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United States Foreign Policy

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 4:34 PM

This thread is for discussions on the United States Foreign Policy topic.
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Wilson, non isolationist and interventionist?

by [Emily Phan](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9:58 PM

First of all I want to know why our teacher wants us to “intelligently” discuss non–intervention. In recent political debates I see very little *intelligent* discussion. What high expectations our teacher has for us.

Kidding aside, I can see that Wilson was certainly not an isolationist. When he proposed the League of Nations, he desired America to have an active part in it. This would have entailed the U. S. helping to resolve global disputes and establishing rules of international behavior. (Murrin 765) Congress disagreed, not wanting anyone telling America what to do and desiring to keep out of foreign entanglements. Now I don’t know if Wilson was for intervention. The League of Nations had pretty much no power to enforce any of its decisions. So it really couldn’t intervene in any way. However if America had been part of the League, perhaps such a powerful countries support would have given weight to the Leagues commands. Perhaps Wilson was for intervention, it seems quite consistent with his other decisions during the war.

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Re: Wilson, non isolationist and interventionist?

by [Brooke Moriarty](#) – Thursday, April 21, 2016, 11:49 AM

(Just because other people don't seem to speak intelligently, doesn't mean we can't, right?)

I really like your points here. I hadn't thought of Wilson's idea for the League of Nations being non–intervention based, I had been very focused on the Article X of the time, stating that the countries of the League would "punish aggressor nations by economic isolation and military retaliation" (from class notes). I'm not sure if the resistance of Congress was strongly based on staying out of foreign entanglements though, it seemed that America still wanted to dabble in foreign affairs, but like you said, they didn't want anyone telling America what to do. More than anything, I think Congress (especially the Republican members)

worried about Wilson's "League of Nation" taking away from America's ability to make independent decisions.

I'm not sure what you mean by "The League of Nations had pretty much no power to enforce any of its decisions. So it really couldn't intervene in any way. However if America had been part of the League, perhaps such a powerful countries support would have given weight to the Leagues commands." Wasn't the League supposed to work together to make and enforce their decisions? And what could they not intervene? Also, while I'm sure having America, a country who doesn't have as much "bad blood" with the European nations as they do with each other, would have given the League a good mediator, I'm not sure if it would have balanced the power at the time. Many of the countries of the League were just as powerful, some even more so, than America of the time.

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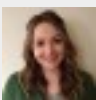
Definitions

by [Emily Phan](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9:59 PM

Non-intervention declares that a country should entirely keep out of other countries' affairs. Intervention is where a country "helps" other countries when problems arise. My opinion is rather middle ground but leaning towards intervention. I think we should usually keep out of other countries politics and problems. However when a country commits a horrible violation of human rights, has no intention of stopping or fixing it on their own, and has been given a reasonable amount of time to change their minds, then I believe we should intervene. This intervention may start in the form of a formal order to cease and desist but if the objectionable action is not stopped we shouldn't be lax in taking harsher measures. In extreme cases military intervention could be used. If instructions are never backed by actions other counties won't take our instructions seriously. Moreover, after we have stopped a threat and allowed the country to establish a STABLE government, we should slowly withdraw our support. So I guess I am an internationalist and my ideas sit closest with Mr. Cruz's, though not nearly as strong.

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Ron Paul and non-intervention

by [Chloe Duryea](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:26 PM

I agree with Ron Paul's case on non-intervention. Going over seas to spread our view on democracy has too many unintended consequences. We spread our democracy in Iraq by dropping bombs and killing many people. In his interview, he made a point that we neglected to pursue Osama bin Laden, yet we occupied and tried to transform Afghanistan itself. This is not what we were supposed to do. I believe in targeting the bad guys, but not changing a country in the process. I also agree that we cannot use the force of arms to invade other countries in order to to make them better people. Our job is to make us better people here in America. If we occupy other territories, we will just anger more people. I believe we need to be able to talk to these people openly, such as the example he gave about talking with the Soviets. They had nuclear weapons, but he was able to talk with them. We took our weapons out of Turkey, and they took their weapons out of Cuba. Non-intervention should not be confused with isolation. Non-intervention includes wanting to trade with people, talking with people, but not sending troops overseas to tell other countries how to live.

