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United States Foreign Policy

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

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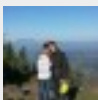
On the fence

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 3:22 PM

Foreign policy is tricky and I often find myself on the fence about it. On the one hand, I agree with Ron Paul; we aren't the world police and we shouldn't be getting involved in issues that don't directly involve us. There have been plenty of wars where we should never have gotten involved (Iraq, Vietnam etc.). But I disagree with him in many respects too—if there's genocide taking place, if there are major human rights violations taking place, and we have the power to help, we MUST do so. I agree with Keyes, in that we need to offer our support to those in need. That simply boils down to being human, though. It doesn't always have to be military support (although it often is). I think Syria is a good example here. Atrocities are being committed in Syria, on all sides. President Al-Assad used chemical weapons on his own civilian population. ISIS controls a large portion of the country. So what should America do? The UN can only get involved if the home country requests their aid. Should the U.S. attempt a regime overthrow? Should we “bomb the sh*t out of ‘em” as Donald Trump so eloquently puts it? Should we intervene? Should we not? The crisis in Syria has displaced over 11 million civilians, should we open our nation's borders to the refugees? There's a balance to be found between protecting our own domestic interests and fighting for our values abroad, and I find myself moving between being a strong internationalist and a strong isolationist depending on the issue at hand.

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Re: On the fence

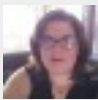
by [Dan Johnson](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 5:33 PM

Often times political pundits will portray candidates and policies as having approaches and provision that require "all or none" thinking. This portrayal seems to feed upon itself as pressures mount from fear ramping up around the conversation. In terms of policy, it's important to consider the time, resources, intentions, and

support of the policy. For instance, how long is the United States planning on intervening? How many resources do we plan on investing into the effort? Who is purposing the policy and what is the nature of their movement privately and publicly? What support does the policy have domestically and internationally from both governments and peoples? Certain policies can sound perfectly great outside of these contexts, but when placed into these contexts, it can become apparent that they have disastrous implications. Generally speaking, the "war on terror" is truly horrible approach to the violence of Islamic individuals. It has no sense of time, resource, support, or intention in any of it. It's truly a reactionary response. It only asks, "what do we want, and who's in our way?" It doesn't ask, "what should we do and what can we do?" It also fails to recognize that a state cannot be rebuilt and restabilized by being blown up constantly. It looks tok heavy at military involvement without taking into consideration wars of this nature cannot be won with military involvement alone. It takes a world response and most importantly in the case of Iraq, a strong middle eastern response. The U.S has to be smart if it is to help anybody. It can't just act reactionarily on moral vanity alone, which is truly more selfish than moral.

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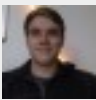


On the fence but helping is nice
by Sara Kosydar – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8:46 PM

I agree that we should have some involvement with the world but also need to focus on our own country, so that also makes me someone who is a bit in between as well. We should only get involved if our assistance is requested for a good cause like to end a war that is happening for too long, but we should not intervene if the people of that country want to handle the war themselves because we would just get involved when we are not needed and waste our resources like the middle east. But there are countries that appreciate the help like with South Korea right now we are helping them with border control between them and North Korea. Sure North Korea doesn't like it, but South Korea is happy to have someone behind their back, as one of my former south korean foreign exchange student would say. Which gives us brownie points with said country.

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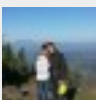


Re: United States Foreign Policy
by Kyler Paselk – Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:15 PM

I don't think that my position changed by reading the Henry Cabot Lodge article. I like how they described him in the article. I fully support foreign interaction with countries as long as it is for the "greater good." If we used our foreign influence to help countries with issues like food shortages, medical problems, natural disasters, and constructing homes, hospitals, and other helpful buildings. I am less supportive of getting involved in political issues in other countries as this can be a sensitive issue that could result in disaster. An example of this is when the British and French decided all the borders in the middle east. This has caused A LOT of problems in the middle east. I am supportive of trying to change repressive dictators, but this usually leads to more issues. This is a very complicated issue and it needs to broken down more to fully understand.

