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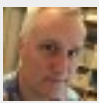
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United States Foreign Policy

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

This thread is for discussions on the United States Foreign Policy topic.

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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: United States Foreign Policy

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My view on current US candidates

by [Long Chen](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:49 AM

In my perspective, I think US's role in the world is difficult and has a lot of conflicts. I feel the best candidate is Bernie Sanders. The reason I support Bernie Sanders is because he is the one who believes in the idea of Pacifism. The best way for US is keeping away from other countries' business. In the current candidates, Hilary Clinton is an internationalist, Ted Cruz is an unilateralist, and Donald Trump is a mercantilist. I do not think their opinions are going to make US great in the world. Many countries do not like the way that US involves with other countries' businesses and affairs. In my perspective, only pacifism is the way to make US less aggressive and more peaceful in the world.

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Re: My view on current US candidates

by [Balkhy Balkhy](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6:45 AM

I think this is a great point, and like the way you categorized the candidates. I also think this current election season has brought out a lot of problematic voting rules that were either not as obvious before, or are being paid attention to because the age of media.

In states where there are closed primaries, Americans end up disenfranchised if they are not registered in the two major parties, Democrat or Republican. This is ridiculous because it just ensures that those parties will remain the "major" parties of the U.S. no matter what. This punishes progressives, because it's been shown that Bernie does better in states where there are open primaries. For example, in NY, 27% of registered voters couldn't vote in the primary yesterday because they were not registered with the major parties--that is 3.2 MILLION voters in NYC! Hillary beat out Bernie by about 20%. How is this democracy?

I don't think that the U.S. has any business preaching democracy, which is what I feel like most of the

candidates are doing. The U.S. does not practice democracy and is barely a democratic republic because Americans don't even choose the delegates or super delegates that determine candidacy, etc.

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Re: My view on current US candidates
by [Triston Thomason](#) - Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:29 PM

It certainly would make the U.S. more peaceful. I wouldn't go for either Trump or Cruz based there foreign policies and there idea of wanting to bomb all of the Islamic state. To "carpet bomb" them would likely result in turning more towards supporting isis and making us out to look like the bad guy. I'd rather place my vote for Bernie Sanders as well, and I think he could find a more efficient and less violent solution.

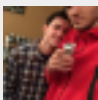
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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by [Shawn Jenkins](#) - Monday, April 18, 2016, 1:21 PM

I think it is easy for politicians to use foreign policy as an excuse. My father served this country as a United States Marine for 13 years. Two of those years on the ground in Vietnam. What people call foreign policy is horse shit to me. It is a politicians term to get something by force or coercion. It's easy to be thousands of mile away and send people to do the dirty work and call it foreign policy. What it boils down to is a bunch of suit and ties trying to decide what's best for everyone using their own values or standards. Let's make the world a Democracy, they say. Well who in the hell gave us the right to decide that's what is needed. Our foreign policy should be, mind our own damn business.

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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) - Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 12:31 PM

I can see where you are coming from but I think that it is in America's best interest to get involved with some issues abroad. It is the responsibility of those who can protect to do so. I do see where you are coming from when you say "foreign policy" and "America's interest" have always been associated with some capitalistic incentive, though in a lot of the cases as well we are going in to protect people who are being oppressed. America has the responsibility to get involved with other peoples problems in my opinion because we are part of the UN who in an over simplified way is the "world police" so it is our cutie to protect.

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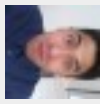
Re: United States Foreign Policy
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) - Monday, April 18, 2016, 3:26 PM

After reading the article *So Henry Cabot Lodge Was One of History's Villains?* My position is reaffirmed and stronger than before. I believe that America's roll in declaring war should be held within congress and not with a group of other countries. This is one of the main arguments that is made that I believe is hard to disagree with. If we were to relinquish our power (congress's power) to declare war we could get drawn into wars that other countries are involved with that don't have any compelling American interests. It is up to our congress to dictate whether our tax money should go towards building up an army and fight in a war, not a group of advisor's from other countries. Not only is this idea unconstitutional but it could make America extremely vulnerable to any other outside threats. Having strong alliances with other world powers is crucial and essential for America to protect their interests abroad, but to give up the power to essentially control what their army does should be up to America not another country. This reaffirms my position on this topic. America should have strong alliances with other world powers and there should be a league that comes together and discusses issues relating to war and foreign affairs but the power of those armies should be in the hands of their government and any alliance groups should be no more than advisors and a way to build a world power through alliances.



