

HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

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Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 5:52 PM

This forum thread is for Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

Sum of ratings: -

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Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by Joseph Foley - Sunday, April 20, 2014, 4:57 PM

I really enjoyed our second forum's materials and information. I found the portion on Lodge, and the Foreign Policy Factions (1st forum option), to be helpful in my understanding of the varying philosophies. It was fun to watch the video clips with Paul, McCain, and Keyes, and see the similarities of the WWI era and now.

As I have mentioned, I find myself falling in the middle of the spectrum most of the time. I must say, I was impressed with Paul's stance, and find it similar to mine in regard to foreign policy (I was surprised by this, but that was my own ignorance for never listening to Paul, or most politicians for that matter). He wants our troops to return home (only republican calling for this) , and he does not believe that many of our wars (invading other lands) have been necessary. He did not agree with Vietnam, Iraq, etc.

He brings up valid data, education, and military experience, as support. He brought up the fact that financially, the military campaigns are not profitable, actually quite the opposite. He also referenced the fact that many great civilizations have experienced this, and inevitably they spread thin, and must return to focus on their own country. Apparently, he gets more funding from military than any other candidate, which of course makes sense.

In the third clip, McCain bashes Paul's military stance, and even references isolationism (irreconcilables). Paul quickly points out that he is not an isolationist, and that McCain should study the terms (meaning that non-intervention is different than being an isolationist). Paul is not appose to doing business, communicating, and creating positive trade with other countries, but he believes that invading a country with force produces negative results. McCain also pulled a "no no" in the intelligent debate world, he pulled the Hitler card, uneducated audiences eat this up, but I thought it was desperate.

I think there can be extremely special circumstances, including massive atrocities that warrant special attention. Hitler is a very rare, but fair example. On the flip side, I think it is dangerous to involve yourself with other countries civil wars or disputes. Forcing our views on to others can cause serious damage. American's would be appalled if a foreign country did the same thing to us. America offers some truly unique opportunities and viewpoints, but we can still be influential, without being forceful.

Overall, my politic's don't necessarily line up with Paul's, but I do respect his foreign policy philosophy. His call for diplomacy is something that I could not agree with more. By first focusing on non-combative options, both sides benefit. If there was more diplomacy amongst politicians of differing parties, I think a lot more would be accomplished.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 9:38 PM

"Including massive atrocities that warrant special attention." That's where organizations like Wilson's failed League of Nations or our own United Nations can play a part in policing the World. The League of Nations was a joke, why in hindsight (Lodge wasn't so isolationist) because it was rotten at its core at the time. It would have been a 19th Century white man's club.

Ron Paul scores by understanding the Foreign Policy we moderns create by interventionism will be viewed in the same light of History, by those in the future who study our own modern times. (We don't know what they will know then.) But we can study the past and examine how not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

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What's wrong with being an isolationist?

by Thomas Stevens - Thursday, April 24, 2014, 4:12 PM

We were an isolationist nation prior to WWII. It was only with Truman's Marshall Plan that we saw the value of rebuilding Europe, instead of just ignoring it after WWI. Look what happened! We left Germany in a tatters and it rose, on it's own, and sought payback for an earlier war that it didn't even start.

It was our isolationism that left us untouched from the wars with all of the benefits and none of the costs, except for the lives of some American troops, which let's be honest nobody really cared about because they were probably poor. Yes, the poor fight the wars, whereas the rich get stationed here in this country sparing them from any real sacrifice.

The military loves war because they get to try out all these new weapons that get built, just like being in a toy store! When Bush was President, instead of raising taxes, he cut taxes helping to balloon the deficit. As a matter of fact in 2002 I received a \$300 tax rebate from the U.S. Government. Of course I went out and spent it stimulating the economy, just like a credit card, except it was paid for by the U.S. Government. Unless we can draft the rich and tax them, we are going to be involved in foreign wars for a long time to come.

So, getting back to my original point, I guess this topic really fires me up; perhaps I should try a new topic, but anyway, isolationism allows the other nations of the World to pay a fairer share of the militarism that our country has helped to finance since the conclusion of WWII.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Turning a blind eye is not the way

by Sherri Patterson - Monday, April 21, 2014, 10:03 PM

This week's forum is a real interesting one for me. I enjoyed the videos. I found it very disturbing that we had a politician running for office who thought that we should pull all of our troops out of other countries. I myself find it hard at times that we don't do more. For instance I think we should have gone into Syria a long time ago. All the inhumane things that have been proven they are doing. It doesn't matter which side is doing the gassing, what matters is some order needs to be restored and neither side is doing it and innocent civilians are being killed and that is when outside forces need to step in. When its genocide and crimes against humanity I do believe the United States has a duty to act. First they must act politically and if that doesn't work then militarily, and I think it should be swift and hard.

Financially war has cost. We don't have the ability to make a country compensate

the victors for wartime aggression like they did in World War I. The cost of the military will be strenuous if they are at home or abroad. I would like to point out how my classmate talks about Ron Paul stating he gets funding from military members. Well wouldn't you fund somebody who is going to try to bring you home? No big surprise he gets a lot of funding from military personnel who are stationed thousands of miles away from all there family that they only get to see every few years.

