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Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10:57 AM

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

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you should group your responses into SEPARATE 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

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

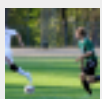
by [Stanley Cates](#) - Sunday, April 19, 2015, 2:49 PM

I don't often find myself agreeing with politicians staged on the far right such as representative Paul; but here I find the exception... Almost. If two nations have a disagreement it doesn't automatically need to be our problem. The only aspect I disagree on is his position on remaining neutral in the presence of crimes against humanity such as genocide. Genocide is the worlds problem, and the world as a whole should deal with it. I think he's right about the idea of spreading democracy and forcing people to live a certain way being wrong, it's not our place to go out in to the world and make everyone like us. I also have to say that I think McCain's suggestion that non-intervention by the United States was a cause of Hitlers rise to power and the onset of WWII. I don't want to jump ahead in the course, but if anything I think it was Brittain, France, and Russia that failed in the particular instance.

Ron Paul makes a good point in the last video clip. He points out; indirectly; that there is a profound difference between isolationism and non-intervention. I think that failure to reconcile that point was a prime cause of the United States' failure to ratify the treaty of Versailles. McCain's stance on Hitler and WWII might have some validity if the treaty had been ratified and America joined the league, but then refused to intervene diplomatically with Germany.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Gordon Colver](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 5:35 PM

He doesn't believe in remaining completely neutral to genocide he just believes there are other ways to solve the problems then always sending in troops. He believes that we can be more diplomatic about it and not intervene just because people are dying because our constitution doesn't give us power to do so. I agree that it is the world's problem but I do not believe the U.S. needs to send troops in to stop it unless the UN gives the green light.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 6:03 PM

In the case of genocide I think I have to disagree. Genocide is generally hate motivated, it's not a military engagement between two nations. I think genocide is the one exception to the rule of diplomacy, you can't legislate away hate. The only thing legislation and diplomacy can do in the face of genocide is punish the perpetrators after the fact. You make a really good point though, I think an organization should also be more involved in such instances on both the humanitarian effort and military operations.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Gordon Collver](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 7:19 PM

Yeah I see what you are getting at. I think it definitely needs to be stopped I just think that there might be a better way to resolve the issue that wouldn't almost always involve the U.S. sending in troops or bombing the territory. Like you said sometimes you just can't reason with them due to their hatred and then that's where I believe the line should be drawn on whether or not we take action.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 9:08 PM

Right, but what I'm getting at is that once you've started systematically exterminating human beings you've gone well beyond that line.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Gordon Collver](#) - Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 8:27 AM

Okay, so how do you propose we should handle these situations? As we do now or do you have a better way?

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 12:48 PM

Well, seeing as our way of handling genocide now is to sit back and watch I don't think it would be terribly difficult to improve on our method. It requires international cooperation like that intended by the treaty of Versailles. Beyond that I admit I don't know precisely what the procedure should be.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Connie LaMorte](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 12:37 PM

The issues raised on the videos highlighting Ron Paul’s opinion regarding the use of military intervention in foreign affairs are reminiscent of the isolationist stance that Woodrow Wilson took in the First World War The fact that there is still a discussion of this topic some one hundred years later makes me realize that this is a topic that will probably always exist. I have more questions now than I did before I watched the videos. In some respects I agree with him. Our military is stretched all over the world, while there are huge social issues facing our own country and we don’t seem to have the money to fix things here. We can’t save everybody while letting our own country down. On the other hand, I understand that we have a moral duty to help those in need such as those facing genocide in Darfur or the extermination of millions of Jews in Germany. These two issues in themselves show that in some ways history does repeat itself because there are always evil people who do unthinkable things in the name of racism, religion, or for profit. Really, this topic makes me head spin and I think it is one of the most important political issues facing our country today.



Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by Darren Rolewicz - Monday, April 20, 2015, 10:30 PM

I too feel that Ron Paul's opinions mimicked the isolationist stance of Woodrow Wilson. But I also feel Paul made a great point at making a differentiation between isolationism and non-intervention. Just because we make a decision to let other nations handle their own issues, does not make us isolationists. And it sounds like a point you're trying to make is that U.S. intervention in foreign affairs must take into account not only the severity of the situation, but the impact it has on our nation itself. On this I could not agree with you more. We can not continue to help other nations when it is a detriment to our own, and also trying to force our democratic ideals on nation's that do not want to assume them is a winless battle that only fuels hatred towards our country. Paul makes a good and truthful point when he mentions that much of the welfare we try to provide to certain countries are seized by militants and used as a weapon against the very people it was meant to help. But even while taking this all into account, I would never expect us as a nation to ignore horrible atrocities against humanity such as genocide. I feel these decisions must be based on the situation at hand and never motivated by principles of self-interest or political rivalry.



U.S. and Its Universal Mission

by Hannah Donner - Monday, April 20, 2015, 10:00 PM

Personally, I agree with Alan Keyes and his “universal mission” standpoint. Obviously, there are still problems that the United States needs to resolve within our country, but I still think it is important that we reinforce and assist other countries at the same time. As mentioned in the Ron Paul interview, a lot of countries have been able to experience democracy because the U.S. has helped to implement it. Our textbook also supports this statement by explaining that people throughout the world after WWI “were inspired by...[Woodrow Wilson’s] dream of a democratic, just, and harmonious world” (Textbook pg. 787) Furthermore, in our textbook it also states that “it seems fair to suggest that American participation would have strengthened the League and improved its ability to bring a lasting peace to Europe” (Textbook pg. 793). Overall, I believe that America’s involvement in foreign affairs is necessary, but there definitely needs to be a lot of consideration and debate to figure out what is the best way to get involved.



Re: U.S. and Its Universal Mission

by Connie LaMorte - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 11:52 AM

Darren, I agree with your point that it is hard to watch candidates debate these topics because they sometimes just say what they think will get them elected. However, I don't think that is not the case with Paul or McCain because both of their points are on opposite ends of the spectrum for this topic. Probably their honesty is why neither of them have ever made a successful bid for the presidency, because they speak their mind, even if its not popular.



Foreign Policy: The Pursuit of Self-Interest

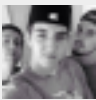
by Darren Rolewicz - Monday, April 20, 2015, 10:14 PM

While I agree with Ron Paul on many of the issues he brought up regarding this topic, such as our occupation fueling hatred towards America, and the fact that we as a people would object to this type of forceful intervention; I feel the decision to intervene or not has to depend on the situation at hand. I realize my own wavering position from topic to topic is not good for political debates, but every issue needs to be handled in a separate matter and in my opinion it is impossible to have a set policy for what America should do in a numerous amount of diverse situations. The difference between WWI and now is that many nations were asking or at the very least accepting of our intervention by Woodrow Wilson with many foreign nations being "inspired by his dream of [democracy]" (p.787). I feel foreign opinion on our intervention and occupation of other nations has changed dramatically and as Ron Paul states "gives motivation" for certain nations to resent us and even possibly attack us. However the "pursuit of self-interest" by the Allies(p.789) after WWI I feel closely resembles many of our reasons for intervening in other nations today. John McCain even uses the phrase "let us win" in regards to our troops in Iraq Wasn't our intervention in Iraq to ultimately let the people of Iraq win. It's as if we claim to be intervening for the betterment of these other nations, but are only doing it in pursuits of self-interest economically, or even just to say "hey, look

