warning. Typically, earthquakes have no warning whatsoever.¹⁵ Although ongoing research is investigating potential methods of earthquake prediction and various warning systems, they are highly ineffective with respect to the ability to enact any countermeasures or mitigation efforts. For example, in 2013, when an earthquake affected the region of Southern California, an experimental earthquake warning system predicted the event only 30 seconds before it actually happened.¹⁶ This amount of time was insufficient to make a difference in the lives of the Californians who were impacted by the earthquake.

Regardless of any warning that may or may not precede incidents, human life is often affected by natural and man-made hazards, both indirectly and directly. For example, a train carrying dangerous chemicals may be derailed in an uninhabited region. However, because of wind patterns, the citizens of nearby communities, towns, and cities may be endangered by poisonous fumes. Although the 2010 BP oil spill occurred unexpectedly many miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, it affected the residents and the economies of “hundreds of miles of coastline.”¹⁷ It also affected the price of petroleum products, driving them upward.

1.9 Who Are the Responders, and What Is Their Role?

The thousands of emergency response organizations throughout the country are all unique. They have separate budgets, different levels of training and expertise, varying levels of interaction with state and federal officials, and different threat environments in which they must work. The heaviest burden of preparing for domestic emergencies falls on the emergency medical personnel, firefighters, and police officers of the “first responder” community. Concerns about mass casualties from conventional attacks and the potential use of smallpox and other biological weapons have focused renewed attention on public health and hospital preparedness, which are thought to be woefully lacking. Behind the first responders and health-care personnel are state emergency management offices, the offices of the state adjutant generals, and finally the many federal agencies with roles to play.

All these organizations are composed of people. Some may have many years of experience with emergencies and disasters, whereas others may just be entering their respective occupations. An organization is only as good as the people it employs, their training, and the resources that it has available. Therefore, responders must be well trained and properly equipped to perform their respective missions and tasks.

Responders come from a variety of backgrounds. Some may be college students working part time as law enforcement officers, whereas others may be unpaid volunteers working as firefighters in small communities. Some responders may be full-time medical personnel working in the most notable and well-equipped hospitals, whereas others may be paramedics assigned to a rural ambulance service. Such individuals comprise the basic elements of all response organizations and agencies. Within the domain of homeland security, their skills, abilities, and expertise are critical during periods of calamity.

1.10 The Department of Homeland Security: A Brief Examination

As stated, the White House Office of Homeland Security was created on October 8, 2001, with Congress passing legislation mandating the Department of Homeland Security on November 19, 2002. The Department of Homeland Security today is different than the agency first established over 15 years ago. The extremists’ attacks of 2001 set the tone for domestic security from such events. The impact of Hurricane Katrina brought home the realization that natural events pose as great or an even greater threat to the communities of our nation.

Now functioning under the leadership of Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas within the administration of President Joe Biden, the Department performs a wide range of missions enhancing the protection and security of the nation. The mission of the Department of Homeland Security is defined in the National Strategy for Homeland Security as “a concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America’s vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur” (Administrative Law, n.d.). This mission statement was developed early in the evolution of the Department of Homeland Security. It has caused concern throughout the history of the department in that it seems to limit the scope of the mission of homeland security. It particularly causes policy questions to arise when discussing natural disasters and man-made incidents such as acts of terrorism, incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, or any other event that incites national distress. In the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001, the mission statement reflected the “mood” of the country, with a focus on terrorists, acts of terrorism, and what direction the United States should take in the anti-terrorism preparedness role. The country and its leadership, in a natural reaction to the attacks, were not focused on natural hazards.



Figure 1.7 *First responders.*

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense)

The Department became operational on January 24, 2003, with most component agencies merging on March 1, 2003. The Department of Homeland Security incorporates 22 governmental agencies. Some of those agencies are the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, the Transportation Security Agency, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Border Patrol, along with 16 other agencies.

This reorganization was the largest one in the federal government since the U.S. Department of Defense was created in 1947. As stated by the President, “The mission of the Office will be to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks” (Administrative Law, n.d.).