I personally think it was poor judgment of McCain to throw comparisons of Paul to Hitler. It was a cheap shot just to get a rise out of the audience. But if America was to withdraw our military forces and only "worry about our country" we would be turning a blind eye on the rest of the world. Who knows what kind of atrocity could come of that. I know I surely would be sad. It would not be the America that I joined the military for. I vowed to protect others even if that meant giving up my life and that is what being a soldier is about.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Turning a blind eye is not the way



by Serena Williams - Friday, April 25, 2014, 10:45 PM

I see where you are coming from with your argument. But I don't know if it the Unites States responsibility to bud into other countries and their fights just to be the mediator and try to fix everything when we have a ton of our own problems here at home. Don't get me wrong, it is horrific what goes on in other places like you mentioned with the gassing but we have nothing to do with that so we shouldn't feel obligated to spend our government money trying to fix everything. You make a really good point in your last paragraph about McCain throwing out the Hitler bit and the fact that it was unfair . Obviously the audience was going to agree with anything against Hitler.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Turning a blind eye is not the way



by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:52 PM

I feel the exact same way in this situation. I always think that it is good to help others when we can, but if we try to always be that country to bail others out when we have issues ourselves then it doesn't look good. Whenever the US has a problem there aren't any countries that go out of their way to help like US attempts to do. Not to mention the massive amount of debt that the US owes to multiple countries from borrowing money. We are in no place as a country to try to bail anyone else out when we are in a hole ourselves.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Turning a blind eye is not the way





by Zachary Ogborn - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 7:47 PM

I also agree with the few points you've brought up in justifying your position on this topic. With that being said, would it be safe to say that you side with a **Strong Internationalist** position towards foreign affairs? How would YOU have gone about dealing with the beginnings of World War I? Just for discussion's sake.

Your point about war having its financial costs is spot on. Nothing other than a natural disaster or a greedy government per-say comes close to afflicting as much economical strain as War. The people of 1914 however didn't suffer nearly as much as your statement implies. According to our textbook, Chapter 21, page 705, The United States was undergoing a "Financial" panic, commonly known as the "Panic of 1907". After and during the War, America had a Booming economy. (Part of me thinks that this is the point in our modern history where Governmental officials and rich influential individuals realized that **BIG** money could be made **VERY** quickly off of **FOREIGN** wars.)

That being said, I can understand why American involved Wars/Conflicts became so common (and became a part of National society id say) in the 20th Century.

I'd like it be known that I take into consideration Ron Paul's **INTENTIONS** when he haphazardly spouts off "Constitutionalist" jargon. Everyone should examine the other perspective of situations/intentions, especially when they apply to our Nations governmental direction. I never cared much for Ron Paul and his followers however, but his underlying message is clear to me: "Why get involved in other nations qualms when it is none of our business?"

This is where I agree with the majority of your stance. If there is a genocide going on in the world that is killing thousands of innocent humans then yes, absolutely we as a Nation should get involved. First step is to impose sanctions on the economy. Second step, if the perpetrators haven't stopped, Make them. That may sound wrong from certain points of view, but I grew up in the years **AFTER** the United States had already become a super power. I know nothing else. Also, if a Nation is on the path to world domination and they don't value/respect sovereign nations, then they also must be stopped.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy



by Aryanna Kiser - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 12:20 AM

I found it very hard for myself to choose a stand on the Foreign Policy issue. I find myself thinking about how this policy works in are country today, and I would say no I don't agree with the foreign policy. I see how it acts in our country today and wish we did something differently, but what? So I believe I stand in the middle of the policy issue. There needed to be a policy of some sort but not of which they enforced.

Lolge believed very highly in the foreign policy, he encouraged it actually which I believe push the U.S. into the wrong direction. Yes I believe America needed to make a stand of where they were with the world and how they plan to interact with these alliances being made. As we have seen already saying unaligned does not work. There is no way America

should have done nothing; we needed to create a system of alliance with countries well staying away from the involvement with small country problems. Such as disagreements with there religions and governmental systems. Which America today spends too much time getting involved in issues not actually related to the U.S?

I understand the U.S. needed set a policy telling the other countries we will get involved in world issues, and world wars. This will keep the U.S. safe. It is extremely necessary for the U.S. involvement in these big issues like both world wars. If America didn't do anything we would be extremely venerable in these circumstances.

I found myself interested in this issues because of how I see things today and I wish they were different. And it is very interesting to learn why this is the way it is today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Isolationism rules



by Bart Golden - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 6:10 AM

Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

I am a huge Ron Paul supporter and I absolutely agree with everything he says. We are not the world police and we have no business interfering in other nations business. It's pretty arrogant that the government thinks that they know what's best for us but to impose our will on other nations because they don't have the military power to fight us is not only wrong but the main cause of anti-American attitudes all over the globe . Ron Paul's message of sovernty may not be the most popular among his fellow politicians however we would be a lot better off as a nation if we stuck to the old values this country held of not getting involved in Europe's problems. What Jon McCain says about ww2 and Hitler is just plain wrong. If we did anything to allow ww2 to happen it was to supply both sides with weapons and money (Prescott Bush, George Bushes dad and GWs Granddad) We were dirty, But not because of Isolationism, Because of greed and a populist that is more than willing to turn a blind eye to anything our government does that is EVIL.

It really is too bad that the media has enough control to stop someone like Ron Paul, He was the only good choice for P.O.T.U.S. the last two Elections and the media acted as though he didn't exist. One can only wonder how much different our country might be today if he had won. He has such a deep understanding of the constitution and its meaning and a genuine common sense philosophy. A great man and would have been a great Pres.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Isolationism rules



by Derek Landon - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 3:37 PM

I completely agree with you. I am 100% for Ron Paul and his beliefs. The fact that he believes that we should basically let countries do their own thing and focus on the us first is what draws me to supporting him. I am surprised no one really voted for him this past election because I believe he could do a lot better than the president today. I also believe that America should just focus on themselves. Since we are around 16 trillion dollars in debt, i think that instead of trying to babysit other countries thousands of miles away, we should be doing more in our homeland.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Isolationism rules



by Bart Golden - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 11:43 PM

I know I personally don't give a crap about any other country I know ill catch hell for saying it but I really don't. Rand Paul has the same beliefs and he'll be running in 2016 and I plan on volunteering my time to that campaign.

