**Conclusion**

The foreign policy of the United States in the Middle East is the Policy by which the United States deals with the Middle Eastern countries, (mainly Arab and Muslims). The United States uses it’s highly influential power in the world community as the world’s only superpower to protect its own interests in the region, because the importance of the Middle East is vital for the United States. Such importance, relates to create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community.

The United States directs much of its Foreign Policy’s efforts to the Middle East also because the strategic interests of the United States in the Middle East. Such interests are: the geo-strategic concern (the Middle East is in the Heart of the World), the Oil in the Middle East (US is the largest single consumer of oil in the world), US relations with its allies, such as Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, and promoting stability and democracy in the Middle East.

For the US to keep protecting its interests, it has to keep its Military bases in the Middle East region and around the world. It has also to give assistance or aid to its allies, such as military aid, educational aid, and also cash fund to these countries.

The American partiality to Israel against Palestinians, the occupation of Iraq, the broken promises about democracy and freedom, the arrogance and unilateralism of the superpower, and the double standards of dealing with some countries in the region different than others are basic reasons of increasing of anti-Americanism in the Middle East. The United States is the only superpower speaks one thing and does another.

The United States prefers one country or one regime than another according to its own interests. United States supported Saddam Hussein’s regime during his war against Iran in the 80s, but removed him from power in the 2003 invasion. United States is demanding a nuclear-free region, applying it for Iran but not mentioning Israel.

After the huge marketing and promotion to the Greater Middle East Project, promoting the concept of peace democracy and the spreading of democracy and freedom, the double standards of the United States in the Middle East was clear and obvious when Hamas won the 2006 elections in the Palestinian territories. The United States refused to deal with Hamas elected officials, but at the same time continued to deal with unelected regimes or dictatorship regime such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The nuclear policy of the United States in the Middle East is one of the most hypocritical one in the region. United States launched the war on Iraq based on false intelligence reports about the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in Iraq, while uttering not even one word about the nukes in Israel, and is the same time pushing and demanding the world community to put sanctions on Iran because of her nuclear program (devoted for peaceful purposes, as Iran claims).

The United States criticize human rights violators each year before the United Nations, but the double standards of the United States on Human Rights shocked the world when the graphic images of torture and abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison came to public. Not only the pictures of those prisoners were horrifying and inhumane but also were disturbing and embarrassing to the United States image in the world as well.

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The most shocking things of the US double Standards on Human Rights were the techniques of enhanced interrogations that US applied and the methods that US used against the terrorists suspects on the War on Terror. US violated not only the international law and the Geneva conventions but also its own constitution by allowing and approving such techniques and methods to torture.

The double standards of the United States continued to be above the international law by redefining the Geneva conventions for its own purposes, by the illegal renditions which was highly criticized in the Martin Scheinin Report to the United Nations, and the secret detention places around the world.

Even though United States is one of the permanent members in the Security Council, it is obvious that double standard can be seen through its voting on the issues. United States vetoed each and every resolution which condemns Israel or is for Palestinians rights. To give the best two examples, the first one is the war on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, the second one is the war on Gaza in 08/09. Even when it comes from UN personnel, such as Goldstone’s report, US always support Israel by saying “Israel has the right to defend itself “.

The most important thing to the United States in the Middle East is its interests and its interest’s only, like: material sources (Oil), Economy or Business, Geo-Strategic concern and Stability in the region and the existence of Israel by the Israel Lobby support. That’s why the double standards policy of the US will continue and the image of the US will be negative in the Middle East.

The negative image of the United States in the Middle East is a natural result of its double standards foreign policy toward the Arab and Muslim issues, especially the US extreme support to Israel against Palestinians, and the unlimited support to Israel. Consequently, it’s hard for the United States to win hearts and minds in the Middle East. When Condoleezza Rice met with Nicolas Sarkozy as the President of France, she asked him: “what can I do for you?” Sarkozy’s reply was: “Improve your image in the world.”

Winning the hearts and minds of Arab and Muslim People must start with the change of US Foreign Policy and its Double Standard toward Arab and Muslim issues, including the US attitude in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the occupation of Iraq. The problem with Arabs and Muslims is not with the American People, but with the Double Standard Foreign Policy of the American Government. Such a policy is not accepted in any way in the Arab and Muslim world.

The US can regain its credibility by listening to Middle East Publics and gaining a better understanding of their side. To win hearts and minds in the Middle East the US must be the real guard for humanitarian values which are based on justice, freedom and human rights for all. That must be practice not just logos, bumper stickers and lip service.

 I would like to conclude by pointing out that the military and foreign policies of the United States have indeed reaped hatred. The only way for America to get back the positive image or at least to reduce the negative image and get the rest of the world to respect its foreign policy would be to do away with its double standards, its self-serving attitude, engage and encourage more dialogues, stand on the same distance of all parties and curb the use of force.