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Necessity of intervention not occupation.

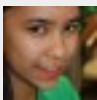
by [Benjamin Marshall](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 1:08 PM

History will reflect that Iraq was one of the biggest mistakes the US government has ever made, and Ron Paul is correct when he says the focus in Afghanistan wasn't on necessarily defeating the Taliban but rather building a stable government that Taliban couldn't take advantage of. As it is now Afghanistan will topple when we leave the same way Iraq did. That failure can be traced to the disconnect between the reality of the situation soldiers experienced in more kenetic regions of these countries and those who were commanding them at the highest level. As a permanent member of the UNSC and the owner of a Navy 10x the size of the next country's (UK) we will always be obligated to intervene in developing regions of the world. We will always be diplomatic with nations with nuclear weapons because any show of force could send the whole world into a very dire situation. That being said I agree that once a threat is eliminated through application of force there is no need for us to occupy. The reason the more radical members of the Mahujideen turned on us in

the 90's was because HW Bush left US troops in Saudi Arabia after the Gulf War ended. If he would've pulled everyone out and left reconstruction of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the nation's on the Arab peninsula the attitude in the middle east towards the US might have been entirely different.

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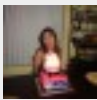
Re: Necessity of intervention not occupation.

by [Emily Phan](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 2:37 PM

Look, threats are never entirely eliminated. A new stable government has to be set up, so soon as we leave the old rulers won't take over again and any good we might have done wont be promptly undone. The new government has to be able to stand up under the threats. Look what happened in Vietnam. Right after America drew out of the war; the North swept down and took over. Radicals are going to attack any government they don't like whether it is supported by America or not. Now yes we do need to leave a country we have assisted, but we need to make sure we have left a stable government behind that won't fall as soon as our back is turned. This may take time, but we need to give them enough support so they will have a fighting chance when we leave.

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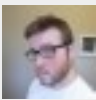
Re: Necessity of intervention not occupation.

by [Nicole Tapia](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8:25 PM

I completely agree when you say that no matter what the US will always be involved no matter how hard we try to stay out of a problem. We are nation that has all the tools to help countries in need as well send troops to help defend those in need. And although I know most will disagree, the troops do want to be a part of the help and that is what I believe makes this nation so great. Yes, the Irag/Afganistan war was a huge mistake I truly believe this war has been going on for too long, but at the same time so many Americans volunteer to defend our freedom and our nation. They want to be deployed and help us. Although I do wish we stay out of problems as much as possible, if we want ti fight, then nothing is going to stop us from going to war with our enemies.

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Foreign Policy: More than two sides to a coin

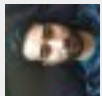
by [Joseph Collins](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:30 PM

I believe a good amount of the debate regarding isolationism versus non-isolationism is clouded and muddled by extremist views towards either end of the spectrum. In the interview with Ron Paul, I found myself conceding that he had some good points, especially when relating to imposing American values on other countries. Where he lost me personally was when he stated that we should have no interest in intervening when tragedies such as genocide can be stopped. Alan Keyes's statement of, "If somebody's being hurt somewhere in the world, somebody in America grieves for them" really summed up how we can't make foreign policy about us vs. them or every nation for itself. On the other hand, I feel that the statements made by John McCain were far too extreme towards a militant and controlling foreign presence, even using a cheap and likely dishonest proclamation on behalf of American veterans, who, besides being a diverse group that no one man can speak for, statistically were more likely to support Ron Paul.

Overall, I feel like the overly partisan and polarizing political landscape of the twenty first century, in addition to our now overwhelming military power, have made the debate of isolationism versus non-isolationism far less reasonable and sensible than it might have been in the early twentieth century. The solution can't be a single one sided overarching dogma, we have to have a sensible evaluation of whether American intervention is necessary or appropriate in each unique case of foreign relations.

