**Position:** Secretary of State

**Institution:** Department of State

**Faction:** Diplomatic

**Historical Reference:** Hillary Clinton

**Biography:**

You enter your role as Secretary of state with significant government experience. You served as First Lady and then as a senator from New York. As a senator, you continued to push for healthcare reform and children’s issues domestically, and you were appointed to key foreign policy committees, including the Senate Armed Forces Committee. After September 11, you supported the US invasion of Afghanistan but were openly critical of Bush’s handling of the Iraq War. After a politically successful first term, you easily won reelection to the Senate in 2006.

At 61 years old, you are now Secretary of State at a historic moment in the history of the United States. Barack Obama, who you lost to in a highly competitive Democratic Primary, has just been elected as the first African-American President. In a moment of party unity, he has asked you to serve as his Secretary of State. Upon your nomination, the Senate quickly confirmed your appointment by a vote of 94-2, making you only the third woman to hold the office of Secretary of State.

**Faction Advisory**

As a member of the State Department, your core belief is that diplomatic action is always the first, best option to resolve tensions between countries. You oppose military action, except in extreme circumstances where the US or its allies face an existential threat. Winning a war does not solve problems. Instead, you preferer a steady diplomatic approach and believe that, while it may take some time, diplomacy is the only way to forge a real consensus between countries. You support economic sanctions if the purpose is to create political pressure and convince governments to negotiate in good faith. Sanctions designed solely for punishment do not advance diplomatic interests. Because the complexity of global cyber threats is increasing rapidly, you believe that unilateral action (including sanctions) will ultimately fail. Effective management of global cybersecurity requires working with allies and other like-minded governments

**Assignment**

At an upcoming meeting, the President (instructor) will convene the National Security Council (NSC) and ask it to develop a National Security Strategy for Cyber Security. You need to ensure that the final document the NSC produces reflects your institution’s priorities (see objectives). Because the NSC contains representatives from institutions (or agencies) with vastly different perspectives, this will be no easy task. Government agencies fight hard for influence and resources (e.g., a budget). Not everyone can get what they want. Thus, your colleagues need to hear your ideas, but you also need to convince them that your priorities belong in a document that will not—indeed, *can not*—contain everything. Evidence-based arguments will serve you best here, and you can prepare in the following ways:

* Research your *institution*. What does your institution generally do day-to-day? What are its general interests? This puts you in the mindset of the institution.
* Research the current state of cyberspace (as of January 21, 2009; no later). What are its characteristics? What are its main opportunities and challenges? The instructor will provide you with access to a database of resources to get you started, but you should not confine yourself only to those resources. You may use any time appropriate research.
* Research your policy toward cyberspace. Given (i) and (ii) above, what do you think a national cyber policy needs to contain? What do you think it should avoid? What language should it use?

As the game unfolds, the instructor will distribute additional assignments. You will need to complete those assignments as they arise.

**Objectives**

Your mandate is broad, and there are many different ways that you can ensure that your goals are met. You will need to be both creative and direct in pursuing your agenda. At a minimum, you should seek to:

* Establish new global no ‘first use’ cyber norm.
* Establish new international institutions and cooperation that address cyber threats under US leadership.

You strongly oppose:

* Military or cyber-attacks as a ‘first’ response to a crisis.
* Secrecy and hidden side-deals. Diplomacy happens in the open. The more information governments have, the better. The US and global community need to share information so that each government can identify and articulate its interests.

**Strategy Advice**

In the NSC, your natural allies include other members of the diplomatic corps, including the UN delegation. You may want to coordinate with them first. You may also find common ground on specific issues with several other factions. While no faction’s interests will entirely overlap with your own, you should seek allies whenever possible. This may include department heads responsible for the domestic economy, and representatives from trade delegations. You may also find that some factions approach the issue differently. For example, the military and intelligence agencies may believe that transparency is a national security risk and that direct unilateral action is more effective.

Finally, you note that the Bush Administration’s cybersecurity plan emphasized domestic security over a global approach. But the world has changed, and you need to convince all factions that cybersecurity is no longer a national-level issue that countries can address on their own. For the US to be secure domestically, it must lead internationally.

**A Cautionary Note**

The game begins on January 21, 2009. Many subsequent administrations, including the current one, likely have a cyberspace policy. Your institution may even currently have cyber-related policies. These, however, will not necessarily be the administration’s or institution’s *historical* position. You need to research with the game date(s) in mind. Any documents (or websites) after January 21, 2009 are not permissible.