Being Against Intervention
by [Meghan Jacinto](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:05 PM

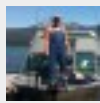
Ron Paul presented a strong opposition against foreign intervention, which helped me rethink my own personal views about being a limited internationalist. In the first given video, Ron Paul's expresses the main point of how the United States should only spread democracy, or our other supposed "goodness", under prescribed conditions (Source: at 38 seconds in the video). For example, as a country, we had justification to enter World War II due to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Overall, Paul points out that the United States should only do things justified by the U.S Constitution. The United States can't really tell other how people to live their lives, nor can we use force of arms to make other countries better people. This greatly affected my own opinion because this is a new perspective I haven't really put into consideration. Although I originally thought that a mass genocide in another country should be a valid reason to be involved, Paul brought up the same point from earlier concerning that: the U.S can't use force of arms to make other countries better people, since our own job is to make us better people.



Re: Being Against Intervention
by [Miguel Perez](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:47 PM

I think, the only instance the world should not hesitate to help another nation is genocide. While we cannot force to another countries citizens to be better people, we can save innocent people from eradication. Former President Clinton even expressed remorse that he did not intervene during the Rwandan Genocide saying, "I don't think we could have ended the violence, but I think we could have cut it down. And I regret it." (http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/05/us/politics/in-africa-bill-clinton-works-to-leave-a-charitable-legacy.html?_r=0) Other than that, we should put as much possible thought before intervening in ANY other nations affairs, just because we can help, does not mean we should, or they would like us too.

Miguel



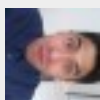
Isolationism
by [Joshua Crocker](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 8:03 PM

Before I answer any of the proposed questions I want to state something clearly. Now why I am not hard core isolationist I don't believe in completely cutting the U.S off from the rest of the world I think we need to deal with our own issues before we fix other peoples. I believe if you want to fix unemployment take the jobs back that have so kindly been given away to; China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Mexico, India, ect. While yes this would irate Wall St republicans oh well. Americans would have jobs.

Now onto the material. John McCain made a huge error which Congressman Paul failed to correct. John McCain stated, "That sort of Isolationism is what caused WWII." Here McCain makes it sound like that was the only reason that Hitler rose to power and he couldn't be more wrong. What caused WWII was not the U.S' isolationism but the Treaty at Versailles, and the fact the Nazis were the only ones with guns, in Germany at the time. The Treaty of Versailles put extreme limitations and restrictions on the German economy at the time. Limiting what they could and could not produce. I believe at the signing of the treaty French Commander Ferdinand Foch said something along the lines of, "This is not a peace treaty. It is an armistice for twenty years (<https://www.quora.com/After-the-Treaty-of-Versailles-Ferdinand-Foch-said-This-is-not-a-peace-It-is-an-armistice-for-twenty-years-What-did-he-know-at-the-time-that-allowed-him-to-make-this-prediction>)." So sorry John you were wrong there were many other factors other than the U.S isolationism that lead to the second world war.

Actually if you look on the site, <http://www.theholocaustexplained.org/ks3/the-nazi-rise-to-power/> it does not list U.S isolationism as even a reason that the Holocaust happened. Many other sites also share this agreement. They list many others as to possible reason but not U.S isolationism. Given the U.S could have checked Germany's advances early on to attempt to stop it. At the time it wasn't a threat to the U.S' well being as it later turned out to be. At which time the U.S entered the second world war.

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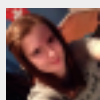
Re: Isolationism

by [Miguel Perez](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:23 PM

I just want to respond to your "Americans would have jobs" bit. Government will most likely never force corporations to bring back the huge factories, plants, and other facilities they have sent off to foreign countries. Why because labor is cheaper everywhere else. The nations unemployment rate is currently at 5% (<http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000>) which is only 1% above what is considered to be full unemployment. So the United States is not doing terrible on jobs. We face bigger issues than the issue of sending our factories to foreign countries.

