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The Role of the United States in the World

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10:55 AM

This forum thread is for The Role of the United States in the World 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.

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BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Role of the United States in the World

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Balance of Right and Wrong

by Adam Graves - Monday, April 20, 2015, 12:30 PM

I'm not sure after reading the Lodge article or the textbook I've come up with a definite position to take on how to handle foreign policy. But I think that both Lodge and Wilson had some points that were significant.

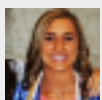
I feel like the concern of Lodge's of letting the League of Nations decide whether we should go to war was a valid concern. He didn't want to let a league decide for the nation what was in it's best interest, especially if it didn't align with the peoples interests. With that said I feel like it's a good idea to come to democratic resolutions first before letting war be the answer, which seems like what Wilson was wanting. Lodge supported the Spanish-American War and felt it was an issue of good and evil, which helping the Cuban's gain their independent was important. But trying to control Cuba after the war was not in the Cuban's best interest. The point in the article that I did agree on is the reference that force must "*be on the behalf of justice and freedom*" this is what I find to be what most American's would agree on.

Wilson believed in a new world order that gave people national sovereignty and disputes could be peacefully resolved. This sounds easy and the difficulty comes with how invested do Americans want to get or other nations for the that matter. I'm sure there are lots of arguments with lots of Presidents decisions to get involved with other nations like George W Bush's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, and whether or not other nations should get involved with Libya or Ukraine to help people resolve problems.

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Re: Balance of Right and Wrong

by Delaney Crook - Monday, April 20, 2015, 2:17 PM

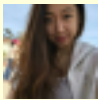
I agree with your perspective that both Lodge and Wilson had valid arguments, yet it is still difficult to completely take one side or the other on this issue. I like the idea of coming to a democratic resolution to the issue of war and intervening with other nations, however I also feel that some time as individual we feel it is our responsibility to help and serve others under any circumstance, when, in fact, we may not realize that we are actually hindering others and ourselves by doing so. This could lead to more problems when allowing a democratic resolution to take place with this controversy.

Continuing on with Wilson's belief we can peacefully resolve disputes is one that sounds very good and easy on paper, as you stated. While I do agree with your idea that the difficulty comes with how invested Americans want to get and how invested other nations want to get, I will also add that difficulties may arise when we do get involved with other nations, because there is always going to be controversy and issues that come up when there are discrepancies between nations, and it may be difficult to completely resolve the issues peacefully.

This was proven in our text with the fact that we thought World War I was going to be the end of all wars, yet look where we are standing today on the issue of war.

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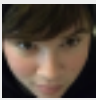
Re: Balance of Right and Wrong

by [Yanshu Li](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 7:21 PM

I feel funny when I study the Spanish war. The primary goal for USA is to stop Spanish, but after the USA win the war and help Cuba get the "independence", the USA come to involved by itself. I also agreed with the point that " be on the behalf of justice and freedom" but I really can't see justice and freedom after the USA get involved with Cuba political affairs. Meanwhile, the cost of a war is huge, and the damage for both America and Spanish is obvious. I believed disputes could be peacefully resolved, just like Wilson mentioned. I also agreed with your persecutive that it is sound easy but actually difficult to take into action.

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US and the leauge of nations

by [Dominic Christianson](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 8:22 PM

I honestly think that it is very ironic that Woodrow Wilson came up with the idea of the league of nations (later to become the United Nations) and the U.S. never actually joined it. Even Brittan joined it as a result of the treaty of Versailles. Germany even joined in 1926. But not the country responsible for its creation.

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Re: US and the leauge of nations

by [Alyssa Taylor](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:26 PM

I think the reason behind that was that the league of nations was more of a way to control other countries so that they wouldn't start another world war. I feel like during that time since they were one of the most successful countries and because of the fact that they created it, they didn't have to join into it, it was already there's. Also I believe that President Woodrow Wilson wasn't the first one to come up with the league of nations. Herbert Hoover was the first to believe in a gathering of the worlds leading nations and believed in was a foreign investment (1). However it was later to be basically stolen and dismantled by Charles Evan Hughes who is credited basically for Hoover's idea.

1. Liberty, Equality, Power. pg 815

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Re: US and the leauge of nations

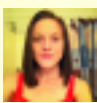
by [Adam Graves](#) - Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 5:07 PM

The League of Nations was Wilson’s idea, and he did want the U.S. to be part of the league. Woodrow Wilson did sign the Treaty of Versailles. The problem was that the Senate didn’t want to ratify the treaty because they didn’t want to be obligated to get involved in wars that the League deemed necessary. They felt it stood against America’s constitutional rights to make its on declarations of war. The reference you bring up on pg 815 of the textbook is in reference to the “*Five-power Treaty, by which the United States, Britain, Japan, France, and Italy agreed to scrap more than 2 million tons of warships.*” This treaty had to with disbarment, and not to do with the League of Nations.