how good we are, helping these weaker nations". But I fail to see a true motivation to help the people suffering in these nations. I do agree with Paul in the sense we should not be forcing democracy on nations, but there are certain issues, such as genocide, that I feel require our intervention. The problem I feel with watching these debates is that most opposition to any idea of foreign policy is only to win public favor for the individual as a candidate, you won't be able to set yourself apart as a candidate by agreeing with a point that another candidate made; which is the reason I feel you see many candidates changing their positions on certain issues once elected. To me this closely resembles Henry Cabot Lodge's and the irreconcilables efforts mainly to "frustrate Wilson's ambitions"(p.790). Even many of the amendments to the Treaty of Versailles were not to make it better, but only to "complicate the task of ratification"(p.791) essentially in the pursuit of self-interests and not in the interest of the nations that the treaty regarded. When failing to join the League of Nations, we did it so that the power of our own Congress would not be overshadowed by a parliament involving other nations, which seems to me like a true democratic way of determining foreign intervention and involvement in other nations. I feel this stance brings us back to the topic of American Exceptionalism and the fact that we know what's best not only for us, but for the rest of the world as well.

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Unjust War needs to stop.
by [Tyler Dennis](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:11 PM

The United States did not join the League of Nations following WWI because the citizens of America wanted to do exactly what Ron Paul is saying now. In watching the videos, Ron Paul is saying protect our homeland and not involve ourselves in foreign wars. They were devastated by the loss of human life and financial cost of WWI. That's why we didn't enter the war until pearl harbor occurred, Sadly, the defeat of the Nazi's was so glorified that Americans forgot about there pre WWI mentality and were convinced that America should intervene in foreign wars to fight for freedom and democracy. In my biased opinion, those with American power have convinced us that we should spend trillions on policing random countries across the world, and in my opinion, we usually do so to stop prevent countries from threatening our oil monopoly or one of our higher-up allies. We went to war Iraq in 1990 after supporting Saddam for years because he was taking control of oil in the middle east. Ron Paul got nearly more military donations then all other candidates combined, including Obama, but the media does not talk about this because they are bought out by the same people who need us to go to war so they can continue to make billions and keep their power. I agree with Ron Paul 100%. We need to lead the world by example and stop getting involved with wars that are not justifiable.(Wars that are not in American self-defense). We need to get back to this moral high ground that Ron Paul is determined to see. If we continue to get involved with wars that were not justified like they addressed in the video (Korean war, vietnam,) then we are going to continue to reap the financial and moral consequences.

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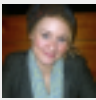
Re: Unjust War needs to stop.
by [Hannah Donner](#) - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 10:05 PM

Actually, the majority of the citizens who opposed the League of Nations were reservationists and weren't exactly parallel to Ron Paul's point of view. These reservationists favored the League and involvement in foreign affairs, but didn't support Article X. Article X gave the League "the right to undertake military actions against aggressor nations" (Textbook pg. 790). In other words, people were worried that Article X might force the United States to go to war with other countries too often. I believe that these reservationists weren't against foreign wars, unlike Ron Paul, and they were just primarily opposed to an international organization forcing the U.S. to go to war.

I consider Ron Paul's point of view to be very similar to Wilson's neutrality policy. For example, Wilson didn't want to enter the war but he still believed that the U.S. should "maintain normal relations with both sides while seeking to secure peace" (Textbook pg. 772). Similarly, Ron Paul's viewpoint is that we shouldn't intervene in foreign wars unless we are attacked, but we should still "trade with people...[and] talk with people" (McCain vs. Paul video clip). In conclusion, I don't think that the citizens of the U.S. who opposed the League of Nations share the same viewpoint as Ron Paul.

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Re: People of Many People's
by [Emily Johnson](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:52 PM

I found myself agreeing with Ron Paul's interview in the first video. I didn't know his view so closely matched mine, and I

certainly didn't expect him to have to (seemingly) defend his opinions. His is a very non-(American) Exceptionalism way of looking at things, which I think is healthy.

When McCain's message seems to simply be "Let us win" I think you couldn't get two people farthest away from each other on the spectrum. I disagree with his position of "isolation" and enjoyed Paul's point about the difference between non-intervention vs. Isolation. I agree that we should not tell people how to live. While these are all agreeable points, my perspective on Paul changed when I saw the Crisis in Darfur clip.