The Department of Homeland Security is led by the Secretary of Homeland Security. As of 2019, an array of individuals had been appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and served in the position. The first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security was the former governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, named by President George W. Bush to direct the Office, beginning his duties on October 8, 2001. Ridge resigned on November 30, 2004. The second Secretary was Michael Chertoff, also appointed by President Bush, beginning on February 15, 2005. The third Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security was former Arizona governor Janet Napolitano. She was followed by Jeh Charles Johnson (fourth Secretary), General John F. Kelly (fifth Secretary), and later Kirstjen M. Nielsen, who assumed the office on December 6, 2017.

According to a report from the Department of Homeland Security, in fiscal year 2017, the Department was allocated a net discretionary budget of \$40.6 billion. With more than 240,000 employees, DHS was the third largest Cabinet department, after the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The Department has many undersecretaries, assistant undersecretaries,

administrators, and directors. All the directorates, programs, and personnel ultimately report to the Office of the Secretary.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Strategic Plan highlights mission statement concerns. Secretary Chertoff outlined four operational objectives: 1) Clarifying, defining, and communicating leadership roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority at all government levels; 2) Strengthening accountability systems that balance the need for fast, flexible response with the need to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse; 3) Consolidating efforts to integrate the Department's critical mission of preparedness; and 4) Enhancing capabilities to respond to major disasters and emergencies, including catastrophic events, particularly in terms of situational assessment and awareness, emergency communications, evacuations, search and rescue, logistics, and mass care and sheltering (Department of Homeland Security, 2019). The fourth objective seems to be making a subtle shift to the natural hazards environment.

As the first phase of the development of the Department of Homeland Security was directed by the administration of President George W. Bush, the second phase, under President Barack Obama, witnessed a further evolution of the agency. During the early phases of the Obama administration, Arizona governor Janet Napolitano was appointed Director of the Department of Homeland Security, replacing Michael Chertoff. Secretary Napolitano initiated a review and evaluation of each function within the Department of Homeland Security. Under the administration of President Obama, the Department of Homeland Security continued to evolve. By 2010, significant attention had been directed to transportation and border security and the ability of responding to threats much broader than terrorism. Violence and unrest in Mexico, combined with poverty in Central America, are issues that have fueled illegal immigration and violence along the nation's southwest border. As a response, the Department of Homeland Security strengthened enforcement and intervention efforts on the southwest border to disrupt the drug, cash, and weapon smuggling that fuels cartel violence in Mexico by adding manpower and technology to the southwest border.

Some of the programs included under the Department of Homeland Security include the Container Security Initiative (CSI), a program intended to help increase the security of containerized cargo shipped to the United States from around the world; the National Fugitive Operations Program, to enhance the apprehension and deportation of fugitive aliens, especially those who have been convicted of crimes; and Operation Community Shield, a nationwide initiative that targets violent transnational street gangs by partnering with U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies at all levels and making use of its authority to deport criminal aliens. Clearly, the role of the Department of Homeland Security continues to evolve.

1.11 Chapter Comments and Summary

Although most threats have limited impact upon the nation, the September 11, 2001 attack and the damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina converged to serve as a catalyst for enhancing homeland security. The September 11, 2001 attacks made Americans confront the unpleasant reality that foreign terrorists could routinely operate within the U.S. to investigate and exploit security weaknesses and use them to their advantage, giving them the ability to strike a target at the time of their choosing. During modern times, the legacy of the terrorist attacks continues to be felt by the American public as they find themselves subjected to an increasing level of inspection at the nation's airports before boarding their flights. Terrorism itself is fluid; as measures are taken to remove a potential target from the terrorist, the terrorist changes their tactics and targets. It is a constant chess game with deadly stakes in play.

Such calamities and threats are not uncommon in American history. Since the founding of the nation, it has faced various challenges, ranging from wars to natural disasters. Domestic and international events have contributed to the maturing of protecting American society over time. Each incident represents a unique experience from which lessons were learned that bettered preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery. Despite such lessons, the United States is not an invulnerable society or nation.

