Discussion Sheet #2: The Bush Doctrine and the War in Iraq

What? Please complete a summary for Week 2 readings.

How? Use the form and space below and write carefully and legibly.

When? Due in class, Tuesday, April 15.

The focus for Tuesday will be on the controversial preemption strategy outlined most basically in The National Security Strategy of the United States 2002 (White House). In addition to this primary source, Nicholas Lemann’s article provides an overview analysis; the Analysis section of the Frontline link gives a terrific range of views; and Spencer and Weisman add some perspective on where this all comes from. In addition to this basic material, Notes for Week #2 provides a range of views on the Bush doctrine and preemption. Meanwhile, I have collected a diversity of analysis and opinion on preemption in the Topics section.

I will play the role of the President in Tuesday’s class meeting. You will be my foreign policy advisors. In that role, you will need to be able to advise me on the following two topics. Use this sheet to prepare the notes you will use to advise the President. Remember, you are preparing for a discussion.

1. What is the preemption strategy? why are we thinking about it now? what national interests does it serve and how?

2. Lay out as clearly and concisely as possible the reasons why preemption is or is not the policy that best serves the US national interest. Give reasons and examples as much as possible.