Long Live Freedom and Liberty

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Isolationism rules



by Zachary Ogborn - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 7:56 PM

I might have rolled my dice on **Al Gore** back in the day... but alas... I twas only 10.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Limited Internationalist: Intervention is sometimes necessary



by Hayden Smothers - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 6:26 AM

The information that I have read has only solidified my position on internationalist to isolationism spectrum. I chose limited isolationist on the spectrum because while I agree with Woodrow Wilson, in giving everyone he right to self-determination and Democratic Self-governance (Liberty, Equality, Power Pg774 "Wilsons Vision: Peace Without Victory") I also believe that in certain cases intervention is inevitable and necessary.

Current events like rebel armies in various places in Africa such as Uganda in which

villages are invaded and destroyed with child soldiers being manufactured brutally in the process. Essentially there is genocide going on, and America turns the other way pretending there is nothing to be seen. This is when Woodrow Wilson's policy is incorrect in my opinion. While self-governance can be achieved after the eradication of this current genocide, action needs to be taken, not just by the United States, but the United States should be a leader in the act.

I personally think that the Treaty of Versailles was mostly successful, while most of Woodrow's 14 points were ignored as mentioned in the "Wilson at Versailles" video, all parties present signed the treaty and peace was achieved between those nations. I believe that while self-governance in theory is a great idea, sometimes help and advice is needed from an outside party.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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We need to clean up our own backyard first.



by Amanda Daniels - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 9:56 AM

I think one of our biggest problems both today and a hundred years ago is that we (the United States) thinks we are the boss of the whole wide world, and we're not. We've got plenty to clean up right here in our own backyard really so much that we really shouldn't have time to meddle in everyone else affairs all the time. War has always been especially beneficial to one small group of people, bankers and their large corporate buddies that they all own various shares in. If we are not directly in the war then they have us indirectly funding it somehow, usually both sides, isn't this illegal? Cause if it isn't it should be. Ron Paul is a great American. He is highly educated well informed and been around for a long time and yet many people don't even know who he is. Why, because the mainstream media won't allow it He understands the problems the real problems this country has going on. It is too bad he will never get to be the President cause he would bring real change, change that each and every one of us would benefit from.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Is this an Info-mercial for Ron Paul?



by Thomas Stevens - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 11:25 AM

While I can definitely find points of agreement with many of the posters here I cannot endorse Ron Paul's domestic policy just because he makes us feel all warm and fuzzy with his foreign policy.

Yes, I agree that the U.S. seems to have taken the role of World Policeman post WWII. When Paul speaks of the decline of the Roman Empire he is correct in saying that they spread themselves too thin, leaving them vulnerable closer to home. When we fail to fully fund our educational system and BTW, Ron Paul is in favor of gutting that too, we leave ourselves with more of the Corporatstocracy that we have today when the people at the top can send their kids to elite colleges and they get to call all the decisions. My God don't people know that we go to a frickin community college here! We can't even fully fund that!

Now if your parents are fully funding your education, great! Many of us don't have that

luxury, we have to work and borrow ourselves to death to pay for the scraps that we have left. My guess is that society is all about self interest and what happens at the top also happens at the bottom. Be careful what you vote for!

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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No just thinking outside the programing

by Bart Golden - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 7:29 PM

Yes Ron Paul is for gutting the broken and biased public school system. For a pretty good reason and if you listen to the man you'll realize he is right. Public schools that were created to stop child labor and to remove children from their parents so that the school system could install the correct set of values in and mold each child into perfect little conformist clones (Wage Slaves). Remember that the interests that publish the text books are the ones that control what it is that we're taught. Do you think those controlling our information have our best interests in mind. I am not so trusting. Are our kids getting the best education or even a good education? If the information is manipulated or just plain fabricated then I don't believe that is an education at all. It's more like programing.

What Ron Paul suggests is that we teach our children the freedom philosophy and offer a different perspective on history. More accurate or factual sources than the big publisher / billionaires can be gotten from the internet. And home schooled kids get a better education

The thing about Ron Paul that is most important is he understands economics. Politicians these days do not understand modern money mechanics. In fact very few of us do. If we did we would be in a revolution tomorrow. And it's because of his understanding that he wants to audit the fed and then dissolve it. No other candidate dares to even suggest such a thing either because of fear or because there in on it. Make no mistake" Ron Paul is a great man, a patriot, and a great American. that's why the media act's as though he doesn't exist. Of coarse the medias info is no better than public schools(Probably because the same people that are the publishers also own the networks)

You say be careful who you vote for. Believe I AM. You might look a little deeper and do the same!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Voting

by Thomas Stevens - Thursday, April 24, 2014, 3:54 PM

Dude,

It doesn't matter who you vote for the result is the same.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Voting

by Bart Golden - Friday, April 25, 2014, 10:58 AM

Well what I didn't say was that due to lack of a better choice than Obama or Mitt I chose not to waste any time with voting. I really could not cast a vote for either of those candidates. Had Paul won the Rep. Nomination I would have voted for him, I know some of the things he says scare a lot of people but we are in so much trouble that nobody that is going to do something to help will be able to do it without scaring a few people. At least I believe he is honest. And I believe we have gotten soft with the easy life. That however is just my opinion. I'm sure I'll here plenty of others having voiced mine. Thats what this is all about though right?