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Re: US and the leauge of nations



by [Katherine Potter](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:41 PM

it makes since in a way since the united states created the league of nations then we must simply be involved in what goes on. It is hard to believe that someone especially in government can take the idea of another even if that idea wasn't put into action. President Hoover should have given some of the credit to Coolidge if he was the first to come up with the idea of some sort of League of Nations.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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The Role of the United States in the World

by [Yanshu Li](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:34 PM

I am not sure if I can tell the role the USA played in the world today. But involved in other nation's political business is absolutely wrong in my view. However, it seems like Lodge holds the opposite opinion. Lodge believes an active foreign policy is crucial to forming America's national character because American need to be more stronger. Actually I think part is ridiculous. Cooperation is crucial, but involvement is wrong. Countries with super power like USA and Europe has the responsibility to help other developing countries, but not involved with the political business is not respectful enough. "Lodge's conviction that the use of force must always be on behalf of justice and freedom" I can not reed justice and freedom in the Spanish war and the "Open door policy "in China. Anyway, internationalization is necessary and obvious; however, to get benefit from other nations need though peaceful and justice negation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Role of the United States in the World

by [Whitley McGrady](#) - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 10:57 AM

I agree with the concept of having to go to war just because a country is allied with another is wrong when there is no need to be a part of a war in the first place. I didn't know that was all because of a treaty. I guess I would be one of those Americans who would oppose something that. The President doesn't have a say when an alteration happens to NOT go to war even when the U.S. didn't do anything to get involved? That concept truly amazes me. If I would have known that when I started to slightly understand politics and what going to war meant, I wouldn't have strongly disliked all the presidents we have had since I was born in 1991. Being individual people, especially men that can be drafted, don't have a choice when something like this happens and that's why I really don't like how the government and other countries handle this matter. I understand that there are some countries who have leaders that are completely insane and then a war is necessary, so I believe that taking part somehow is crucial and something needs to happen for the sake of all the innocent people that are in the cross fire of their own corrupt nations.

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Re: The Role of the United States in the World

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:11 PM

This exact point has been the public outcry for quite some time now, and it's very ironic. *"Countries with super power like USA and Europe has the responsibility to help other developing countries, but not involved with the political business is not respectful enough"*. Simply, it'd be smarter to keep to ourselves, even in times when countries are falling apart. Like Ron Paul was saying in the other video it isn't our job to intervene with struggling nations. As far as "developing" nations, there aren't really any left. Only I can think of is in Africa, aside from the Arabic nations. What I personally don't like about supporting "developing nations", is it's another excuse to execute our economic/political interests upon other countries. Not to mention, as a taxpayer. I'm the one paying for it. and I don't want to pay for a country not on it's feet, harsh, but it's not my problem nor my business. If would be different, if it were an investment, but taxes disappear for good. As far as steering away not being respectful enough, that's a result of pacts, and mutual agreements between politics and business.

Our role is also conflicting because of our background development as a nation. We are a nation of immigrants, there was no original white man, we are the result of the world partially collaborated onto one land. It's hard to morally justify being neutral in tragic conflicts because of this. It's hypocritical! But as I've been followed for a long time now, morals and politics/business don't mix. Just like Water and oil.



Deadlock

by Daniel Schulman - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:51 PM

Whether the article has changed my opinion on the spectrum I highly doubt it. At this the time this article was written when Bush was in office, our war was thought to be for economical purposes. It's morally wrong, but can't be avoided. "There is no avoiding war. It can only be postponed to the advantage of your enemy". As far as Lodge's wants to act independently, I feel it has something we have always done up to today's conflicts. The United States is an governmentally imperialistic nation, wars will be fought for economic reasons and interests.

I personally would have rather seen Wilsons vision in place, force only brought down through consent of the American people. But it also makes me wonder where we would be today if that were the case. Would we still be the economic powerhouse we are? I really doubt it.



Re: Deadlock

by Mariah Turner-Macy - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 1:37 PM

The way that you chose to interpret the textbook and bring it to recent events in the United States stood out to me more than just talking about the chapter. I agree with you, there is no avoiding war. Today, I would like to see more of the American people involve themselves in politics in order to understand more about what's going in the world around them. I think the US is somewhat losing the consent when it comes to government decisions, especially because there are a lot of people that choose not to vote and demand changes they want to see for the country. "The government should fear their people, the people should not fear their government".



got my back?

by Tristan Ivie - Friday, April 24, 2015, 3:38 PM

Treaties and allied nations have been apart of US Histroy forever. Following WWI a lot of Americana wanted nothing to do with a League of Nations that packed together super war powers because the deadliest war in human history up to that point Just happened. Most people wanted to be isolationist so america never saw a war like wwi again. It is reasonable of people to not want to be in the League of Nations at that time. However, today with the number of people that want to kill us and the technological warfare advances, i feel more comfortable being allied with other countries.