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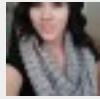
Propaganda Machine
by Dan Johnson – Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:44 PM

Conservations occurring during 1918 and 2016 have many differences, however; the propaganda and selling points remain similar. The idea of the invasion of the United States due to aggression occurring often 1000's of miles away. The propaganda that the "Hun" was going to march over the sea matches well with ideas of terrorists acquiring nuclear bombs for attacks on America. In both cases, the propaganda asks for pro-war positions. Another interesting form of propaganda and appeal to guilt and fear, was shown in both the Alan Keyes clip and the John McCain clip. Alan Keyes tried to make clear that Ron Paul's foreign policy was the forsaking of the suffering, but in reality, Ron Paul's foreign policy is the expression of humility towards US efficacy in helping others around the world especially for issues of conflict, right or wrong. Similarly, John McCain implied Ron Paul's views led to the rise of Hitler, which is ridiculous at face value. It's an extreme view of history to say the

least, but the fact that he was able to become the Republican nominee shows he held the favored view at the time largely due to a sense of nationalism based on guilt and fear. In 1918, the concept of world order arose out of a time of a propaganda similar to the current date, which similarly led to a desire for more widespread controls although not nearly as recklessly or unrealistically as today. In both cases, the propaganda climates present international problems with assumptions of more control over others than actually present.

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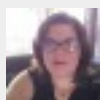
My Spectrum position

by [Kalli Schroeder](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 8:17 PM

According to our classroom textbook, the Lodge members, “subscribed to Theodore Roosevelt’s vision of a world controlled by a few great nations, each military strong, secure in its sphere of influence, and determined to avoid war through a carefully negotiated balance of power” (page766). On the spectrum of internationalist to isolationism, I placed myself as an internationalist. Based on the Lodge article and compared to current events, I feel confident on where I placed myself on the spectrum because I agree with the idea that “nations should cooperate in international organizations such as the United Nations, to settle disputes” <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com>. Wilson believed that the League of Nations “would function as an international parliament and judiciary establishing rules of international behavior and resolving disputes between nations through rational and peaceful means” (page 765). So Wilson and I are on the same side of the spectrum. Today, “President Obama is more skeptical about the use of military force than the last President, but he is manifestly more internationalist in his embrace of the wider spectrum of partnerships, institutions, and diplomatic engagements that make up the American-led order” <http://www.the-american-interest.com>. Both presidential decisions from the 1920s and today support my initial position on the spectrum as correct for my beliefs.

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Worlds Policemen

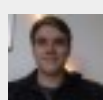
by [Sara Kosydar](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 8:27 PM

When it comes to Foreign Policy the United States has wasted a ton of money on wars. Obviously some wars we needed to intervene in like WWII because of the horrendous acts that went on. However, wars like the ones in the middle east where we overspent and overexerted our power when it was “unnecessary”. Ron Paul’s opinion on the US’s foreign policy seems to be the most reasonable of them all because he believes that we are not “the world’s policeman”



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Re: Worlds Policemen

by [Kyler Paselk](#) – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 4:11 PM

You are right that we do spend a lot of money on wars and foreign interests. I also agree that we have become the worlds policemen. I don't think that either of these things are directly bad or good, but that they are a little bit of everything. I think that we go into other countries with good intent, but the results are not always what we intended them to me. The political cartoon you posted mentioned that we have been the only group to deal with these middle eastern issues and that they are like small angry countries that want to attack each other all the time. Whether or not we are doing good by being over there i still think it is good that we are trying to have a positive impact on the middle east and its people.

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Non-Intervention vs Intervention (Ron Paul- Iraq War)
by Jonathan Axtell - Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:28 PM

In the first video, it focused on Ron Paul and his views on past wars. (If he agreed or disagreed on intervention in conflicts)

He claims that the U.S is acting as World Police.

He also talks about the U.S starting wars to spread Democracy almost never works and only leaves the country bankrupt. From what I've learned, it's a hit or miss.

Example- Iraq with Democracy.

Do you believe that the U.S needs to stop being the "World Police" ?? (Especially around the Middle East)

Do you believe Montana could defend itself against Canada? 😊 (I was laughing from that question at the end)

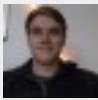
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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by Michael Ehrenfelt - Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:49 PM

The article didn't really change the way I feel toward whether or not America should be involved in foreign affairs. I still believe we are definitely tied economically with the world but I also believe we can't be the "world police" and say what is right nor wrong. I still think we should be involved in the world but there has to be a fine line of how much involvement we put in foreign affairs because we do have our own problems as well. That's why I am leaning toward the limited internationalist position. Plus sometimes being too hands on in other countries can make matters worse. It really is more of a case by case scenario though because you can also not be involved enough. For example, World War I. Thus causing more innocent lives to be lost and just ended up being a postponed involvement. There are tons of factors to consider depending on the issue, but regardless the U.S. will be involved or should be a little bit.