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by Marcus Mcphaul - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 8:23 PM

I do not agree with Woodrow Wilson at all, who gave America the right to choose the morals everyone lives by around the globe? Ron Paul has very good views and the remark by McCain saying isolationism caused WWII is ridiculous, he used this argument to bring emotion to the crowd. Without this emotion his argument is empty, no nation has ever been mad at the U.S. for minding their own business and staying out of foreign affairs unless they made a promise to do so. There are bad things that happen in the world but these things are nothing new they are just new to us because of advancements in technology, most things will eventually figure themselves out and if there was an occasion where someone became so powerful that they threaten the U.S. Then we should handle it with diplomacy like Ron Paul said.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by Serena Williams - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 8:48 PM

Marcus,

I could not agree with you more! This is almost exactly my view on this topic. When McCain made that nonsense comment about to get a rise out of the crowd it made me a little mad that he would even consider that to be the cause of WWII. Ron Paul was definitely spot on with his views and ideas in these videos.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The New World Re-Order

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 5:48 PM

There is a reason Ron Paul was more supported by younger college students than many other GOP Presidential Candidates. (Other than his stance on marijuana legalization.) Once you study United States History warts and all (Nativism, Racism, Exceptionalism and other isms) perhaps we realize our country doesn't have the moral authority to impose our "way of life" upon other countries around the world. Maybe this understanding leads to a greater acceptance of Non-Intervention as Foreign Policy. These clips were only from the GOP Primary, so it's unfair to only point the finger at people like Cold Warrior John McCain, but the Cold War is over. At least the old one. And if there becomes a new one, it is because Leaders like Putin think our telling Russia to stay out of another Country because of "International Law" is a joke.

Again, as far as I can tell I am a mild-reservationist when it comes to the reading in our text (pp 769-792) because as much as we want other nations to think like us (and follow every unified decision) in an organization like the League of Nations or the current United Nations, sometimes they will not. And we still must maintain ultimate sovereignty over the lives of our own kids in uniform. Yet international diplomatic organizations can play a vital role in keeping our world at peace.

It doesn't seem that the World was ready for an institution such as the League of Nations at the end of World War I because the European powers were still engaged in the "white man's burden" of Imperialism around the globe. All the Treaty of Versailles did was create the atmosphere conducive to World War II, as they punished Germany and divided up the continents, ignoring the religious and ethnic diversity of people's who lived on those continents.

The main differences between their time and ours is that we are still living with the consequences of their decisions, especially in the Middle East. This fact makes Non-Intervention a powerful Foreign Policy alternative for us moderns, especially the younger generations.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Non-intervention is a lack of a Foreign Policy

by Katie Birrenkott - Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 5:43 PM

My beliefs are not that America tries to intervene so that we can "police" the rest of the world, but that we are trying to stop the bigger picture before any of that happens. McCain's Hitler comment wasn't the worst thing that could have been said, because he was trying to prove that if America had gotten into Germany earlier, maybe it would be a different story for Hitler? America's post WWI way was to overall become irreconcilables.

However, I do agree with the US not being a part of the League of Nations. It would have taken away Congress' power to declare war and any time that a country "bickered" with another one, we would have to be there. Not being in the League of Nations was a good call, but it does not mean that America should not enter earlier to stop countries from further destruction.

Of course times have changed and things are no longer the same as in the earlier 1900s. But looking at the good-bad spectrum that Escobar used in class, I personally believe that people are generally behaved badly (if you think otherwise I encourage you do drive to

downtown Eugene and leave your car doors unlocked with your purse/wallet inside), therefore I believe that some forces need to be taken in order to regulate countries when they are "behaving badly."

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Non-intervention is a lack of a Foreign Policy



by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 9:09 PM

The disconnect I find with Conservatives is that they don't like progressive taxes on the "job creators" but still think having a "Cop Shop" across the street from Lucky's Cigar Club in Eugene cost the same as sending (The Great American Police Force) into Countries that don't even have a modern airport. If we don't tax the Wealthy to pay for such world-class services as being the World Po'leece, who we gonna tax? But that's another subject, (just a bi-polar thinking thang I always wanna ask the hot blondes on Fox News.)

To your point, there are differences between the micro and macro threats around the World. It's up to us as Citizens to decide which is what. And, how to pay for it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Non-intervention is a lack of a Foreign Policy



by Katie Birrenkott - Thursday, April 24, 2014, 9:22 AM

I don't disagree that US citizens should have an input in whether our forces go elsewhere or not, but I do think that (just like congress overrides the president) we are able to be overridden as well. How many every day citizens pay attention to what goes on elsewhere? Politicians are paid to be informed of what is going on in foreign nations and what poses as a threat.

To combine taxation and this forum, how does uping the taxes on the wealthy the only way we can think of to pay for the governmental decision to go to war? And Escobar said in class, taking all the earnings of the top 1% wealthiest in America hardly puts a dent into our debt, so do we suggest taking their hardworking paychecks to go to the war? Better yet, let's have the top 1% be the ONLY people over there fighting since we want to rely on them for all of Americas choices, that way we can fully punish them for their money and worth, bring all our trioops home, and achieve this perfect living without the burden of them creating jobs for thousands of Americans.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Tax Policy



by Thomas Stevens - Thursday, April 24, 2014, 3:52 PM



Let me explain something about taxation. In the long run, rich people will do just about anything to avoid paying taxes. It's the "little people" that have paid them. I am not just talking about Federal Income Taxes, there are Medicare, Social Security, FUTA, SUTA, state income taxes, local income taxes, property taxes and sales taxes. All of those revenue devices are aimed squarely at the poor and middle class. The rich have a 15% capital gains tax that most of their income is derived from. Do the math!