An all-hazards and whole-community paradigm exists, through which modern efforts of homeland security are instantiated. This all-hazards approach accommodates the realities of both man-made and natural disasters. Calamities may occur with varying degrees of warning. In some cases, warnings may be sufficient to facilitate evacuations, whereas other situations may involve little or no warning. In any case, any threat, whether natural or man-made, has the potential to impact human life.

People are the primary element of homeland security efforts. The preservation of human life is a top priority of the homeland security domain. Although there are numerous organizations, both public and private, that contribute to homeland security, all organizations are composed of people. An organization is only as good as its people and its available resources. Therefore, responders must be well trained, well equipped, and prepared to encounter both man-made and natural events. Responders come from all walks of life and have varying amounts of experience with disasters.

Homeland security encompasses a complex domain. The homeland security activities that may be appropriate for one organization may be completely inappropriate for a different organization. No solitary perspective of homeland security exists; it is many things to different organizations and people. Examples of such perspectives include policies, strategies, and philosophies. Homeland security is both an art and a science. It exhibits various attributes of uncertainty and inexactness while simultaneously possessing quantitative methods within its implementation.

1.12 Key Terms

All-Hazards	Infrastructure
All Reasonable Hazards	Lifestyle
American Revolution	Man-Made Incident
Calamity	Management
Complexity	Mitigate
Contingency	Natural Incident
Creativity	Policy
Critical National Infrastructure	Preparedness
Department of Homeland Security	Protection
Disaster	Responder
Earthquake	Recover
Extremists	Response
Event	Security
First Responder	Society
Flexible Event Response	Strategy
Homeland Security	Terrorism
Hurricane	Threat
Incident	Whole-Community Approach

1.13 Thought and Discussion Questions

1. Homeland security is a relatively new term that was coined after the events of September 11, 2001. However, the concept of homeland security has existed throughout the history of the United States. Review American history, and cite examples from each century of the nation's existence that involved the concept of homeland security. Write a brief essay that discusses your findings.
2. The termination of the Cold War necessitated many changes in the U.S. homeland security philosophies. Beginning in the 1990s, how do you believe that homeland security has adapted to the complexities of modern threats? Write a brief essay that discusses your opinion.
3. Domestic threats originate from a variety of sources, ranging from individual agents (e.g., Tim McVeigh, Major Nidal Hassan) to group-based and cell-based entities (e.g., Animal Liberation Front [ALF], Earth Liberation Front [ELF]). From the perspective of domestic terrorism, please consider the actions of either an individual agent or group/cell that have impacted American commercial or government operations. Select a case example of your choice, substantively discuss the characteristics of the case, and provide a critical analysis of the case. Within your response, please discuss the homeland security implications of your selected event.
4. Global society is dynamic over time. Now that nearly two decades have passed since the events of September 11, 2001, how do you believe American society views homeland security? Write a brief essay that discusses your opinion.

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Vital National Interests and the Defense of the Homeland

That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic . . .

—U.S. Military Officer Oath of Office

The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Understand the concept of vital national interests and how they are important to a nation;
- Gain an understanding of the instruments of power available to a nation;
- Examine the historical evolution of the United States from its independence from Britain through its emergence as a global superpower;
- Identify the phases of the Cold War and its impact on United States foreign policy; and
- Recognize the impact on the United States of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the changes in homeland security policies, and its influence on the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

2.1 Introduction

The world is a very dynamic and dangerous place, and the United States plays a major role in global dynamics. In the history of nations, the United States is remarkable. Over a period of approximately 250 years, the country evolved from a small group of European colonies into a global superpower, economically, socially, diplomatically, and militarily. Its roots were derived from not only the English colonists, but also the Spanish, French, and Native American lands in the new world.

Over the centuries, many challenges and difficulties impacted the homeland. Examples include pestilence and disease, wars and military conflicts, political issues, natural incidents, and many other happenings that influenced society toward adjustments of the balance between liberty and security. Notable incidents included yellow fever in the 1800s and the Spanish influenza in the early twentieth century; numerous conflicts, ranging from the American Revolution to the modern War on Terror; the flooding of the Mississippi River; the San Francisco earthquake; the Dust Bowl years; the Red Scare of 1950s; the erupting of Mount St. Helens in 1980; Super Storm



Figure 2.1 Map of the United States of America.