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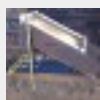
Limited Internationalist

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 9:13 PM

On the spectrum I would say I stand most closely with the limited International position. Currently with President Obama's tactics about ISIS in Iraq, it seems to support my position. Obama appears to believe that American intervention will yield very limited results and is therefore staying out of the situation for the most part and believes that is our best option.

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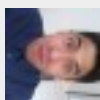
Ron Paul has some good ideas

by [Clint Leigh](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:58 PM

After watching Ron Paul's interview I realized that there was a lot of points about a non- intervention policy that I agreed with. When it comes to the world I don't think that we need to be police. I have always said that there large groups of people in our country and other countries that have been harboring resentment because the United States always has to be the one that goes in and (fix things) polices what every other country does. The U.S. acts like it is a helicopter parent when in reality it is the big brother trying to enforce its ideals on ever one else who is being annoyed by the whole situation. Every part of the world has different customs and beliefs and the U.S. claims to respect that be then at the same time we think that everyone should have our same democracy. I believe that these are the practices that make radical groups want to conspire against the U.S. and eventually attack. That is why I agree that leaving most disputes for the countries in that reign, who has the understanding of the customs and beliefs of the area t to deal with. That way there is less of a cultural barrier to deal with and no one thinks that one country is telling everyone what to do. The last thing that Ron Paul talked about that I agreed with was how we have started to spread our money and our military way to thin. For instance right now there is a standoff between the United States, victims of 9/11 and Saudi Arabia, where the Saudi Arabia has threatened to sell off hundreds of billions of dollars' of American assets if the U.S. government passes a bill that will hold Saudi Arabia accountable for part of the 9/11 attacks. I don't believe that we should never intervene, but I do believe the United States should try to pick its battles and let some of the other smart capable countries fight their own battles.

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Re: Ron Paul has some good ideas

by [Miguel Perez](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:33 PM

I thought it was silly of the reporter to ask "what if Canada invaded Montana, should we get involved then?" like where did that come from?

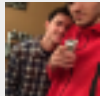
But I feel like the US, focuses less on "fixing things" and focuses more on foreign interests which seem to more economic at times. I'm sure there were more reason for American intervention in the middle than just the War on Terror. The US does not involve itself in all world issues, it would be impossible for any nation to try. But I believe the US government picks its spots very carefully especially when there is a \$.



Re: Ron Paul has some good ideas

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 12:56 PM

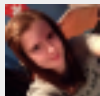
I agree with you, America is only going to get involved in issues that they have interest in. And like you said it would be extremely difficult and very expensive for America to get involved with every world issue. One way they have gotten involved in that passed is through finical assistance and advisor assistance which hasn't always been very beneficial bu tit keeps America out of a direct "war" with another country.



Re: Ron Paul has some good ideas

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 1:17 PM

I think this is a great point of view and really got me thinking about my own beliefs. I believe no matter what in cases of any form of genocide it should be our duty to get involved. I think one thing that Ron Paul said that you could have thrown in there was his statement regarding diplomacy. Our biggest issue is our lack of effective diplomacy and though many people say that this is a "weak" form of foreign policy, it has worked in the past as Ron Paul stated. One thing that I also think could deb very effective is building up our army and demonstrate peace through strength, though this almost seems contradicting it is a great way of keeping our reputation as a dominant world power without being directly involved with other nation's issues.



Re: Ron Paul has some good ideas

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 11:33 PM

I agree with you on that the United States does not need to be the world's policeman and I do like much of what Ron Paul is saying, though I disagree a bit and feel the United States should not simply say out of all the problems going on in the world, just because they do not directly involve us. If we do that, then many of the situations happening overseas will continue to get out of hand and eventually it will become our problem anyways. Though I am not saying that we need to get involved in every issue with other countries, I feel that as a strong and powerful nation we have some responsibilities.



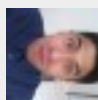
Re: Ron Paul has some good ideas

by [Zoe Latham](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:40 PM

I am of the belief that democracy should not be spread worldwide, especially through force. It seems that America has always had an obsession with winning, from football games to wars and from Charlie Sheen to Donald Trump. We want to be the best, and we want everyone to know it. Perhaps, that by turning "lesser" nations to our form of government we would be winning. That by living outside of the "rules" the US wants the rest of the world to follow that we are able to bully other nations into giving us their resources or following our agenda.

