

PREFACE

Despite its increasing importance within the international political economy, there remains relatively little scholarly work that deals with the seven power economic summit. This lack of scholarly interest is particularly evident in the American literature, where the summit is only dealt with in the very occasional article or book. Of the studies that have been conducted, most tend to examine the summit process as a whole. Accordingly, there has been no real examination of any particular country's relationship to the summit process.

This study is part of a series of country studies aimed at beginning to fill this gap in the literature. It is specifically concerned with the relationship of the United States to the seven power summit in the period 1975-1988. The study provides a detailed history and analysis of the relationship throughout this period, and can usefully serve as an introductory work to the subject area.

It is only an introductory work because of limitations inherent in the research. The author had no access to U.S. internal government documents and was only able to interview a limited number of government officials. Naturally, internal documentary information would have to be an essential component of any definitive study. Nonetheless, this study has utilized a wide range of sources including newspapers, press conferences, scholarly work and personal interviews with a number of past and present summit participants from all the summit countries. Of particular use was the author's attendance at the Toronto summit which provided first hand access to journalists, briefings and participants.

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