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United States Foreign Policy

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

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

by [Tyler Kabot](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:13 PM

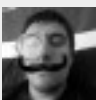
I would consider myself more on the isolationist spectrum as far as conflicts go. As far as trading and diplomatic issues I think the United States should be involved but we should not be "Big Brother" to the world.

I completely agree with our nation's decision to go into war in both World War 1 and World War 2. In both of these situations we tried staying out of the war (despite some bias) and eventually went into war because of another country attacking us. However, our involvement in wars like Vietnam and Iraq are detrimental to our troops as well as our economy and make absolutely no positive progress for people back home in the United States.

Ultimately when we consider our foreign policy we need to have America's best interest at heart. What is best for the people? Going into foreign countries by force to change them not only costs us billions of dollars but also the lives of our soldiers. In World War 2 after Pearl harbor Nazi Germany and Japan were serious threats to America and with the Zimmerman telegraph Germany was becoming a threat to us in World War 1. In these cases going to war was what was best for our country. Vietnam lead to the largest loss America has ever suffered and the war in the Middle East has only created more enemies for America. I agree with Ron Paul's stance on Foreign Diplomacy. I believe we have spread our forces too far and now in a time of relative peace we are putting trillions of dollars into our military and it is seriously hurting our economy.

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Trying to understand the 3

by [Joe Paredes](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:42 PM

Wilson's claim that there was no moral difference between the European antagonists struck Lodge as close to blasphemy. Lodge wanted America to side with the Allies and join the victorious powers in a "League to Enforce

Peace," after the war. He repeatedly condemned Wilson as a weak indecisive leader, an opinion the senator did not change after America finally entered the war on April 6, 1917.

(Paragraph 8) <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/1580>

After reading it all, i would have to put myself as a Reservationist.

"If the League ever adopts a plan to reduce armaments, the U.S. must reserve the right to increase its armaments without the consent of the council whenever it is threatened with invasion or engaged in war. Specific and limiting changes to the Covenant must be made to protect U.S. interests. The League would threaten U.S. sovereignty by requiring the U.S. to follow directions from an international body, so all decisions of the League must be considered as suggestions only. "

This talk makes sense even in todays society because after everything that has happened throughout the world including 9/11, the paris attack, and a multitude of other incidents, we as a nation should be able to allow us to go anywhere without any kind of engagement. Reducing armaments in certain countries but keeping ours of even keeping them the same number just allows our nation to keep safe.

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Foreign Policy
by [Robert Edwards](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:43 PM

To start off, regarding the spectrum I'm somewhere closer to isolationism, but not enough to say "build a wall!" and ignore the problems outside. I'm in favor of acting where there is a direct threat to the United States, but if we are to help other countries with their problems, we must first take care of ourselves, as war, or any international problem is fought on two fronts: home and foreign. If the United States is suffering from things such as high debt, which we currently are, as shown here: <http://www.usdebtclock.org/> (At current: 19 trillion and rising) Then we should restrain ourselves from reaching out to fund other countries issues.

What I just said matches up with the worries about the League of Nations after World War One. Concerns about the United States being drawn into conflicts that will unnecessarily deplete and/or endanger the nation is something that has come to life in this age. Right now we are fighting another region's war, and it is bleeding us dry. Our efforts to maintain outposts and bases in foreign regions are becoming costly as both our country and the aggressors we face, and in some cases provoked, continue to escalate. I'd mention North Korea as one of these, at least according to recent news about their threats to attack but...they kind of prove my first point above about fixing yourself before picking fights with others.

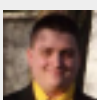
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Re: Foreign Policy
by [Ankstina Qi](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:33 PM

This reminds me of Donald Trump's saying that the solution for illegal immigrants is to "build a wall!" which is ridiculous. In fact, there is a striking increase of Mexican immigrants were coming since he said it in front of the public. The method of helping other countries is to help ourselves first.

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Trump, walls, and temper tantrums
by [Robert Edwards](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:49 AM

Doesn't surprise me that Trump's efforts have blown up in his face, again. They're probably coming over now to try and vote him out, but that requires them to acquire legal voting rights so we'll see how that plays out.If we try to build a wall, well, let's look at the Great Wall of China. Doesn't seem to be stopping

anyone from coming or going anymore.