Historically, when Federal Income Tax rates have been higher, a lot higher at up to 90%, the rich forgone income and instead redistributed their wealth in the form of higher wages for their workers letting them pay the taxes. Federal Income Tax rates are lower now under Obama than they were under Reagan. Not to be insulting, but when you're young you don't understand history, and certainly not taxation!

Another thing, politicians are not aware, it's their lobbyists that write the laws. Obamacare was written by the health insurance industry. Politicians, both Democrat and Republic vote for whoever gives them their election cash.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

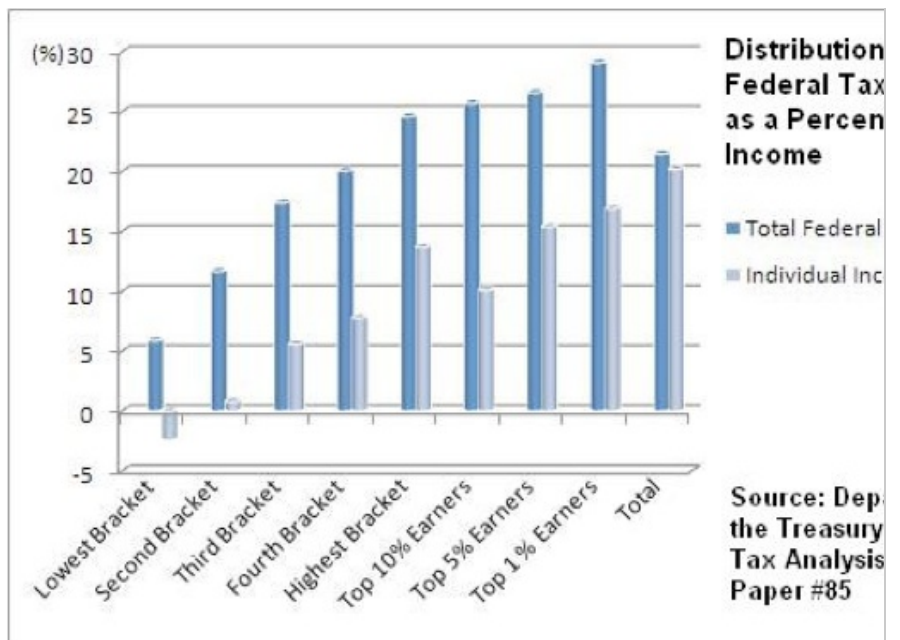
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Re: Tax Policy

by Katie Birrenkott - Friday, April 25, 2014, 12:02 AM

I'm not sure if you've looked at the charts in the other forum, but they tend to say otherwise on the rich paying taxes. For instance, in the chart below it shows that the highest bracket in 2000 is near 20% of the federal taxes. If you break it down more and more, you'll see that the top 1% paid almost 30% of the total federal taxes that year.



Another chart shows that Reagan tax cuts were in fact at a lower percentage than the current set under Obama.

[hide]History of income tax rates adjusted for inflation (1913-1987)

Year	Number of Brackets	First Bracket		Top Bracket		Adj. 2014 ^[68]	
		Rate	Rate	Income			
1913	7	1%	7%	\$500,000	\$11.86M		First
1917	21	2%	67%	\$2,000,000	\$36.68M		Wor
1925	23	1.5%	25%	\$100,000	\$1.34M		Pos
1932	55	4%	63%	\$1,000,000	\$17.14M		Dep
1936	31	4%	79%	\$5,000,000	\$84.45M		-
1941	32	10%	81%	\$5,000,000	\$79.86M		Wor
1942	24	19%	88%	\$200,000	\$2.75M		Rev
1944	24	23%	94%	\$200,000	\$2.88M		Indi
1946	24	20%	91%	\$200,000	\$2.41M		-
1964	26	16%	77%	\$400,000	\$3.03M		Tax
1965	25	14%	70%	\$200,000	\$1.49M		-
1981	16	14%	70%	\$212,000	\$548k		Rea
1982	14	12%	50%	\$106,000	\$258k		Rea
1987	5	11%	38.5%	\$90,000	\$186k		Rea

1988	2	15%	28%	\$29,750	\$59k	Rea
1991	3	15%	31%	\$82,150	\$142k	Om Act
1993	5	15%	39.6%	\$250,000	\$406k	Om Act
2003	6	10%	35%	\$311,950	\$398k	Bus
2011	6	10%	35%	\$379,150	\$396k	-
2013	7	10%	39.6%	\$400,000	\$403k	Am of 2

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Income_tax_in_the_United_States#History_

Just one more to show that the rich pay more than their "fair share" in taxes, when you click onto the link on the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 and get reading you'll run across this section:

For individuals with taxable income over the \$400,000/\$450,000 thresholds:

- The top marginal tax rate on income of 39.6%, provided for under the expiration of the 2001 portion of the Bush tax cuts, was retained. This was an increase from the 2003–2012 rate of 35%.^[2]
- The top marginal tax rate on long-term capital gains of 20%, provided for under the expiration of the 2003 portion of the Bush tax cuts, was retained. This was an increase from the 2003–2012 rate of 15%.^[3]
- The top marginal tax rate on dividends, which would have increased to the ordinary income rate of 39.6% due to the expiration of the 2003 portion of the Bush tax cuts, was set to the capital-gains rate of 20%. This was an increase from the 2003–2012 rate of 15%.^[3]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Taxpayer_Relief_Act_of_2012

Being poor is unfortunate, however being wealthy and having the government attempt at making you poor is senseless.