No one invaded the US when we were manufacturing atomic weapons. No one invaded us after we used them in war, and yet somehow we feel it's necessary to stop other nations from using/manufacturing atomic weapons. No one ever invaded us when we kept slaves or committed war crimes. No one said, "Look at these barbarians living their democratic life! We must convert them to socialism or communism ect...!" And if they had, I can assure you that it wouldn't have been well-received. The red scare certainly showed us how hesitant we are to adopt a new form of government.

After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrendered. They surrendered because it was the best thing to do for their people. I fear that the US may never know when the time comes to protect citizens over interests. That our involvement in other countries affairs may someday ensue backlash that we are not prepared for.



Flex too much, your arm will get tired.
by Miguel Perez – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:38 PM

I for the most part can agree with Ron Paul. I can understand why a nation as large, and as powerful as the United States, has many interests in different countries. Whether those interests are military, economic, or democratic. The United States should be seen as a model; the US does not always have to be an enforcer. When Ron Paul is asked, "Is war ever justifiable?" he responds, "Sure if you're attacked you have a right, and an obligation to defend our country." The US should more as an older brother protecting a younger brother at the park rather than a swat team. There is a certain responsibility that comes with being a nation was great and powerful as the United States. We must always be vigilant in case we are needed, and we will always be needed. But sometimes, we flex too much.

"Around 17,000 U.S. military personnel and 300,000 South Korean troops are taking part in what the South Korean Defense Ministry described as the "largest ever" joint military exercises. North Korea has warned that it would make a "pre-emptive and offensive nuclear strike" in response to the joint exercises."
(<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/17/asia/north-korea-missile-launch/>) I know the likely hood of this happening is slim.

I also see a problem in the Ron Paul interview, the tone of the interview both from Ron Paul and the reporter, is very "in-a-perfect-worldish". The way the questions are asked AND responded seem as if they believe the United States is only intervening in the affairs of other nations for heroic reasons. This is far from the case, I think we all know that while keeping the world safe for the US is a priority, saying that is the ONLY priority would be a lie. The US has both economic and militaristic interest in the many nations we intervene in.

Miguel



Re: Flex too much, your arm will get tired.
by Aleethia Collins – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 8:40 PM

I agree with many of the points you are making about the Ron Paul interview. There are situation when we should intervene, for instance to defend our country when being attacked, but we need to be careful not to stretch above our means to defend other countries for issues such as border disputes. The idea that the United States needs to force other countries to act a certain way and to continue spreading our democracy is not probable. Many people are not happy with the troops stationed overseas and that is only part of the problem with our overextension. The will to continue is not there and as well the cost is simply too high and it is quickly catching up with us. Like you said, when we are needed we should help other countries, though be careful not to go above our means.



Re: Flex too much, your arm will get tired.
by Zoe Latham – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:58 PM

One thing that I found interesting in the Ron Paul video was when he said, "It is the lack of diplomacy that is the greatest threat, not the weapons themselves." I completely agree with this. If someone had nuclear weapons I can't understand why attacking them would be justified and I feel could only provoke them to use said weapons. Also, seeing as the United States was the first country to start manufacturing nuclear weapons and the only one to use them in combat, I'm curious as to why we could feel justified to invade a country based on the belief that they too could do what we have already done. It seems a bit hypocritical and I feel that the US consistently tries to enforce "rules" that are exempt to the US itself, such as war crimes like water boarding and the use of violence against non-combative civilians.

I agree that we are spreading ourselves too thin and that by sending our jobs and our troops overseas

that we are weakening ourselves as a nation. I feel that instead of trying to spread democracy around the world and protect other nations, that we should focus on protecting ourselves and the rest of the world from ourselves.

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Re: United States Foreign Policy–Hypocrisy, slavery and intervention.

by [Zoe Latham](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:50 PM

As I have digested this material, I have found myself leaning closest to Ron Paul’s politics and during this election, my ideals would most closely resemble Bernie's. Both are fairly similar and I agree with Ron Paul when he says that it is never ok to use force of arms to make other countries better (in our opinion). If there is a doctrine that states something like: “When a state commits grave violations against its own citizens, it is permissible to use force against them,” The United States itself is guilty of this. When many people owned slaves no one came over here to tell us not to. No one forcibly tried to stop us from committing grave human rights violations on our own people. We ourselves had to put a stop to it. Although this may say something to America being the just power that it is taking responsibility against what is “wrong” in the world, I know that if foreign force had come to stop us from using and trading slaves, it would not have been well received. Though I do not support intervening in other countries to spread democracy, I feel that A League of Nations would be beneficial to the powers of the world at any point in history. I commend Wilson’s foreign policy stance.