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Re: Foreign Policy: More than two sides to a coin

by [Jesse Dunlap](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:01 PM

I also agree with you that we should find a compromise between isolationist and Interventionist. I do think Ron Paul had some good points as I think its damaging to be the worlds policeman. However it appears that there are times when those that lack the strength to fight back against a governing force that is being harshly aggressive, we should determine that its time to help bring the balance back to peaceful resolution. Genocide being one of the prime examples of being left unchecked will create countless losses and trauma for generations.

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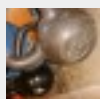
As the sole super power will it ever be possible for the U.S. to return to a more isolationist form of foreign policy?

by [Benjamin Marshall](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 9:14 PM

I don't think so. As one of the permanent members on the U.N. Security Council the U.S. will always serve some sort of role in any international crisis, both diplomatically and militarily. That being said if our country encourages the other permanent members, specifically the Russian Federation co-operate with us some of the burden of the obligation to intervene may be lifted. However if that were to happen there would need to be compromises from both nations to prevent a full blown repeat of the cold war.

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Isolationism in question

by [Delbert Borden](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:20 PM

I personally believe as a nation that we must steer away from the role of world police, and give countries within themselves or the region an opportunity to resolve their own issues. However, as a country we have actively played that role for decades which makes the transitioning into isolationism difficult politically, and morally. Rand Paul's wiping his hands of the worlds mess in regards to his stance of isolationism has several key points that do ring true. Here, in this country, we have countless scenarios that need our immediate attention on our soil. We have communities with undrinkable water(Flint, MI), we have every increasing wage gap between race, gender and class, and of course our national security. The list could continue easily. But Paul's stance of us having no true "moral obligation" to intervene in border disputes, or mass genocide unless were backed by our cohorts in the UN, seems lazy and irresponsible. Making a slow, or muted attempt at righting a moral wrong (Bosnia, Syria, Darfur) not only a sign of weakness as the world's super power, but also is an action of cruelty almost as agredious as those who perpetrate these atosities.

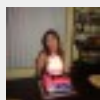
"All cruelty springs from weakness"

Seneca

,

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Re: United States Foreign Policy

by [Nicolle Tapia](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:12 PM

In the first video with ron Paul, I agreed with staying out of countries that don't involve us. Just like in 1918, Wilson tried his best to stay away from the war. But because money is everything, we would send out goods to countries that would pay us for what we were sending them. To me, that is like getting involved in the war because staying out of it completely means no supplies regardless of who may be your ally because the enemy will want to attack. But like WW2 and the attacks on pearl harbor, that is when we get involved because we were attacked out of no where and so many american lives were lost. It all depends on the situation whether or not we should be involved. Like vietnam and 9/11 we should have gotten involved with 9/11 but not vietnam.

Mccain says that the troops want to fight for our country no matter if the US is partially involved or not. That bringing home the troops won't do much because they want to be out there fighting and helping the countries in need because we do have the resources to help. But we also think about our economy and how eventually we can lose the value in our currency. I am personally set on it's a case to case basis on whether or not the US should get involved. Because a quote that stood out to me in the first video was "if we don't fight on their land, they will fight on ours"

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Re: United States Foreign Policy

by [Benjamin Marshall](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:49 PM

I fought in Afghanistan in 2012 and never at any point did I feel like I was fighting to make the United States a safer place. I joined the Army in 2010 with an immature idea that I needed to experience war first hand so I can truly understand it, and a foolish pursuit of some type of glory and fulfillment. I don't regret any of those decisions, but did come to the realization that interventionist wars, whether we're attacked or not have altierior motives that the US Government is pursuing. Never did I feel that the members of the Taliban that I came across had the capability or capacity to do harm to normal citizens of the United States. What other motivation our government has to deploy soldiers there is unknown to me as I was just a lowly infantryman, but they are definitely out there.

