Although we often speak of a "United States" foreign policy toward Africa, one must remember that the US is not a monolithic actor that "speaks with one voice." Rather, Washington's foreign policy landscape is composed of numerous centers of power which have the ability to simultaneously pull policy in many different directions. The relevant foreign policy actors at this level are the State Department, the Defense Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), as well as each bureaucracy's separate bureaus devoted specifically to Africa.