Would the other countries have our back?

by Katherine Potter - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 12:07 PM

i agree it would be nice to have the security of other countries backing us up if we need help in a war but then again if it does turn into complete warfare who is there to say that those countries wouldn't just turn on us and eachother. As humans are thoughts are first about ourselves as a person what is best for me. How would I survive without putting myself in danger. There is a lot of what-ifs that come into if other people would fight with us and defend us. We shouldn't have become the powerhouse that we are and we wouldn't be in such great trouble and be expected to help everyone else.

the world would be better off if everyone just worried about getting through life with as little blood shed as possible but because of the time we live in everyone is trying to be top dog. There Has always been war and blood shed but there use to be less before everyone was getting involved in everyone else's business. I am fascinated by human nature and how we believe that to be dominant and be the most powerful we must be the best. Wouldn't we also be great if we cared about each other and about the world we live in and we could work with other nations and countries without being threatened. Some technologies just shouldn't of been developed and we wouldn't have to suppress a technological warfare.

If there is another great war I would not want to stick around even if we had allies because the likelihood of everyone standing by each other sides are slim. Most will choose by who they think will insure their survival.



Lodge - Not a Bad Guy?

by [Kylee O'Connor](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 12:36 PM

This article does not change my view on where I lie in the international to isolationist spectrum, but it does however, change my perspective about Henry Cabot Lodge. Like the article states, Henry Cabot Lodge "has been demonized as the prototype of the isolationist." According to the article, he was not exactly the villain-isolationist that he was portrayed as. Lodge was "a strong advocate of American involvement in world affairs." He even wanted the United States to enter the war as aid to the Allies because he believed that the German's were the bad guys and even *evil*. His predictions would eventually be proven to be true. He was known to be hated by President Wilson, and vise-versa. I guess, it is easy to take the side of a former president and be anti-Lodge, but the truth of the matter is, that Lodge had many good points that Wilson just didn't agree with.



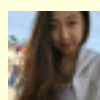
Territory, Power, and Freedom

by [Mariah Turner-Macy](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:33 PM

After reading the textbook and the articles provided about Lodge and Wilson, I don't think my opinion (during this time in history) was influenced or changed. I can see that obtaining Allies would be beneficial in case of an attack on the United States; however, it's also depressing to consider all of the soldiers fighting. Just like during the war in the twenties, the United States fought for territory instead of democracy (although, that was because of a secret treaty that was signed). Thousands of our US troops died in that war and still continue to die in war today. In a more interesting perspective, these men and women that fight for our country risk their lives and are just trying to make a living. On the other hand, the "enemies" that fight back are also in the same position: fighting for their country, being patriotic, and risking their lives for a battle that sheds blood and can't be prevented.

War itself costs so much money, even though the United States is known for their military strength, I don't understand the need to want to get involved. In my opinion, I think everyone needs to work together and stop fighting for power or belief systems. We have not found any other planets containing life like planet Earth; we are the only creatures with a conscious mind, yet we treat other people in countries like they don't matter. "One man's battle is another man's blood". It's even more brutal acknowledging all of the advancements in warfare: guns, bombs, aircraft, and nuclear weapons.

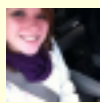
I think the League of Nations was created to help diminish the cause for other wars, but we know that wasn't much of a success. It's more about the strongest and most developed nations (economically) having more power and rights for directing the rest of the world. Of course, war cannot be avoided and my concern is the American freedom. In a more technological and higher industrialization era, it seems like more of our "freedoms" are slowly being taken away or censored, especially after attacks on the United States (i.e. – 9/11). There were a lot of benefits before this time, but things are impermanent and even the "modern" world continues to change... Without change, life simply would not exist.



Re: Territory, Power, and Freedom

by [Yanshu Li](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 7:08 PM

the war itself costs lots of money, but the benefits though the war is obvious. People join into the war because they can see the benefits from the war; and the benefit itself is attractive. However, being as a super power country as USA, it is absolutely wrong to start a war or join into the war. Because the responsibility that American take is to maintain the security of the world instead of star a war. " everyone needs to work together and stop fighting for power or belief systems" I agreed with you on this point. If people around the would could work together and fight for violence and war, the world will become more peaceful.



Re: My Opinion On the Article
by Alexis Braunger - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:34 PM

While reading the article itself I found that my opinion wasn't at all changed. I felt if I agreed more with what Wilson had to say about not joining in the war. I don't however feel that the League of Nations is a good option either. I feel if Wilson did want to push off being in war as much as he claimed then putting our nation in a situation where we would have to join and fight is in a way hypocritical. I don't see the point in avoiding a war and then fighting in it as necessary. I do however agree with being a nation that is supportive and helpful to our allies and to the people who are in need, there is no reason why we should put our families and resources into a situation that could possibly put our country into a further debt but also cause more pain a suffering to the people at home who losing family. I feel we need to be a country that is supportive and caring but not a country that will jump into a fight that is't ours to fight. My position stands on the spectrum.

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