**Re: Tax Policy**

by Bart Golden - Friday, April 25, 2014, 12:12 PM

Yes we all see your charts, What about Google and G.E. and Time Warner, How much do they pay?

Sum of ratings: (1)
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**Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy**

by Amanda Daniels - Thursday, April 24, 2014, 2:48 AM

I would like to know just what it is you think our MILITARY is peacefully doing anywhere. Cause if you think that, you need to look again and check your sources. Hell most of the time, not even most, the only reason we are ever up in another countries business is because there is something over there we want, and they're not necessarily anything peacefully about it either. If you believe our government goes over to a foreign country to just offer our support to these nations and supplies aid to its citizens during these acts of peace, then you're a little bit misguided, because that's not how it works. Over 1 million Iraqi civilians have been killed since we started spreading peace over there.

There are tons of horrific acts taking place right now as we speak, against innocent and unarmed civilians (which is illegal by the way) , and we do nothing to stop it. Do you know why? Because those countries have nothing we want. If they did, we would be there. If we were just out to spread freedom and bring all this so called democracy to the rest of the world then why haven't we gone over there and helped the people (innocent and helpless woman and children) of oh, let's say Africa? I mean what could possibly be a better way to show every African-Americans in this country, not to mention the African's themselves, that we are a nation of do-gooders now. That we, as a country, are remorseful for enslaving them in this country for 200 years and then oppressing them for the 100+ years after they fought and won their freedom. And let me tell you, what their government is doing to them over there is wrong, wrong on a scale that you probably can't even comprehend. And yet we aren't over there liberating them, we don't bother them one bit, in fact we have arms dealers that supply them with the weapons they do have in order to keep their citizens repressed and constantly living in fear. It would be an easy task for us to go over there and liberate the whole damn continent if we wanted to, it's doubtful we would even have any casualties except for maybe our own friendly fire and/or straight up accidents. But we don't because there is nothing over there we want, no oil, no gold, ya they've got a few diamonds but we already have that market under our control.

So since we pick and choose, or actually the [bankers\[1\]](#) pick and choose who's next in their little game of RISK, then they create a situation where we will be called upon in order to save the day, at which point they send in the good old military to spread their peace and democracy all around, that doesn't seem very democratic or peaceful to me.

When Saddam Hussain was president of Iraq, we were selling him weapons and we didn't care what he was doing to his people with them, but when he refused to take a loan from the IMF (which is the World Bank) then we sent our military over there, the first time (Desert Storm) as a sort of a warning, crippling his military as well as destroying the country itself, telling him, "hey, you need to get on board with the program," and then when he refused a second time, we went back over there, this time removing him from power, then executed him after his kangaroo courtroom trial, but not before he was made out by the media, which is owned solely by the bankers, to be a monster to the American people with these so called weapons of mass destruction, which by the way, we were never able to locate or even find any evidence of there existence. It's really convenient how our government has the ability to take a picture from here to the moon up close and show it in great detail, but they can't locate these huge factories where these weapons are supposedly made or stored. Right.

I don't feel like our intentions are ever really truly selfless acts/missions done for the greater good of helping humanity. Not only that the cost of ~~invading~~ supporting other countries is way too expensive to begin with, not to mention the cost of maintaining those positions afterwards. We are already unable to pay the debts we have now. I think there are much more efficient and useful ways to spend our money to show the world what a truly powerful and yet peaceful of a nation we have become, but I am doubtful though that kind of change will ever come in my lifetime.

[\[1\] http://www.infowars.com/bankers-are-behind-the-wars/print/](http://www.infowars.com/bankers-are-behind-the-wars/print/)

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Some Military facts

by Sherri Patterson - Friday, April 25, 2014, 10:05 PM

I would like to point a few military facts out for those whom seem to be miss guided. Our Military is based in over 150 countries. [1] I have not heard of

them doing violent acts in 150 countries. I do believe in most countries things are extremely peaceful except in hostile countries. Now in Iraq are you saying that our military just fires at innocent people without cause if that were the truth the United Nations would of stepped in.

And yes our nation does go over and offer aid to other countries sometimes our country doesn't know about the humanitarian efforts until later on. I know of one humanitarian effort I got to play apart in that we were not allowed to tell our families due to the fact at the time it was still hostile territory and because of security issues we went into and helped rebuild orphanages in East Timor. [2] Not to mention the military doing relief efforts after the tsunami hit the Indian Ocean in 2004. [3]

I would like to also point out how we discussed the public reaction to the yellow journalism of the Maine exploding and how the American people wanted justice for their dead. That was all over a drawing of a ship exploding. Let's fast forward now to Sept. 11th 2001 when the American people not only got photograph pictures, but got to watch hours and hours of their fellow Americans and the twin towers being blown up on televisions. The American people were devastated and they didn't just want justice they demanded it. So the president elected by the people did what the people told them to and he was backed by the senate and the house all elected by the people. He did not do this alone. And if they wouldn't have acted it would have been civilian uprising. If your government doesn't listen to its people the people will not support the government and they will lose faith in the government and rebel.

