

## Governing in Crisis Teaching Guide

Robert B. Zoellick, former President, World Bank

### America in the World: A History of U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

#### Interview Summary

Robert B. Zoellick has built an incredibly distinguished career, one that includes service as: Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary and Counselor in the State Department; Ambassador and U.S. Trade Representative; Counselor to the Secretary of the Treasury; Deputy Chief of Staff at the White House; and President of the World Bank. Currently, he is a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School, where he contributes to its "Applied History" project.

Mr. Zoellick's recently published book, *America in the World: A History of U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy*, is an ambitious and impressive work. It follows the sweep of American diplomatic history from Benjamin Franklin through the 20th century and identifies five traditions that have emerged from this nation's encounters with the world. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright offered this assessment of it: "America in the World" is a highly accessible and engaging history of U.S. diplomacy written by one of the country's smartest and most capable foreign policy practitioners. Robert Zoellick understands better than most how inseparable America's fate is from the rest of the world, and that timely lesson shines through the pages of this book."

#### Video Topics:

- 8:36 Governor Dick Thornburgh
- 12:47 Motivation for Writing "America in the World"
- 15:41 Ben Franklin: America's First Diplomat
- 21:14 The Five Traditions of American Diplomacy
- 28:27 Changing Attitudes Toward Mexico
- 24:05 George H. W. Bush and the Importance of Alliances
- 40:51 Vannevar Bush: The Role of Science and Technology in Diplomacy
- 49:01 The Rise of China
- 55:39 Combatting Disinformation
- 58:57 Advice for Students Interested in a Career in Foreign Policy

#### Potential Uses:

- Post an American Experience Distinguished Speaker series video on Canvas and ask students to respond to a discussion question about the video, as well as comment on 1-2 of their classmates' posts.

- ❑ Show a clip of the video during class to enrich learning, emphasize a point, and/or contextualize a topic.
- ❑ Create a resource folder on Canvas that includes American Experience Distinguished Speaker series videos, accompanied by “learn and do more” documents, as well as other links to support student growth related to current events.
- ❑ Incorporate an American Experience Distinguished Speaker series video into pre-class readings for a live discussion using or adapting the questions below.

### Suggested Written Reflection Questions

- ❑ According to Robert B. Zoellick, there are many important skills in negotiations. One of these skills is the ability to “keep your eye on the primary objective.” What other skills do you think are important to be an effective negotiator?
- ❑ Who is Vannevar Bush and what was his impact? What was unique about his style of diplomacy?
- ❑ What did you find interesting in the interview? What is something that you disagreed with?

### Suggested Classroom Discussion Questions

- ❑ What do you think Robert B. Zoellick means when he says, “America’s purpose”?
- ❑ Do you agree that “the United States is most effective when it’s the nucleus of a network?” Why or why not?
- ❑ Why is it important for American political leaders like Secretary of State Baker to have “strong relations with the Congress?”

### Related Reading

- ❑ Read Robert B. Zoellick’s book *America in the World: A History of U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy* and watch one of his book talks online.
- ❑ Check out Vannevar Bush’s report *Science The Endless Frontier* and his article *As We May Think* in the Atlantic.
- ❑ Read Henry Kissinger’s *Diplomacy*
- ❑ Pick a new read from *Brookings Foreign Policy Reading List*

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