At this point I say the United States should scale back on our efforts to aid others, and as we have both said, fix ourselves first. That debt ain't getting any smaller, nor are the internal problems going away until we actually get about to fixing them. I don't think anyone has forgotten nor forgiven congress and government itself shutting down as a result of what can be summed up as a "political temper tantrum".

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The changing position of United States Foreign Policy
by [Ankstina Qi](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:27 PM

The new United States foreign policy is responsible for the interior strength. I think the president Obama should start to gain support from citizens and let people realize the fact that the international standing of U.S has been changed. It faced a lot of problems such as the system of reorganization, economical and political strengthening method etc. Besides, I think the U.S government should be neutral and show respects to other countries when they do not recognize or do not understand some of the facts and histories.

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Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Theodore Pratten](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:42 PM

After reading the article on Henry Cabot Lodge and reviewing the the different foreign policy factions, I still feel comfortable placing myself in the Mild Reservationist group. I think the Mild Reservationist stance would be best described as wanting nations to have complete autonomy, but also seeing worth in an international body that each nation is a member of, and where they can try to find peaceful solutions instead of making war. The statement of the Mild Reservationist supporting the Treaty of Versailles/League of Nations states: "It is necessary to remember that the lack of such a league in 1914 threw the world into the chaos of this war... The question of this hour therefore is not whether a beautifully phrased and perfect document has been written, but whether it is the best hope we have." I think this would have been the most pragmatic approach to take at the time. With those four years of war still fresh in the mind, it would have been reasonable to think that if only there was some international body where the great powers of that time could resolve their issues in a diplomatic fashion, war could have been prevented. We now know that the League of Nations was a failure, but the United Nations, which came into being after World War II, has been mostly successful in preventing a war on the scale of the two World Wars. The Mild Reservationist position also seems to have a healthy skepticism toward an international body like the League of Nations. They seem to view it as unfortunate but necessary, but also are sympathetic to the positions of Strong Reservationists and Irreconcilables on the importance of retaining national sovereignty.

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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by [Carter Ellis](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:53 PM

After watching the videos, my own personal perspective didn't really change. I still strongly believe that America should be on the internationalist side of the spectrum. If America wants to be considered the greatest country in the world, they can't be isolated and not care about other countries conflicts and issues. Out of all the candidates, I would most closely relate to Donald Trump. I agree with him when he says that our military needs to go back to a powerhouse, and rule with an iron fist like Theodore Roosevelt said.

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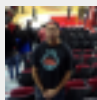
Re: United States Foreign Policy
by [Tyler Kabot](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:55 PM

I would say that our country would be "greater" right now if we were less involved in the affairs of other countries. Look at what is currently happening in the middle east. The United States is spending trillions of dollars on our military waging a war on an ideology that just keeps building the more we attack it. If we had sent some special forces guys to kill the people behind 9/11 instead of sending thousands of troops and have less of a presence in the area we would be better off right now. The war on terror isn't won with an

overwhelming and unnecessary offense but with a solid and secure defense. Also, our military doesn't need to go "back to a powerhouse" because it currently is a powerhouse. We have the largest and strongest military in the world.

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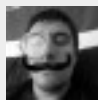
Re: United States Foreign Policy

by [Jonathan Whittington](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:28 PM

Our military is a powerhouse, the question these days is how big of a part does morality play? These days we cant just go to war and kill people over politics. Foreign policy is the idea of working together peacefully with other countries so that war or military doesn't even need to play a part at all. We can rule with an iron fist intellectually as well.

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Isolationism and Non-Interventionism

by [Joe Paredes](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 9:07 PM

Isolationism is a policy of remaining apart from the affairs or interests of other groups, especially the political affairs of other countries and in the time of the speech, Ron Paul said he is not an Isolationist, he wants to trade with people , travel, but doesn't want to send troops over seas.

Iraq was a significant part in our history and being a Non- Interventionist or someone who supports that idea is believing in a foreign policy that holds that political rulers should avoid alliances with other nations but still retain diplomacy and avoid all wars unless related to direct self-defense.

I find myself on the spectrum of being a Isolationist when it comes the time to be because of the history of our past including 9/11 makes us remember and have to take into consideration that anything can happen. Even on U.S soil.