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_military_deployments

[2] <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2001-07-30/html/CREC-2001-07-30-pt1-PgE1471-2.htm>

[3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_military_operations

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My facts can beat up your facts



by Bart Golden - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 4:41 AM

I want to be very careful with this one. I have been accused of spewing negativity and that's not my intention. What I seek is the truth. Good or bad the true of 911 must be known. Now this is our president, commander and chief of our vastly superior armed forces. Let's all listen to him and decide for ourselves how we feel about what we've been told

<http://youtu.be/C9AoaU7LITk>

Now I can only speak for myself as a semi intelligent being of open mind and freedom of thought process. I feel sick. I feel dirty. I know a liar when I see one and I have been supporting him like a good patriot ever since 911. My friends have fought and died over there in Iraq and Afghanistan, for what and now we are told that justice has been done. Osama bin laden has been brought to justice BUT WE NEVER SEE THE BODY. His body is thrown into the ocean” burial at sea.” Wait a minute. What? Ok well did anybody see this? Sure the Navy seal team six. Elite soldiers among our nation’s most intensely trained Special Forces they carried out this operation. Good I will believe them, My Grandfather was a demolitions expert with the 82nd airborne rangers. He saw action in 4 theaters, 64 days on the Anzio beach head after invading by LCI(First 30 minutes of saving private Ryan) if you’re not familiar. He jumped into combat in North Africa, Holland, and was 1 of 12 men to jump the night before the allies invaded Sicily with communications equipment behind enemy lines. As a kid I read his diaries of the entire war (which was against orders for security reasons no diaries were allowed). He seldom spoke of it. I have Great respect for our soldiers and have thanked every single one I have ever met for their service and my freedom. So if these Navy seals say it’s so then I believe them. Where are they? Oh they were all killed in a helicopter that got shot down by the Taliban. WHAT??

Osama bin Laden has likely been dead since before 911. The main reason he was believed to have caused 911 is a video that surfaced shortly after were he claims credit for the 911 attack but if you compare that video with earlier known videos or pictures of Osama its clearly not him.

People we are being lied to. I could write a thousand pages of evidence from first responders of 911 reporting hearing explosions like machine gun fire as the twin towers fell this is consistent with a controlled demolition (NYC Firemen & Police who were not welcome at the 10 year memorial ceremonies at ground zero by the way) to expert analysis of the plane crash footage (watch 911 in plane site) to the fact that 4 passenger jets crashed and not one seat or body or piece of wreckage or jet engine was ever found. Not to mention building 7that was not even hit by a plane being brought down on purpose admittedly by Owner Larry Silberstein as this clip shows

<http://youtu.be/p34Xrl2Fm6I>

There are just too many anomalies as they say like the airplanes (Commercial jets) don’t appear to have any windows or round smooth fuselages like they’re supposed to and the large shadows object attached the bottom of the fuselage that looks like a fuel air bomb. Along with thermite residue being found in the rubble. I’m not spewing this, its fact.

This is a free country if you chose to believe what the media tells you that’s your American right but I know TRUTH when I hear it. If people can’t quit burring their heads in the sand and hoping everything is going to turn out for the best were in big trouble. The cost of Liberty is constant vigilance and all Evil requires to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing!!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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If you believe that

by Sherri Patterson - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 9:44 AM

Well if you believe that I am sure you believe I am sure bigfoot exist. And aliens have been visiting us, but yet again the U.S is just covering it. And you probably believe all the other things listed on the article I attached. [1]

[1] <http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/at-the-edge/2013/04/10/americans-and-their-conspiracy-theories>

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: If you believe that

by Bart Golden - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 4:03 PM

Well I know what the NYC Firemen first responders think, I know George bush is not looking real comfortable there and any cop would tell you that he is strait up lying but I admit that is still only opinion However it is a fact that no jet engines or any other wreckage that could be identified as passenger jet was found at either of the other two crash sites. Its a fact that thermite residue was found all through the ground zero rubble. Its a fact that physics does not allow for the pan cake effect theory at the rate of free fall.I know what Larry Silberstein says is impossible without weeks of preparation and a crew of demolitions experts. What do you think they just toss a few sticks of dynamite and drop a building in its own foot print at a moments notice. And its not disputable that he says that. Your trust of our government is naïve. Most Germans did not believe what was going on in the concentration camps and some still refuse to accept it. Here Is a word you might want to get familiar with SUBJAGATION

OH almost forgot, Just who do you think owns US News and the other networks as well They all fall under the umbrella of CBS/ Warner bros

<http://www.freepress.net/ownership/chart>

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Ron Paul vs the others

by Serena Williams - Friday, April 25, 2014, 10:34 PM

According to the videos, Ron Paul says we are not the world police and thinks we should pull out all the troops from foreign countries and focus on our national security. The opposing parties, Alan Keyes and John McCain think differently. Alan argued "I am appalled to the suggestion that we retreated to a fortress America and forget who we are. We are a

nation of nations, a people of many peoples. We are in touch with every people on the face of the Earth. " On one hand Ron Paul's side would save our troops lives and save money by not spending it on military expenses. On the other side we could make friends with other nations and have someone on our side when we need it. I personally agree with Ron Paul for the most part.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Don't write off the others

by Daniel Hovet - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:27 PM

Ron Paul makes valid points, but I find a few parts of his views on intervention problematic- This idea that if we *just* had better *diplomacy*, then a certain echelon of issues would be instantly solved. Paul is making the mistake of mirroring, as I believe it is called- because you yourself are a rational individual who is interested in coming to a peaceful resolution, you assume that others will be willing to also have a rational discussion with acheiving a peaceful resolution in mind. Indeed, much of the time this is the case- but occasionally, it is not.