As far as John McCain saying that soldiers will fight for the US no matter what the stake ultimately is in the fight is only half true from what I've experienced. Of course we all love our country but like I said it was never the reason we felt the need to put ourselves out there. It was solely a need to fight ingrained in us by the environment we existed in. We all just felt a a need to prove ourselves and be there for our friends in their time of need, at least prior to the deployment.

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Isolationist Internationalism

by [Andrew Bukur](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:49 PM

When it comes to the spectrum of isolationism and internationalism, I find myself near the middle, leaning towards the internationalist side. If i had lived in those times I would have been a supporter of the Reservationists, as well as Lodge. Woodrow Wilson is far too internationalist in his 14 points, and sacrifices the interests and sovereignty of the United States for the purpose of international harmony. Lodge, on the other hand, who was also a supporter of international peace and cooperation, stood beside the fact that America must also remain independent enough to retain full self-control and sovereignty.

The United States, during the 1920's, was quickly rising as on of the most powerful nations in the world. Because of this, the U.S. was obligated to be a major factor in controlling international relations and politics, and therefore needed to be involved by helping maintain peace, and setting an example. Despite this though, the first priority, however, is maintaining power and continuing the develop as a nation. Therefore, according to those ideas, Lodge seems to have the most reasonable argument: involving the nation in international agreements and affairs, without compromising power or sovereignty.

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Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/

by [Brooke Moriarty](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:39 PM

I’ve learned something: I definitely lean towards isolationism when it comes to current (and past) U.S. foreign policy. My personal beliefs sit in line with what Ron Paul said in the videos presented and that proposed by Bernie Sanders. I don’t think that force solves anything, it usually causes more problems. I think foreign policy should be treated similarly to how one should deal with bullying in elementary school: be friendly until someone starts being mean; try talking first; get the teacher involved; only use violence as a last resort. Of course, this is a lot harder in real life, especially considering that I’m sure America thinks it would be the teacher in this metaphor, but in actuality, no one is. This can make it hard, not having anyone to answer to, but there is one major step that always gets skipped: try talking and listening first. I add listening to this, because it is such a major and often skipped factor to talking.

When it’s concerning U.S. foreign policy, the involvement we have in other country’s affairs is currently overbearing and has been for decades. As we readin our textbook, the Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations for Woodrow Wilson was a bit of a flop. One thing I found myself thinking, however, was whether this was really a bad thing, especially when learning about how people were treated back in America during and after the war. I don’t find it healthy for a nation to interfere and try to take care of other countries when it can’t even take care of it’s own first. How could we preach about freedom and the good of democracy throughout the world during WWI when women and African Americans were still being seen as unequaled to white men in the U.S.? In the present, America has applied force to help other countries, entering a war in the middle east to spread “good,” but goodness is not what comes from war. There’s no such thing as a good war.

I believe that American responses to foreign affairs should follow the advice of a very wise Buddhist by the name of Thich Nhat Hanh. His response to the attack that was 9/11 gives a good representation of this path:

“If I were given the opportunity to be face to face with Osama bin Laden, the first thing I would do is listen. I would try to understand why he had acted in that cruel way. I would try to understand all of the suffering that had led him to violence. It might not be easy to listen in that way, so I would have to remain calm and lucid... Only when we felt calm and lucid would we respond. We would respond point by point to what had been said. We would respond gently but firmly in such a way as to help them discover their own misunderstandings so that of their own will they will stop committing violent acts... For the American people, I would suggest that we do everything we can to restore our calm and our lucidity before responding to the situation. To respond too quickly before we have much understanding of the situation may be very dangerous. The first thing we can do is to cool the flames of anger and hatred that are so strong in us.”

(<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/literacy-world-features/view/24533/what-i-would-say-to-osama-bin-laden>)

(Sorry if this was really long, I had a lot of thoughts already.)