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Re: United States Foreign Policy–Hypocrisy, slavery and intervention.

by [Zoe Latham](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:04 PM

That was a very sharp ending so I just wanted to add that I commend Wilson's foreign policy approach because he wanted to be involved with other nations to keep peace in the world. Instead of leaving it up to ourselves to decide when intervention should take place, I believe that it should be up to a League of Nations say to vote on a decision as to whether or not to intervene with another nations problems. I also think that it should be discussed among st this league how intervention would take place. Perhaps a joint effort could help allocate resources to create peace, without involving personal interests.

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Re: Bernie Sander's Foreign Policy

by [Triston Thomason](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:52 PM

After reading the foreign policies of the four candidates, I'm finding Bernie's pacifist approach the most relatable to me. I don't agree with him completely, however I would choose his approach over the other three.

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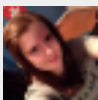
Enough is enough

by [Laura Steger](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:53 PM

After watching the Ron Paul interview I agree with a lot of what he says. The U.S. has many issues that we need to take care of first, before we should help other countries. Just like Mr Paul I believe that we shouldn't get involved with other countries if it does not affect us first hand. I don't necessarily agree that we should bring ALL of our troops home, but I don't think we should be spending the amount of resources we do now to keep as many out there. The U.S. has a tendency to deal a lot with other peoples/countries problems (which is nice), but not realistic if we want to try and ever get out of any sort of debt.

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Re: Enough is enough

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 11:17 PM

The points you are agreeing with on Ron Paul’s interview are similar to the ones I agree with. We are

getting too nvolved with other countries issues and it is causing major problems. The debt from trying to help these other countries is substantial and one of the main reasons we need to stop invading other countries and stationing our troops there. Though I do feel as though the United States, being a powerful nation, we should make an effort to stop harmful people in other countries from getting out of hand. I believe Ron Paul is right in many aspect, but I don't agree that we should all together stop helping other countries, even if we are not directly related.

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Re: Enough is enough
by [Clint Leigh](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:03 PM

I agree with you that here in the U.S. there are a lot of issues that need to be attended to first before we start going off to other countries to fix their problems. Our debt crisis is getting worse every day, we have groups who are rioting or taking over government building, police are being randomly killed, and there are enough school shooting that we should be using our resources to fix our countries problems. We both agree that U.S. shouldn't get involved with foreign affairs that don't affect us directly. With regards to bringing our troops home, I don't think that it is possible or smart to close down all of our bases and bring everyone home. Although with the advancements in technologies like satellites, drones and large warships like USS Nimitz and the USS Gerald Ford we don't need land bases to launch planes or to do surveillance on any part of the world. So there isn't the same need for strategic bases like the island based we needed for refueling aircrafts. Pulling a little bit back around the world militarily and not getting into every little issue that other counties are having would be a good start to getting fiscally back on track. Then we can work on real issues we are having in our country, most importantly the disconnection and corruption that most people feel about our politicians and government.

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The misconception of isolationism vs. anti-imperialism
by [Balkhy Balkhy](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:47 AM

I have to say that I didn't think I would agree with Ron Paul's stance on the issue, before even seeing the video. But after seeing it, I do agree with him. He makes points that I didn't think would have been made at the time, about how Muslims and "Muslim fanaticism" isn't the culprit. The way he highlights that we are trying to "spread goodness" and democracy by force and violence, and that we have no right to do that, is something I don't think I heard from another American politician. At least not so openly. And he even brings up that this is unconstitutional and a waste of money. I think most people, especially politicians, would be wary of calling something unconstitutional and saying that we waste our money on the military—this would maybe even be viewed as "un-American." It seems like now that imperialism is just in the nature of the U.S., under the guise of humanitarianism.

I agree that the country should not be imperialistic, but I also don't think it should be isolationist. I think we should be true humanitarians, not just in surface appearance.