Also, while some of Paul's points about the cost and risks of having our military spread out across the globe, in some conflicts and involvements that should not include us, ring true, his comparrison to the fall of the Roman Empire seems remiss. The U.S foreign deployments simply do not compare to the military situation of the Roman Empire.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Ron Paul on Foreign Policy

by Joseph Foley - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 4:14 PM

I have now researched several articles on Ron Paul's foreign policy. As I had mentioned before, I was somewhat unfamiliar with his specific philosophies before this forum. I'm still finding that my politics don't necessarily align with his, but so far his foreign policy leanings are in line with my thoughts. Lara Trice had a piece on the Huffington Post Blog in 2012 titled, " Why Dr. Ron

Paul's National Defense Plan and Foreign Policy Are the Only Humane Options."

I would highly recommend anyone taking a look at it, it is a quick

read: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/laura-trice/why-dr-ron-pauls-national-](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/laura-trice/why-dr-ron-pauls-national-defense_b_1384267.html)

[defense_b_1384267.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/laura-trice/why-dr-ron-pauls-national-defense_b_1384267.html). Midway through, Lara mentions an obvious fact, that sometimes get's over looked, "The last time the U.S. **formally declared war** was for World War II in 1941. Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya were not formally declared." She is obviously a supporter of Paul, but I agree with their thoughts on foreign policy, and the incredible amount of debt imperialism has caused us. She not only mentions Paul's desire to bring our troops home, but also touches on times he has supported military movement. She quoted Paul's website saying, ""In Congress, Ron Paul voted to authorize military force to hunt down Osama bin Laden and authored legislation to specifically target terrorist leaders and bring them to justice." He does not seem to be an extreme isolationist, more so realistic. He would prefer to focus on protecting our liberties at home, the liberties that we have lost.

She finishes the piece with two historical quotes:

"I love peace, and am anxious that we should give the world still another useful lesson, by showing to them other modes of punishing injuries than by war, which is as much a punishment to the punisher as to the sufferer."

--[Thomas Jefferson](#)

"Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both."

--[Abraham Flexner](#)

Obviously Lara has a political bias, and I will continue to research other sources, but I remain impressed with Paul's peaceful global approach.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Empire/ Eric Foner Book Review

by Joseph Foley - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 4:46 PM

As I have mentioned in other forum posts, I have realized that much of the historical and political knowledge I have obtained has come from partisan outlets; public schools, American media, family, etc. With the hopes of teaching history, my college history courses have been

enlightening. Until my knowledge reaches the expert level in the coming years, I tend to look to historians for guidance. I continue to be impressed with Historian Eric Foner's knowledge, and expertise. In a book review titled "The Lie that Empire Tells Itself" he touched on the concept of the U.S. being an empire. The Review appeared in the London Review of Books, he had reviewed the book, "The Dominion of War: Empire and Conflict in North America."
(<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v27/n10/eric-foner/the-lie-that-empire-tells-itself>)

Foner opens with, "Is the United States an empire? Only in the US could such a question even be asked. To the rest of the world, the answer is obvious: the US is perhaps the most powerful empire the world has known. Empire means dominion, the desire and ability to determine the fate of peoples near and far." He is matter of fact and straight forward with his analysis, and I can appreciate that. Further along, he perfectly summarizes the current debate, "But since the attacks of 11 September 2001, the term 'empire' has been used without embarrassment by political commentators in the US. The need to shoulder the burdens of empire is now a common theme in discussions among the foreign policy elite. Conservative writers such as Charles Krauthammer forthrightly defend American empire as an exercise of raw power, while traditional liberals like Michael Ignatieff promote it as a way of protecting human rights against tyrannical regimes." He touches on the ongoing debate we hear in this forum, and around the country for a decade plus.

As he begins to close, he gives a good overview of this same thought, "Our empire, however, was to be different from all others. Jefferson spoke of America as an 'empire of liberty'. When the nation stepped onto the world stage as an imperial power in the Spanish-American War of 1898, President William McKinley insisted that ours was a 'benevolent' imperialism, that the conquest of Puerto Rico and the Philippines ought not to be compared to the despotic actions of European powers. Woodrow Wilson insisted that only the US possessed the combination of military power and moral righteousness to make the world safe for democracy." As I have discovered in each era of American history, there is a certain uniqueness that is attached to our pitch of the USA. There has been a similar ongoing debate amongst Americans about their countries positives and negatives, since the beginning. I'm looking forward to studying some of the specific time periods in greater detail.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Strong Reservation



by Edwin Westlund - Saturday, April 26, 2014, 11:41 PM

I believe that my position on foreign policy today matches up most closely with the views of

the Strong Reservationists of the period following the first world war. I believe that it is the duty of the United States to be involved in something like the League of Nations that is for the better protection and peace of the world, given that we are the most powerful country on this planet. But at the same time I don't think that there is a one size fits all set of rules and regulations that will apply to every situation. I feel that any situation that we would be faced with while being a part of something like the League of Nations would need to be handled in a unique way that a reasonable set of rules could not necessarily cover. There would need to be negotiations and meetings on every subject.

It seems that everything in the Lodge article is in line with the way that I feel the United States should approach foreign policy. I do however believe that there are times where it is the right thing to do to remain neutral on a subject. You do not want to take the side of an ally at the expense of another ally when you could remain neutral and keep both as allies. This is only logical and I feel is the right thing to do. Besides that one little thing I believe that Lodge had views on foreign policy that were ahead of his time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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