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Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/

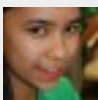
by [Emily Phan](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 1:51 PM

Yes talking to people before escalating to a fight is always preferable, but I believe many overestimate how often this truly works. I could present the most compelling case showing all the reasons why someone should or shouldn’t do an action, but if they don’t want to be convinced they won’t be. Say I explained to someone who loved junk food all the reasons why he or she should only eat healthy stuff. My lucid and scientifically provable case why they will eventually suffer from their eating habits, might make absolutely no difference in their minds, they might not care. Here’s an example from my own life: my sports coach had rented this gym for my team to practice in. We had paid the school to let us be there from 6:00–8:00. When we got there some basket ball players were there. My coach respectfully explained that we had paid to rent this room and they would have to leave. They didn’t care. They wanted to finish their practicing and refused to leave. All my coaches’ logic and reasoning was in vain. The basketball players just got angrier and angrier and the more good reasons my coach gave the less they wanted to leave.

This sort of situation shows how humans behave quite well. You can often give all the good reasons on this globe and people still will refuse to change their mind. So the previous author is not wrong. We should try and talk things out before stepping into a conflict. However I believe we are often over optimistic about how well this actually works. Not everything can be solved by talking. Not all countries are like America. They may want to fight and when they desire this no amount of speech is going to stop them. Also when our country insists on a lot of negotiating and talking before actions, some other countries perceive this weakness, not strength. They think we don’t have the bravery to step in and take any sort of forceful action. This means our words will be given even less weight when we do try and talk things out.

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Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/

by [Emily Phan](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 2:13 PM

I disagree with one point the previous author made. She says that “goodness is not what comes from war.” In one respect she is right, lots of evil things can happen because of a war. However that does not

mean that **no** good can come from a war. Take the World War Two, Hitler was committing genocide. This state of things is obviously bad. Americans, by entering the war against Hitler, were trying to bring the *good*. This is an example where a war did some good.

To answer a question the author asked, “How could we preach about freedom and the good of democracy throughout the world during WWI when women and African Americans were still being seen as unequaled to white men in the U.S.?” We could do this because though we weren’t perfect we were much better than other countries. Many counties during this time were monarchies or autocracies (had a dictator) (<http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/govt1900.htm>). So yes, in our country women and African Americans didn’t have many rights, **however** in many other countries almost **no one** had rights. Yes the situation in America wasn’t perfect, but the situation in other places were a lot worse. Look at all the eager immigrants who wanted to come to the U.S. It couldn’t have been seen as to horrible here.

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Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/

by [Delbert Borden](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 3:35 PM

I agree with your point in regards to war not being inherently "good or evil;" in my opinion its the cause of the war and the subsequent effect after it's concluded seem to be more of an indicator about a countries motivation to start a military skirmish. If it's for power or a desire for occupation, leading into colonialism then I believe war is unjustified; however, if it's to prevent unethical, inhumane, or genocidal dictatorships I believe war is justified.

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Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/

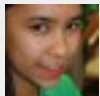
by [Brooke Moriarty](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 9:11 PM

Fighting to protect people is justified, I agree, even if it means war, but the thing I always wonder is if that corruption could've been prevented before it became powerful. Take a dictator for example: would they become a dictator ruling over a country if someone had noticed before they got power and stopped them? Free speech and opinions are inherent human rights, of course, but what if someone were to listen carefully to their opinions before taking action or being unresponsive completely. What would happen if someone asked "What are you trying to do? Why are you trying to do this? Why do you feel that this change is needed?" Oftentimes people react in the extremes when they're scared or angry, which comes from ignorance, from missing important information that creates the bigger picture.

Again, my perspective is most likely optimistic beyond realistic, but I must be the change that I want to see in the world.

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Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/

by [Emily Phan](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 10:25 PM

I try to be optimistic in my personal life as well. However, do you believe this is always the best policy for a **country** to take? The leaders of a nation must face the hard facts that other nations aren’t always trying to be ether truthful or humane. Though it is good to be optimistic, is it safe to **always** be so? I guess, we have to be on the lookout for great evil, but still be optimistic that people can do what’s right. Just as someone running a spots event must watch for cheating but appreciate the athletes who are competing honestly.