(Source: Shutterstock. Used with permission)

Sandy; and many others. At the time of this authorship, American society is debating erecting a security wall to demarcate the border between the United States of America and Mexico.

Each unique incident contributed toward the slow emergence of the modern notions of homeland security and emergency management. Even the last decade and a half showed that the world is a very dangerous place. Cultures clashed, violence and warfare erupted, economies were shaken, and populations were threatened and became targets of extreme violence—in some cases, to the point at which the violence edged on genocide. For better or worse, the United States is one of the most significant, if not the most significant, of the global powers. Despite its power, in many ways, it is not invulnerable. Both man-made and natural disasters continuously pose considerable risks to the safety and security of its citizenry and communities.

2.2 A Brief History and Reflection

While a complete and in-depth examination of the history and evolution of the United States is beyond the scope of this chapter, even the most basic of studies reveals that the birth, growth, and development of the United States comprise a remarkable story. Moving from a set of colonies into a global superpower over a span of two centuries is a unique feat in world history. With the conclusion of the American Revolution and the decision by the British government to relinquish its hold on the thirteen American colonies, a new nation was established, one that

was intended to operate with a representative government at a time in history in which most of the world's powerful nations were controlled by monarchies.

Contrary to popular belief, the United States of America is a republic, not a democracy. However, some constrained amount of democracy exists within its political infrastructure. The combination of a governmental republic and the incorporation of democracy has proven to be a continually evolving form of government. With independence, the young United States turned to the task of commencing a process that continues today of the development of its state and federal governments, including (but not limited to) their relationships, roles, and responsibilities.

Since its founding, the United States has matured greatly as a nation. Beginning as a small collection of colonies along the Eastern seashore, the nation now spans the continent, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean; contains two states (Alaska and Hawaii) beyond its continental mass; maintains various territories; and commands a global influence. The nation's demographics and national interests are diverse and represent a variety of different societal dimensions that have proven to be a melting pot of cultures.

2.3 Threats and Challenges to the Nation

The United States has endured, and shall continue to endure, both natural and man-made threats. Natural events, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, droughts, and floods, have caused devastation. Wars and conflicts both at home and abroad have also shaped the nation's identity. Throughout such challenges, the nation has survived and thrived. If history has any lesson for the modern practitioners and theoreticians of homeland security, it is that maintaining the security of the American homeland is both daunting and challenging.



Figure 2.2 *King George III of England.*

2.4 Vital National Interests and Instruments of National Power

The decision to exert military power should never be made lightly and should only be reached if vital national interests are jeopardized. Vital interests are those of such importance that the nation cannot afford to compromise their principles. The United States government has identified four interests as vital to national security. They are survival and security, political and territorial integrity, economic stability and well-being, and national stability.¹ While these national interests are frequently discussed in vague or generalized terms by the government, they serve as the foundation for the development and implementation of national strategy and national security policies. In theory, vital national interests should be the only things that would lead a nation to engage in military action.

To ensure the safety of its vital national interests, a country can call upon all its instruments of national power to influence other nations. Nations are in a constant state of change, economically, socially, and politically; they continually engage with other nations. Normally, this process of change and interaction occurs peacefully because nations recognize that change is in their best interests strategically. However, there are times when peaceful change is replaced by aggression.

There are only two ways for a nation to make another nation comply with its wishes. A nation can peaceably convince the other nation through dialogue and reward. Otherwise, a nation may be influenced through threats of the use or application of force. The tools used by a nation to make another nation comply with its wishes are called “instruments of national power.” There are four instruments of national power: diplomatic/political power, informational power, military power, and economic power (DIME).