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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by Kyler Paselk - Thursday, April 21, 2016, 10:30 AM

You mentioned that we are economically tied with the world and that we can't be the "world police" and say what is right or wrong. I agree with that. I think our economic interests are influencing the people that we "police". Maybe the policing part is an excuse to protect out economic interests. W are in the middle east now fighting ISIS and other organizations, but we also have an economic tie to the middle east wit oil. On the other hand, Boko Haram is committing genocide in Africa but we aren't doing anything about it, as least as far as i know. I believe this is because we have no or little economic value with Africa.

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American Values v. Reality
by Shane Cooney - Thursday, April 21, 2016, 7:19 PM

There seems to be a recurring theme of "American Values" when it comes to foreign policy. We have our

ideologies, but they don't always become a reality. In fact, I think our values and ideologies often times fail like the speaker in the "Wilsonianism in the 21st Century" video stated. The reality of our nation and our political structure is much different than what we claim it to be. It's easy to preach for liberty, equality, and freedom, and our political candidates do it often. But what's the reality in regards to foreign policy? Communism was/is still a threat to our nation's values, and our foreign policy reflected our growing fear. We took action against it, and there is still a vast amount of tension and stigma involved with Communism. But what if individual human rights are being violated? There have been plenty of genocides and human rights violations all across the globe, but we seem to only get involved when we have a special interest there. Sometimes it feels like we forget our nation's values, and stand by and watch as atrocities are being committed, or we get to pick and choose the values we want to truly fight for (e.g., waging war in the name of democracy). I still agree that the United States shouldn't have to be the world's police force, but not intervening at all when people are in a crisis isn't just abandoning American values, it's allowing values that directly violate ours to succeed.

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Re: American Values v. Reality

by [Jonathan Axtell](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 4:30 PM

I have to agree with the U.S only getting involved when we have special Interest in something. We seem to only focus on the atrocities happening in Syria, but not places in Africa. Why are we not focusing more on the Genocide and human right violations happening every day in Africa?? Not just in Sudan, but a place like Uganda and the surrounding areas. I believe it's because of the economic opportunities in Saudi Arabia. (Oil) Why mess around with countries in Africa, who can't give us anything beneficial in return, when we can focus on somewhere with a gold mine of economic opportunity?

I believe that many Americans have lost their American values. We seem to care about ourselves only and not our neighbors. My grandpa always told me it wasn't that way, especially during the 40's. I think if we lose these values, it won't be long until we start to crumble from the inside. Abe Lincoln said, "America will never be destroyed from the Outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

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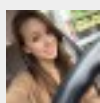
Re: American Values v. Reality

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4:37 PM

I know what you mean about the atrocities in Africa. And these aren't new problems, they've been happening for a long time, and we continue to stand by. These problems don't even receive news coverage. We were involved in the first Gulf War because our allies in the Middle East (Mainly Saudi Arabia) wanted us to. We would risk American lives in the name of economic gain or to maintain close relations with our special interests, and that isn't right. We can't pick and choose where to place and fight for our ideologies. There shouldn't be exceptions to the rule, especially when lives are at stake. We aren't the world's police, but we do serve as a model for other countries. Military intervention, I think, is rarely the answer but we can still provide humanitarian aid and assistance. The United States sometimes appears like it's run like a business, it's run on the international relations principle of realism quite often. We focus on what we have to gain, not on what we have to offer.

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Foreign Policy

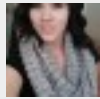
by [Jamie Arscott](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 10:37 AM

There are multiple different views and stands of international policies. Before reading these I honestly didn't completely understand all of it. I did not realize there such varying views between Internationalist, Reservationists, and Irreconcilable. I had not previously know about the broken up groups of beliefs in how the people believe the US should interact with other countries. Personally I believe I may fit better in with the Reservationists. Simply because international affairs are important so staying out of involvement completely may disrupt communication and other interactions with other countries, however we still need to focus on the well being of our country, and the people that house it. In conclusion I believe that international interactions should be done but carefully thought through, and acted on if they have been decided that the actions would benefit the

United States and or our Allies.