Yes, questioning a threat before going to extremes is a very laudable idea. However, what if the answers to your questions are not what you want? What if you believe they are determined to continue in the unacceptable behavior no matter what anyone says? Should you still try? And what if people will die if you **wait** to ask questions?

Say, a person came into a college campus began shooting at people. A security officer has a hand gun and sees this person. Should the officer try and talk the shooter down and risk more people getting shot? Or should he take this person out as fast as possible?

Leaders of a nation must decide what must be done, when there is a threat decisively, without long delays. And **useless** questioning will cause delays, which can cause lives. If talking will not help, doing it causes more harm than good.

Lastly, people will not always allow themselves to be questioned. Imagine the president asking to talk with the leader of Russia because they were attacking some other country. What if Russia says no, and refuses all communication? Should we just forget it and keep to our own business? Or back up our words with actions? If we always back down, our words will not be taken seriously when really big trouble comes.

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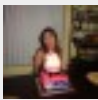


Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/
by [Brooke Moriarty](#) – Thursday, April 21, 2016, 9:56 AM

Emily, you have such good points. Unfortunately, I'm aware that my perspectives, in several ways, are very optimistic, perhaps even unrealistic, but I have to cling to my belief in the best of people. In response to Hitler's genocide during World War Two, in no way am I saying that that was justified (never, ever, ever), however, it's quite likely that he, as a corrupt individual, would not have existed had WWI never happened, or if Germany had been treated more fairly at the end. Go back further, and WWI wouldn't have happened if countries had been more open with each other, and weren't making a ton of secret alliances. It's complicated and difficult to come to an absolute conclusion because these are all "if" statements.

As for spreading the good of democracy even when America wasn't perfect, no country will ever be perfect. Perfection doesn't exist. I know a lot of countries were a lot worse, are still a lot worse, but I have a hard time looking past anything that does not view people as just people. As U.S. got more powerful, it seemed that the country kept stepping in where it didn't need to be (like the Vietnam War.) I think the main thing that bothers me when I ask, "How could we preach about freedom and the good of democracy throughout the world during WWI when women and African Americans were still being seen as unequaled to white men in the U.S.?", was the fact that President Woodrow Wilson of that time period was quite lacking in a key aspect of the freedom he was fighting for. He spoke of bringing freedom and democracy to the world, yet didn't show any sign of seeing all people as being free to be and have democratic power in his own country. I know he was a man of the times, but human equality seems like such a basic understanding to me, I have a hard time understanding how anyone couldn't realize that all people are, in many fundamental ways, the same.

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Re: Should America really be so involved in other countries? :/
by [Nicole Tapia](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8:32 PM

I definitely agree with talking first. It's also easier said than done because it involves wars/disputes that could be catastrophic. I also agree with don't do anything until they do something. For example, ww2, we were taken by surprise when the Japanese decided to bomb our soldiers at pearl harbor. And so our nation came to the decision to bomb them back for what they did to us. Yes it may seem cruel but they hurt us and we will hurt them back. There's not "be the better person" in this situation. That is when I believe the US should get involved with foreign nations. But if there is no reason to get involved, then we should prevent casualties and stay reserved within ourselves. We don't always have to throw the first punch.

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The 2016 presidential candidates views on foreign policy
by [Chloe Duryea](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 3:31 PM

I relate most to Bernie Sanders position on foreign policy. I do not like the idea of using violence of any kind. Part of me believes war is only justifiable if we are attacked first, then it is okay to defend ourselves. However, on the