Within the contexts of national security and the defense of the homeland, diplomacy is the art of employing communications and establishing global relationships to advance national objectives. Within the setting of national security, all governmental agencies must work together to achieve the common goal of protecting the nation. The United States Department of State is the primary agency that facilitates international relations and diplomacy. The functions of diplomacy and the effects of diplomatic power are the key elements of national strategy and are the predominant instruments of national power. These diplomatic resources can be used to influence international policies, international negotiations, political recognition, treaties, and alliances. The diplomatic instrument is normally emphasized before hostilities begin and remains critical in any conflict situation.² Essentially, war represents a failure of diplomacy.

Governments should always first consider the diplomatic option to counter a threat. The costs of diplomacy are lower than those expended during military conflicts. However, the misapplication of diplomacy can amplify asymmetric threats, especially if they legitimize violence.³ Asymmetric warfare involves leveraging inferior tactical or operational strength against the vulnerabilities of a superior opponent to achieve a disproportionate effect. This concept includes a goal of undermining the opponent's will in order to achieve the asymmetric actor's strategic objectives.

The misapplication of diplomacy contributes negatively to the resolution of problematic situations. During the months preceding World War II, one of the greatest failures of diplomacy involved the appeasement of Adolf Hitler. This appeasement included the Munich Pact of 1938. In an attempt to avoid war with Germany, the nations of France, Britain, and Italy permitted the German annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland. As parts of Czechoslovakia were absorbed under German control, the French and British leaders believed they had ensured peace. However, Germany was clandestinely preparing to invade Poland. During September 1939, the German invasion of Poland sparked a declaration of war against Germany by both France and Britain. This event proved to be the opening days of World War II in Europe.⁴

Information or informational power, the second instrument of national power, is the use of information and ideas to advance national interests. Information is used to influence opinions, views, and attitudes of both allies and adversaries. Informational resources that can be used to influence international policies include any information designed and focused to influence or shape human opinion. These informational resources include propaganda, media, news, and press releases.⁵ Examples of the use of information to influence international opinion by the United States include Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Europe (RFE), and Radio Marti (RM). In the conflict in Vietnam, the North Vietnamese were ultimately successful through their use of information warfare, influencing the opinion of the U.S. population against the conflict and demanding the withdrawal of United States forces and support.

The third instrument of power is economic power. Economic power considerations remain a major concern for any nation. Economic strategies that can be employed to influence other nations include the regulation of trade practices, the provision of international loans and loan guarantees, the supplying of foreign aid and subsidies, international investment and monetary policies, and technology.⁶ For example, since 1975, the heads of state or government of the major industrial democracies meet annually, in what is now known as the G7/8, to deal with the economic and political issues facing their domestic societies and the international community. Six countries were represented during the first summit in November 1975. These nations consisted of France, the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, and Italy. The G7/8 ministers and officials also meet on an ad hoc basis to deal with pressing issues such as terrorism, energy, and development. Periodically, the leaders also create task forces or working groups to focus intensively on certain issues of concern. Such issues include drug-related money laundering, nuclear safety, and transnational organized crime.

Military power is the fourth instrument of national power. It may be implemented by a government to influence international policies, but it is the instrument that should be used as a last resort. Though most of the defense of the United States centers on the capabilities of its military, the three additional instruments of national power available to the nation are extremely important. All instruments of national power are interconnected; for example, military power is frequently dependent upon a diplomat's ability to enlist other nations in alliances and coalitions or in obtaining basing rights and over-flight permissions. It is also directly dependent on the financial and technological strength of the nation's industrial, scientific, and economic capacities.⁷

2.5 Foundations of a Nation

Over the course of two centuries, the United States rose from obscurity to global superpower, with extensive power and influence. The United States has been viewed as a nation that values rough independence and great pride that some observers have described as arrogance. A nation blessed with extensive resources and a population empowered with freedoms, the United States has attracted and continues to attract refugees fleeing oppression or in search of religious tolerance, economic opportunity, or a chance for a better life.

The United States became a nation of dreamers and doers. It is a nation that would choose leaders to serve as the chief executive as diverse as the autocratic George Washington and the rough woodsman Andrew Jackson, from the intellectuals Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson to the truly American Theodore Roosevelt. It became a nation that would survive an internal struggle and defeat, on land, at sea, and eventually in the air, aggressor nations that would dare to challenge/threaten the vital national interests of the country.

