

Study Questions: Fred Kaplan, *Daydream Believers*, Introduction—Chapter 2

1. According to Kaplan, how had the end of the Cold War changed America's place in the world and made it more difficult to project its power? Why does he believe the Bush administration's "go it alone" policies failed to comprehend the realities of the post-Cold War world?
2. How did the foreign policy ideas of the "neoconservatives" of the 1990s differ from those of Woodrow Wilson? In what ways were they similar?
3. What was the "revolution in military affairs"? (p. 16) How did it employ new technology to change the U.S. military strategy? Why did it concern the Soviet Union?
4. How did the Air Force report "Global Reach – Global Power" (p. 20) contribute to the "revolution in military affairs" and change U.S. military strategy? To what extent did the new strategy work when applied during the first Gulf War?
5. Who was Andy Marshall and why was he a significant figure? How did his influence change the U.S. military under Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld?
6. How was the "revolution in military affairs" applied in Afghanistan after 9/11? How did new factors (such as new technological breakthroughs) aid the strategy? What other factors – as seen in Operation Anaconda (p. 38) – kept the strategy from fully succeeding?
7. Who were Huba Wass de Czege and John Boyd and why were they significant? Why does the author believe Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld would have been better off if he had paid attention to their ideas on warfare?
8. According to Kaplan, what did Rumsfeld get right and what did he get wrong during the early days of the Afghan and Iraq wars?
9. How did the Clinton administration deal with North Korea? Why does the author consider Clinton's diplomacy relatively effective (as opposed to George W. Bush's)?
10. Why did George W. Bush take a tougher line with North Korea? Did his approach produce better results? Why or why not?
11. Why was Bush's diplomacy with North Korea more broadly a misreading of the potency of U.S. power in the post-Cold War world?