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Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Theodore Pratten](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 2:48 PM

I think Ron Paul is a bit too dogmatic in his non-interventionist approach. He made a lot of sense with his stance against the Iraq War, but at the same time he says that he wouldn't come to the defense of Taiwan if they were invaded by China, or South Korea if they were attacked or invaded by North Korea (however unlikely those scenarios are). His non-interventionism might be constitutionally sound, and his approach is similar to George Washington's dictum of "no foreign entanglements," but there are many practical reasons why we should consider an internationalist approach to defending places like South Korea, especially from an economic standpoint. I think there is a big difference between going into places like Iraq to spread our notions of liberal democracy and free enterprise, and defending important trading partners like South Korea.

I'm still skeptical of Strong Internationalists like John McCain. In the debate, he uses the tired argument of comparing Ron Paul's non-interventionism to Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler in the 1930s. Alan Keyes also dismissed Paul's approach as retreating from world affairs. Keyes, like McCain, speaks in the language of American Exceptionalism; that America is a singular and universal nation, the one indispensable country. Internationalists in both major parties use this kind of language.

In 2016 election, we are seeing a huge chunk of the electorate support candidates who express skepticism of internationalism. Both Sanders and Trump in their own different ways are offering alternatives to post-9/11 foreign policy.

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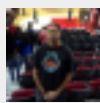


Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy
by [Theodore Pratten](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:06 PM

I also think that most people elected to high office tend to be limited internationalists, at minimum. The position taken by Ron Paul, and the positions taken by Sanders and Trump this election, are often derided by the media, and by opposing candidates of an internationalist bent. We can see this in the John McCain/Alan Keyes videos, and in this election the foreign policy positions of Sanders or Trump--which I think are more reservationist--are often seen as less serious than those of their opponents.

I would also say that the average American is more of a reservationist, today as well as historically. If we go back and look at WWI, there was very little popular support for the war. The government had to use the Council on Public Information to create a pro-war atmosphere across the country and to stir up anti-German sentiments. Congress also passed Acts that allowed for crack downs on dissenters.

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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by [Jonathan Whittington](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8:07 PM

Foreign Policy is something that people will always debate, while I am all for being friendly and sharing knowledge with all countries I just feel like we should take careful consideration of who we open up too and discuss trade with

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Why I am a mild reservationist
by [Christopher Cockman](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:35 PM

From the description in the reading and even further with the example of Lodge, I still stick with my answer that I gave to the poll last Monday: I am a mild reservationist. The only thing that made me question this notion is the clearly negative connotation that Lodge was compared to a villain. The article proved to me that he was misunderstood in being "demonized as the prototype of isolationism" (article). I understand that Wilson in the internationalist party wanted to bring about true world piece by cooperating with other nations. But I also understand that a mild reservationist wants the same goal for my country. I see no drawbacks in wanting "some modifications to protect vital American interests" (forum reading). It does not mean that I am a seemingly untrustworthy person or selfish in a sense. I view that is natural for me to have some concerns instead of giving up this nation's sovereignty to other countries which is something this nation prides ourselves on. I see the good in weighing the circumstances in any negotiation.

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Should we get involved as a nation or not?
by [Christopher Cockman](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:03 PM

On one side of the spectrum, we have internationalism. The pure intent of internationalism is as Ron Paul described it, is to spread the good of America across the globe, often by use of force. On the opposite side of the spectrum there lies isolationism, which aims to keep America out of all foreign affairs thus protecting national interests. On the spectrum I summed myself up to being a mild reservationist much like that of Obama or Hilary Clinton. I think America should not become involved unless directly provoked. As I think about it, I have much the same mindset as Ron Paul, I agreed with his position on what were examples of justifiable and non-justifiable wars.

I feel that this idealism of Paul, Obama, and Clinton is most relevant to what we did as a nation during the resolve of the League of Nations. From our reading, Wilson is said to have been an isolationist and that is apparent with his great desire of not becoming involved in the war for such a long time. Then he switched gears into being a reservationist after the sinking of the Lusitania in my opinion because he declared war after we were provoked. And furthermore with the League of Nations, it was Wilson's idea as the president of the U.S. to establish said league but we did not even put our nation within it. That shows to me some tendency

of reservationism. I do see the similarity between Bush and Wilson discussed in the article. There are certainly certain patterns that history has shown to recur. I believe the idea of a truly original political mind nowadays is a far stretch. Trump is close with his "mercantist" ideology but I thought it was hilarious he still was compared to a king from the 16th century in the online article.

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