The United States has defined itself as a country that believes in manifest destiny, seeing itself as the primary nation in the Western Hemisphere. It is a nation that developed its unique culture and exported it globally. The United States is many things. President Ronald Reagan, in his 1989 farewell address to the nation, drawing from the words of John Winthrop, famously said the United States remains “the shining city upon a hill” with its doors “open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here.”⁸ President Reagan’s speech highlighted the United States as an example to other nations that freedom is important and is something to be valued and protected. To others, the United States is a power to be feared.

For much of its history, while European powers were continually on alert for possible aggression from their neighbors, the United States was protected by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. With no major threat to challenge the sovereignty of the nation, investments in national defense and homeland security were limited, if not outright inadequate. Because the Army served primarily as a constabulary force and the Navy possessed limited power and capability, America was not perceived as a threat to stronger nations during its formative years.

2.6 Foundations of National Security

At the conclusion of the American Revolution, few funds were available for national defense. The Continental Navy and Marine Corps ceased to exist. The Continental Army disbanded. In its place, a small national army was formed with the support of local militias. Soon realizing that the nation needed some type of naval security, on August 4, 1790, Congress authorized the formation of the Revenue Marine Service, which would serve as a coastal security force charged with, among other things, suppressing smuggling. For several years, the Revenue Marine Service would serve as the nation’s quasi-navy until growing, sea-going, international commerce made it clear the nation needed a navy. The birth of the United States Navy did not mean an end for the Revenue Marine Service. Rather, the Service would prove remarkably flexible as it responded to changing needs over the next 200 years, eventually becoming what we know today as the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Today, the Coast Guard operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security and serves as the nation’s front-line agency for enforcing United States laws at sea, including drug trafficking interdiction; protecting the marine environment, coastline, and ports; and providing emergency search and rescue operations. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the United States Coast Guard serves as a direct supplement to the Navy Department.

Today, as in the past, maritime security is important to the United States. Protection of the sea lanes ensures that ocean-going commerce, so important to the nation, proceeds unhindered. Since the earliest colonial days, the sea has served as the highway system for much of the nation’s international trade, even as the United States relied on the British for protection in the early days of the republic.

The War of 1812, fought against the British, showed that both the United States and the Western Hemisphere were susceptible to the influences of the major European powers. The British were successful in their use of their sea power to control the sea lanes, disrupt maritime trade, blockade ports and land British ground forces. During this conflict, Baltimore was bombarded, Washington was burned, and Louisiana was invaded. Although the United States won against Britain and uncontestedly reinforced its existence as an independent nation, the war demonstrated the need for a strong national defense. At the end of the war, few debated the need for the United States to develop a stronger military capability.



Figure 2.3 *Revenue service cutter.*

2.7 The Monroe Doctrine

In December 1823, the administration of President James Monroe (1817–1825) established the first major United States policy toward European intervention into the Americas. In what became known as the Monroe Doctrine, the President presented a broad proclamation that was intended to define the relationship between the Americas and Europe. In this “Doctrine,” he warned foreign powers against interfering in the affairs of the United States and the newly independent Latin American countries, many of which had recently overthrown European rule.

The Monroe Doctrine, which was actually written by John Quincy Adams, was based on three major principles that would serve as the foundation for the homeland security vision of the United States for much of its history: 1) a separate sphere of influence for the Americas and Europe, 2) the cessation of European colonization of the Americas, and 3) the non-intervention of Europe in the affairs of the nations of North and South America. This was a very bold step, considering the fact that the United States did not possess the military or political power to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, nor did the nation necessarily consider the desires of the other countries in the region. No matter, the primary tenets of the Monroe Doctrine established the United States as the self-proclaimed guardian of the Western Hemisphere.

2.8 Early Conflicts

During the years between the War of 1812 and the turn of the century, the nation continued its expansion, fought a brief war with Mexico, and survived a major internal conflict. Except during the Civil War (1861–1865), the United States military remained quite small and poorly