I'm interested in the position of moral authority that Ron Paul mentions several times. While it's not easy to say that it's appalling (as Keyes says) to "turn our backs" on goodness, I don't think that is what Ron Paul is saying. In my interpretation of it, he's saying that we should not use force. I think this entirely different from how the other Republicans are interpreting his words, but I think they are interpreting it as isolationist for their own advantage. Ron Paul doesn't seem evil or appalling, he seems anti-imperialistic and maybe in turn, anti-capitalistic insofar as U.S. occupation of other countries goes.

As a final note, I think it's ridiculous for McCain to say that isolationism caused World War II and that the United States was solely responsible for not stopping Hitler. This is outrageous because he's purely playing to the sentimentality and ignorance of voters. I'm not a historian by any means, but I believe it is irresponsible for McCain to suggest such a thing for his own personal gains.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The misconception of isolationism vs. anti-imperialism

by [Miguel Perez](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:13 PM

I like what you said, that America should be TRUE humanitarians. However I think those that are in charge are under the impression that they are being humane and turning the world into a better place. I think the question is how can we be humanitarians, without trying to "Americanize" everyone. As was discussed in lecture a week or two ago, many people who the progressives sought to help did not want it, such as the immigrants who relied on their children working. Not that I support child labor, but it is an example that the rest of the world may not always need/want our help.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The misconception of isolationism vs. anti-imperialism

by [Balkhy Balkhy](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6:30 AM

I agree with you entirely, thank you for bringing up the term "Americanize." I think that's exactly the issue, that people who are trying to get involved, even like the Peace Corps, are sometimes (if not most of the time) disrupting culture and promoting "American values," such as democracy and freedom. Aside from the fact that the U.S. definitions of democracy and freedom are not exactly by-the-book, it is not the right (constitutionally or otherwise) of Americans to bring military force to places in order to "help."

I think personally, and what also may work from a political and humanitarian point of view, that if the U.S. wants to support/help countries in need, the best way would probably just to be to send basic supplies to local humanitarian organizations, instead of sending teams of Americans who will try to, or by default, end up introducing/preaching western "values"

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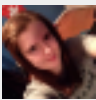
Re: The misconception of isolationism vs. anti-imperialism

by [Triston Thomason](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:50 AM

I agree with you that maybe the U.S. should redefine its idea of humanitarism as resorting to force and violence should go against being humane. And also that some politicians considering Ron Paul an isolationist is completely inaccurate as he promotes trade and interactions with other countries. The only thing i disagree with in your post is that I don't think that Ron Paul is anti-capitalistic. Definitely anti-imperialistic though, and i agree that we shouldn't be imperialists as well. Also good point on McCain, I agree that his opinion wasn't correct and likely used the term isolation to turn others against his opponent.

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Spreading to Far

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6:18 PM

Based upon the video clip of Ron Paul's interview it seems that he supports a limited internationalist position. One thing that I agree with that he said was that our involvement in foreign affairs should be constitutional based. The president has too much power and its overriding the constitution. As Paul states, the United States is not the world's policeman. By getting involved in other countries problems and trying to “fix” them, we are overextending and that is causing major problems. For starters it's simply too big a job, and the financial problems it's causing is tremendous. I agree with the position he is taking, although I also think that there's a fine line between his position and an Isolationist position which is not the way to go since people need to be stopped from doing horrible things before it gets out of hand.

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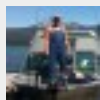
Re: Spreading to Far

by [Zoe Latham](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 1:33 PM

I completely agree with you regarding the president having too much power to override the constitution. However, it takes a lot more than just the president to enact a law or even negotiate a peace treaty as we saw with Woodrow Wilson in 1918. (textbook) It does seem that it is much easier to go to war than it is to get out of one, which I find completely ironic, especially if the goal to go to war in the first place is peace. I suppose that if history does repeat itself that this would be a noticeable cycle. I do believe in the power of democracy, but I do not think that it is beneficial for the political candidates of one country to be so divided on important issues such as foreign policy. No one has outlined *exactly* how we should interact with other countries when they are committing crimes against humanity. These politicians just seem to have vague ideas that change when they are confronted with a real situation, it's easier to believe in a theory than to carry it out. I would also like to know why we should be solely responsible for the peace of other countries. I believe that instead of the US being the police officer of the world that we should work with other countries to help other nations achieve peace without trying to spread democracy. The system itself isn't perfect and even if it did work for us perfectly that doesn't mean that it would work for another nation. And if we do want to work with other countries to help nations that are suffering atrocities, then we must work with their governments and the systems that they use.