"Even when we get involved we're getting involved in a civil war. Even when you send food it's ending up in the hands of the military so it's not well intended." Paul says in response to a question about whether the U.S. has a role to play in ending the genocide in Darfur. I think Paul is thinking a little bit too limiting and to me he comes across as somewhat close-minded. We are a people of many peoples as Keyes says and we should help other nations when we can, in my opinion. Although, clearly as we see in history this is a debatable topic as to what's appropriate intervention and whether our 'intervention' could potentially cause wars.

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Nils Hagberg](#) - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 2:32 PM

I agree a lot with Ron Paul in the videos because he brings up some very good points. To begin, his fact of history about the over expansion of empires and the continuously same result. Their dollar becomes so far stretched out the people can no longer help support their nation. To continue further the U.S. has a history of meddling in some intervention and influenced the winning side to only put in a corrupt leader who worsens problems. Let the people native to the land of intervention deal with their issues. Yes if there is genocide we as an elite nation should step in and save the people, but no more. Or we can call upon other elite nations in the area of the genocide to do the same since they probably have a better understanding of people involved in the conflict. There should no business and deals, if the goal is to help or do the lords work then fine leave it at that. We need to respect space and not draw lines in the sand.

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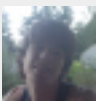
A philosophical approach

by [Connie LaMorte](#) - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 7:47 PM

Regarding non-intervention, I like the words used by the philosopher, politician and economist, John Stuart Mill. In an essay he wrote on this topic in 1859, he addresses the question of under what circumstances states should be allowed to intervene in the sovereign affairs of another country. In that essay he states that: "To go to war for an idea, if the war is aggressive, not defensive, is as criminal as to go to war for territory or revenue; for it is as little justifiable to force our ideas on other people, as to compel them to submit to our will in any other respect." I think this is what Ron Paul was trying convey to us and in some respects this makes perfect sense.

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McCain's response

by [Andrew Duyck](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 10:10 AM

I am appalled by McCains answer in the debate talking to Ron Paul. It pains me that fully grown men who could potentially run our country can act in this manor. He takes personal shots at Mr. Paul. He knows his remarks are outrageous and only says them because he knows some people out there are going to listen to and believe anything he says. A president should have an outstanding character and moral code, something I think McCain proves he is lacking. I think a political strategy started on a good moral ground is something this country needs. The news should be talking about the new candidate who doesn't speak out of place in debates, one who doesn't accept bribes wether the public knows or not, and one that doesn't run any type of smear campaign. I want a presidential candidate to be humble and polite just as much if not more than charismatic. In the case of this debate It drastically takes away from the question being asked, when Mr. McCain calls Mr. Paul an isolationist and compares him to hitler. McCain's use of childish tactics completely discredits him on the topic as far as i'm concerned.

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Re: McCain’s response
by [Nils Hagberg](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 1:47 PM

Andrew I was in the same boat as you when it came to McCains responses. Though McCain does not compare congressman Paul to Hitler, the senator is saying, when America does isolate itself we allow the possibility for people like Hitler to rise to power.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Help US, to help them.
by [Andrew Duyck](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 11:00 AM