other hand, I do not like the idea of using violence to solve the issue because in the end it just creates more problems. I agree with his quote on how to react to such dilemmas: “Stay away, but if we must get involved, let others lead.” (Washington Post. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 20 Apr. 2016.). If we must get involved with other countries, then we need to let them lead. If not, it may create many unintended consequences. We must give them support in a peaceful way and not use violence when it is not necessary. I am all about trying to make this world a better place, and I don’t believe any form of war will make that happen. it will only create more problems. We need to figure out a new way to solve problems rather than using violence. Moreover, I relate most with his foreign policy beginning with climate change. I believe climate change is the most extreme threat to our planet. Bernie’s view on combating climate change is revolutionary: “Right now, we have an energy policy that is rigged to boost the profits of big oil companies like Exxon, BP, and Shell at the expense of average Americans. CEO’s are raking in record profits while climate change ravages our planet and our people — all because the wealthiest industry in the history of our planet has bribed politicians into complacency in the face of climate change. Enough is enough. It’s time for a political revolution that takes on the fossil fuel billionaires, accelerates our transition to clean energy, and finally puts people before the profits of polluters.”
(<https://berniesanders.com/issues/climate-change/>).

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Reservationist

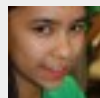
by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) – Thursday, April 21, 2016, 4:02 PM

I would probably say I would side with the reservationists. I believe its important to have treaties and understandings with other countries to prevent war as much as possible. Even though war most the time seems to stem from taking something someone else has rather than an actual threat or moral disagreement. The reservationists also believed in protecting American interests. This to me should be our first priority above everything else. Take care of all the problems on the home front before ever dealing in international issues, which is clearly something we do not do today.

I believe in American exceptionalism and think its important to help other countries and and play a part in the world. However to take on foreign policy with multiple countries with multiple problems when we cant even figure iit out at home is not only hypocritical but rather stupid. To me this just seems like common sense but from the example set by our current government apparently it isn't.

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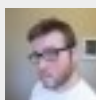
Re: Reservationist

by [Emily Phan](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 9:11 PM

So would you want America to be as near to perfect as possible before we help anyone else? Just because I don't have my life totally together, does that mean I shouldn't try and help anyone else who is struggling in life?

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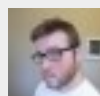
Re: Reservationist

by [Joseph Collins](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:00 PM

I think an even better way to describe it might be: "Oh, my neighbor's house is on fire, but seeing as its not my house that's on fire I should mow the lawn and do the laundry before I go out of my way to help or call 911". We don't realize that there's a big difference between meddling in other countries affairs, and responding to a crisis as a global community. Not to mention, having other areas and economies of the world suffer through fixable disasters, and therefore losing stability, rarely benefits us as country. We need trade, diplomatic sway and military allies, and those are hard to come by if we're viewed as selfish or if the countries we want to have dealings with are too unstable politically.

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Re: Reservationist

by [Joseph Collins](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:47 PM

I think that making it a rule that before we involve ourselves in foreign affairs, we must first deal with all of our domestic problems is a bit unrealistic, simply because we will most likely never deal with even a majority of our problems, let alone reach a state of utopia. Besides, at this point, especially after the globalization caused by technology, it would be nearly impossible to not intervene in foreign affairs-- we are already interconnected with nearly every nation on earth via economics and diplomacy, and therefore any large scale international event will already be effecting us in one way or another. Look at the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, even though they happened half way across the world, you can be damn sure that the United States Government was also extremely interested in getting information about the attackers for our own national security needs.

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Nominee Policy on Interventionilisim

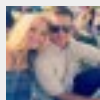
by [Delbert Borden](#) - Thursday, April 21, 2016, 10:01 PM

My stance kind of hovers somewhere between the two Democratic candidates in regards to military interventions in other countries. Firstly, don't believe that we should become isolationists; nor should we allow ourselves to be seen as pacifists, especially with the mounting threats and tensions emitting from the Middle East, North Korea, China (South China Sea Crisis) and recently Russia (Battleship Attack Simulations). However, I believe the author minimalized Bernie's approach to these policies, when he wrote that during the debate Sanders did his "usual" intro of "attacking" a "handful of billionaires." Many of which profit from war, by joining private equity groups that invest in companies that are contracted by our defense department, such as The Carlyle Group. This article gives a glimpse into the lucrative opportunity that is war <http://www.pinnacledigest.com/articles/wartime-investing>.