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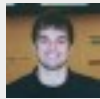
A) Re: Re: Isolationism B) Re: Spreading to thin
by [Joshua Crocker](#) - Friday, April 22, 2016, 7:57 PM

A) I do realize that it is very unrealistic to believe that it is possible to bring all the jobs back from foreign countries. If you look further into it, not only would jobs be brought back but then the U.S would be importing less due to making more at home. Therefore, shrinking the U.S debt with foreign U.S is currently around \$5 trillion with \$1.3 trillion going to China and another \$1.1 going to Japan according to <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2013/10/10/230944425/everyone-the-u-s-government-owes-money-to-in-one-graph>. Yes, things may cost a little more at home but I think being independent is a good thing. Even if that means giving up yearlong strawberries or bananas.

B) I like what you said rehashing Paul by saying we are over extending and I agree. As you all have probably noticed I enjoy making historical connections. There are two big ones for this topic. The first of which is a little known part of history as we look at the Greek States as being separate. But there was a point in time where the Spartans controlled all of Greece because of their superior army. That army got spread too thinly and then the whole kingdom collapsed. The second big example I already brought up in my previous post but look at Rome. They had arguably the greatest empire the world had ever seen. One of the largest of its time. That is not always a good thing though. Most people attribute their downfall to the Germanic and Celtic tribes to the north but, in fact a large part was due to civil unrest. By extending themselves to far there was too much to control and they just simply could not hold on. Now I do realize that it is not within our own country that the problem is. Nevertheless, it very well could be if the U.S isn't careful and keeps meddling in the affairs of other instead of fixing our own. Some could say there hasn't been this much hate within the country toward itself since the mid-1800s.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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A non-internationalist perspective
by [Triston Thomason](#) - Saturday, April 23, 2016, 12:57 AM

After watching the interview and debate I find myself agreeing with a lot of Ron Paul's points. Pulling all of our troops out of the various countries they are stationed in would allow us to cut down the cost of our military. To add to that, it might help improve our relations with other countries as we aren't impeding on their land. Perhaps not quite immediately in every case such as Afghanistan as we now ought to have them rebuild and fix the mess that was made and then withdraw. Along with getting our troops home I like Paul's statement on not acting as the policemen of the world, and that such a position isn't necessary. Things like border disputes don't require American intervention to be solved, and using force on other countries as we see fit often has more negative effects than the original issue, as Ron points out while talking about Iraq and Saddam Hussein. Ron Paul says during the debate that he has the majority of the support of people in active duty and to me that is significant because they are who actually have to go and carry out these missions. For them being the ones with firsthand experience and to favor Ron Paul's ideas that must mean even our own troops are growing tired of this.



Re: United States Foreign Policy
by *Shawn Jenkins* – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 3:27 PM

After re-reading the article on Henry Cabot Lodge my opinion is stronger than before. While I certainly agree with Mr Lodge on having a strong Navy and Military. I disagree that it is any of the United States business how other countries operate. It is this countries beliefs that we have the best way of doing everything that has led to this current War on Terrorism. Should we as a nation defend ourself? Absolutely, to the best of our ability. Should we then declare war on another country using the claim of installing democracy? Hell no!! That's not to say that we should close up our borders and amass armament. But let's take care of America's problems here at home before we even consider taking care of everyone else's. We have this huge national debt, yet we spend 35 billion on foreign aid. (www.cnn.com/2015/11/11/politics/us-foreign-aid-report/)



Re: United States Foreign Policy
by *Triston Thomason* – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 5:53 PM

I think your right about maintaining a strong military, but also while not occupying and attempting to "install democracy" in foreign countries. I didn't realize how much we spent on foreign aid, thanks for pointing that out and sharing the website. To focus on our national debt, it would help to choose our fights, and not be involved with other countries business. Prehaps we should cut how much money goes into our military as well,because we spend what seems a little overboard especially if we started to follow a foreign policy like Ron paul's. you can see what we spend on this website (www..nationalpriorites.org). Cutting the military cost while still keeping a strong army and navy, and cutting the foreign aid by not intervening in other countries will help us focus on our debt and also our other issues at home

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