During the 1970s, American foreign policy faced a predicament of clashing imperatives—US decision makers, already struggling to maintain stability and devise strategic frameworks to guide the exercise of American power during the Cold War, found themselves hampered by the emergence of dilemmas that would come to a head in the post-Cold War era. Their choices proved to be of enormous consequence for the development of American foreign policy in the final decades of the twentieth century and beyond. This talk will explain how policymakers across three administrations worked to manage complex international changes in a tumultuous era, with results that transformed the United States as a superpower.

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