Former ambassador Alan Keyes Maryland’s response to Ron Paul is very interesting. He talks about America being in touch with the entire world, if someone is hurting out in the world americans will care. He also said "we don’t have to send troops, but we need to support and reinforce the sense of local regional responsibility for both humanitarian and military order.” He believes it is americas responsibility to help provide peace and democracy to the world. He is admitting that sending troops might not be the best way to go about this world change, but bottom line is it is the duty of the united states to intervene in world affairs and that non-intervention is not a choice. This sounds good and I can agree with it, in theory at least. If someone is hurting and you can help them, you should. Its not everyones duty to help, but with a good moral code one should make it their duty to help where they can. I believe America holds itself to this high moral code and thus should help in world affairs when it has the ability to do so. The key point however is helping when you are able too, because of this i agree with Ron Paul. One cannot help others fully if they themselves are ill. America is ill. We have massive issues within our borders that need more attention to be fixed. We need to focus on our own wellbeing as a nation, not selfishly trying to be the best nation, but healing ourself so we can better help others in the future. What is more important? The starving people of another nation, or our own civilians who die because of gang violence. The answer to this doesn't not matter but assuming these two human lives are equal, but who is more deserving unfortunately not always who you should help. A sick child with an entire life ahead of them deserves a second chance at life more than an elderly person, that being said what if saving that child is so costly for the same price we can save 100 elderly people. There are far more factors that go into helping people than who is the most deserving. Many many people are deserving of help, because of this we have to think about the logistics of helping another nation with their issues versus solving our own. It is far more practical to solve local problems than world affairs. Helping at home is far lest costly, and the money spent stays within our economy. On top of that as Ron Paul told us there can be complications when helping other nations even with nonviolent means such as donating food. Sometimes the food ends up in the hands of the military and they can use it as a weapon against the people. This is just an added complication and dollar sign for the already broke, broken down, country as it bleeds itself out spreading too thin in an attempt to “help” countries that don't necessarily want it.

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Genocide intervention
by [Tyler Dennis](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 1:58 PM

There is no arguing that genocide is horrible thing, but I have to agree on the stance that Ron Paul takes in the Keyes_vs_Isolationism. In the video Keyes says that we don't have to send troops to fulfill military order, but how else are you going to intervene in order to prevent a violent oppressive government or organization? Not once in this video does he suggest how we are going to do that. Ron Paul says we have a moral responsibility, but we don't have a responsibility to police other countries? Who gave us that responsibility? Our own government?

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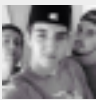


Re: Genocide intervention
by [Stanley Cates](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:33 PM

I don't think we are responsible for policing the world. However I do think that our elevation to a military super power gives us a certain moral obligation to step in when needed. I'm not a police officer; so technically it's not my responsibility to intervene if a woman is being raped in an ally way. However, I am well qualified to step in and do something about it, which gives me a moral obligation to do so. There's a difference.

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Relating intervention to exceptionalism

by [Tyler Dennis](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:01 PM

Why do we have to police the world in order to be an exceptional country? Every great empire has eventually collapsed because they have expanded out to far, had they stayed where they were (Roman empire, mongolian empire, ottoman empire, Nazi Germany,) then they would have remained some of the strongest empires. Also if they would have stayed where they were, focused on building a powerful army, and never intervened outside of their own empire then nobody would have a reason to mess with them. They would have no reason to ever feel threatened, and if they did for some reason, those empires would have the army and defense to protect themselves. Thats what would make them exceptional.

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Re: Relating intervention to exceptionalism

by [Jaalen Johnson](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:06 PM

I think Tyler has a very valid point that eventually great empires collapse because they try to expand to far. That is another reason I believe we shouldn't try to police the world and stick our nose in places where they shouldn't be. All of the empires at times were very strong and could have continued to thrive in the case they decided to stick with what they knew. Instead the opposite happened and with expansion came defeat. We need to stay with what we know and work on making our country thrive!

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Jaalen Johnson](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:56 PM

Listening to the first video with Ron Paul I personally agree with him very much. I was taught to not stick your nose in places where it isn't meant. We need to worry about policing our selves before we can even think of policing others. Yes, at times intervention is needed and has certainly helped us become a strong hand in the world. For instance the Spanish American War the intervention certainly helped us as a nation. Yet, nine times out of ten I believe staying in our own nation/business is the best idea. Involving ourselves in other nations problems can cost us money, resources, time, and most importantly lives. Police ourselves not others is absolutely the side of the spectrum I'm sitting on.

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