Secondly, I see Clintons approach more of a traditional view of us being the world leader, and the standard setter for diplomacy. Which the author hinted as being, "near-obsessive legalism." Which I believe it's necessary since the changing face of war do to scientific advancements in weaponry facilitates the need to have more resolve in dealing with these issues. Because the days of the brash, strong arming style of diplomacy/Intervention is more dangerous than ever when we realize other nations are gaining military ground on us <http://www.businessinsider.com/chinese-military-advancements-shifting-power-2014-10>

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Ron Paul video

by [Benjamin Glaeser](#) - Friday, April 22, 2016, 7:49 AM

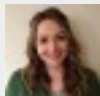
After listening to the Ron Paul video my view has slightly changed on foreign policy. He made a few very good points that I very much agree with. The first was that its not the United States job to police the world. I agree completly with this, I agree we are a superior nation but I don't think its our job to keep the rest of the world in check. He also says that our constitution does not give us the right to have troops all over the world. Its not our job to spread our goodness through means of force. He also says war is only justified when we are attacked for example ww2 or going after terrorists after 911.

At first when I listened to the video i disagreed that we shouldn't come to the aid of foreign countries where genocide or other atrocities are taking place. But after hearing it a second time he made a few very good points that if we would have stayed out of it countries from that region would have taken care of the problem.

And lastly he says we are going broke, and repeating what every major power has done before us and spreading ourselves out too much. I couldn't agree more and that thought makes perfect sense. Why not have an incredibly strong home front and protect ourselves first, we don't need our troops all over the world. I think America needs to come first and foremost and we shouldn't worry about the rest of the world. We should help others when we can and do good by the rest of the world but to have troops everywhere seems unecessary and a waste of money and resources.

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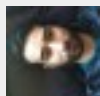


Re: Ron Paul video
by [Chloe Duryea](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:34 PM

I also agreed with the points that Ron Paul made in the video. However, I would ask your opinion of what makes the United States a superior nation compared to others? Is it our military might, or the fact that we are invading other countries to ultimately steal their natural resources? I also agree with your opinion on the United States not having the right to spread our views and beliefs on other countries. I find this as a power grab; where we are trying to gain superiority through saying democracy is the only right system. In the process of our country pushing our beliefs, we are making many enemies and killing innocent people. Also, we are surely spending too much money on our annual national defense budget... We would not have to spend this much money if we were not going around the world making enemies. If we were to take one year of the national defense budget, we could solve world hunger. I believe if we were to do this, THEN we would be a superior country.

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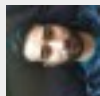
Intervention
by [Jesse Dunlap](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:56 PM

The case for Non-interventionist is rooted in other nations having the ability to govern themselves and to deal with their own problems. It is the belief that we should not be the worlds police men as Ron Paul in the video states. And should not put forth financial or military force to reign them into being civil. In this way we can focus on ourselves and our wellbeing while strengthening our financial abundance and our civil welfare. On the other side of this other nations may not have the experience or the military might to contend with those who by force may be hurting others. This can lead to mass genocide or other humanitarian injustices that with aid could help tilt the scales to a peaceful resolution. The argument against Non-intervention is that if another nation lacks the strength to overthrow a violent governing force leaving them to great harm would be a lack of compassion to help when you have the ability to intervene.

After thinking and watching the videos and reading some of the different views on intervention. I think my view has shifted more from an isolationist and more towards the Interventionist. I don't like the idea of the being the worlds policemen but I also don't like the idea of having the strength to help those that may need it and do nothing..

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Bernie Sanders
by [Jesse Dunlap](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:05 PM

The candidate I relate with most on foreign policy would be Bernie Sanders and a mixture of Hilary Clinton. I do like the pacifist stand but with a push for other nations of the region to hold their own weight in dealing with a big issue. Such as Isis or other aggressive organizations. The nations surrounding the region could step up and not leave it solely on our shoulders. However I still feel that intervention may be necessary if others won't deal with the problem before it becomes too inflated.

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