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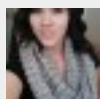
League of Nations

by [Kalli Schroeder](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:11 PM

The Irreconcilables did not trust that the League of Nations would be beneficial for anyone. The idea of the League of Nations was to be, "a body devoted to the service of God and man without a single selfish thought or a single iniquitous motive." Coolidge saw the idea that the League of Nations would protect each other from enemies and from themselves. I like to think of the League of Nations as the World Police. The irreconcilables believed that there was no way all of the different countries could have similar morals and beliefs and they witnessed that themselves at the close of the war when the democracy, "seized every foot of territory that was held by helpless people anywhere." I agree with Jonathan that the government only sends troops into a war that will be beneficial to the economy instead of the people. So, if there was a League of Nations, they would be focusing all of their attention on the missions that will better their own countries. America is particularly this way. I agree with the idea that Coolidge put into the League of Nations in hopes that it would prevent another world war and protect us from outside attacks but I also agree with the irreconcilables that the League of Nations would have never been successful just simply because the cultural clash and America being an imperial country.

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Bush vs Wilson

by [Kalli Schroeder](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:49 PM

When I compare President George Bush to President Woodrow Wilson I find a lot of differences. Regarding foreign policy, Woodrow Wilson pushed for a League of Nations that would work together to protect each other. Georg Bush stayed away from outside countries and focused his attention internally such as signing the No Child Left Behind act and reducing the federal income tax rate. Woodrow Wilson used our military to step into other countries affairs such as the civil war in Mexico and after that war he kept our soldiers there to pursue Poncho Villa. George Bush acted out towards other countries after they had attacked us on 9/11. Woodrow Wilson was a democrat and George Bush was a republican. Based on (<http://us-presidents.insidegov.com/compare/24-39/Woodrow-Wilson-vs-George-W-Bush>) foreign accomplishments for both presidents are similar but they were effects of different causes and had different outcomes. Presidents led us into war, Woodrow led us into WW1 and Bush led us to war in Iraq. Woodrow wanted to secure the economic growth of the country and Bush was reacting to a serious terrorist attack. Woodrow Wilson made his 14 points to all other foreign countries and only some of them were accepted. Bush Signed the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement with India, greatly improving relations between the countries. I begin to see a pattern that both presidents have the same intentions and they deal with them in certain ways, but the cause and effects are different

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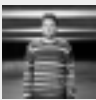
to intervene or no?

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

two popular schools of thought that pervade ones mind when the subject of foreign policy is brought up are interventionism and non-interventionism. the school of thought that follows the intervention movement is fairly logical, the US possesses great military might and its people are so diverse that when atrocities are committed in other countries, they are greatly effected. with this in mind, interventionists resolve that the US should step into other countries and take preventative or responsive measures in order to promote peace. the second school of thought is one of non-intervention. essentially, the US should focus on strengthening its own borders and respond to foreign affairs through diplomacy rather than military action. non- interventionism is often confused with isolationism due to the removal of US personnel from foreign countries. listening to video clips presented for this forum cleared up this confusion for me, enabling me to solidify my position as an interventionist. I believe that the US should strive to end atrocities as succinctly as possible. but intervention only works if the country is willing to go all the way for this cause... any thoughts?

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Re: United States Foreign Policy
by Justin Cox – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:40 PM

I consider myself to have reservationist philosophies regarding contemporary American foreign policy. I believe the American people want a strong military to be used to assist allies around the world. However, I believe entering into defense pacts and international treaties should only be done in limitation, and always with reserving as much autonomy for America as possible.

More specifically, in regards to the United States of America joining the League of Nations, I believe I would have aligned myself with the position outline by the mild reservationist on the forum website. I feel this way because identify with the pragmatic nature of the argument.

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isolationism
by Justin Cox – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:31 PM

The policy of non-interventionism, popular among Ron Paul supporters, would be a radical departure from traditional American foreign policy if enacted. America has a long tradition of playing a influential role in world affairs. Backers of such a role for America argue that a strong involvement in foreign policy will strength American economic and national security. I find America's increasing stature on the international stage since WWI to be strong evidence to support those arguments.

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