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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 Jordan Bertak - Monday, April 20, 2015, 8:56 PM

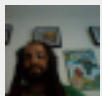
As I was watching those videos I found myself agreeing with Ron Paul however I find it hard to be completely non-interventionist like him. You can see how the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq turned out. Thousands of American lives lost, and HUNDREDS of thousands of civilian lives lost. And what was accomplished? No weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq, and both countries are worse off than before we invaded. So I find myself agreeing with Ron Paul that we should not be the world police so many Americans wish us to be. However I do find myself struggling with the thought of not intervening with issues like genocide. For example ISIS is beheading, torturing, and burning thousands upon thousands of people and because of this people want to arm the Kurds to fight ISIS, and some even want American troops fighting ISIS. It's hard for me to say what's the right or wrong thing to do but in my opinion I'm going to say in this situation I'm siding against Ron Paul. I don't think we should be putting troops on the ground but I think aiding those fighting against something so terrible is the difference between Iraq/Afghanistan. But then take a look at North Korea, a horrible totalitarian dictatorship, who kill and starve their citizens and put them into concentration camps. Yet no one wants drone strikes in North Korea because of the damage they could do to South Korea and the fact they are backed by China.

So in conclusion I tend to find myself agreeing with Ron Paul, we should not interfere with others countries problems or be the "World Police".

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Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy

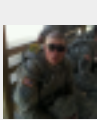
by Perry Washington - Friday, April 24, 2015, 11:26 AM

When I talked about American exceptionalism I talked about how it's ingrained in society. And although we shouldn't force are ways on other people, in a power structure the only way for the people on the bottom to receive equality the have to have help from those with power. This doesn't mean guns or violence, in the struggle for equality African Americans need whites to accepted their privilege and use it to help just as men must do for women, and so on. I agree much more with Alen keys we don't have to employee militaristic force to help, but with the power we have, we must offer support to those in need.

I also find myself agreeing with Ron Paul although I believe he sounds a bit ridiculous. I can only imagine the resistance he would have faced in trying to remove all our troops from all forging bases, there was just a taste in the republican debate. This reminds me of Willison 14 points, had Paul made office he would have most likely settled on removing vary little stationed troops. Yes, we often muck up situations when we get involved, but as a world power we have to find another way of going about things. If we allow something to happen won't we be equally responsible: guilty by association and that's good enough to go to jail in America.

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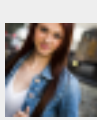
Re: Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy
by [Colt Eubank](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 8:48 PM

Perry,

You said that since we are so powerful if we let something happen in the world we are guilty by association. So does that mean we are somewhat responsible for the lives lost in WWI before we joined? The lives being lost and the suffering of people in North Korea? The current debacle with Ukraine and Russia? I don't think this is right because no matter how powerful a country or people are they cannot be held responsible for what another country or people do. How many people do you believe need to die or get harmed before we are obligated to help? 10? 50? 100? 1,000? How many American lives should we be willing to sacrifice to save or help these countries or people? Why should we send our troops or aid workers when there are so many homeless and poverty stricken people on our own soil?

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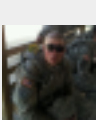
Non-intervention as a Foreign Policy
by [Mikaila Riddle](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 4:20 PM

Jordan,

I think you made some really good points in this post. When you brought up the different types of scenarios like ISIS and North Korea, it really made me think about my perspective and it changed it in a way. I started off thinking that we shouldn't get involved in war affairs at all if it didn't have to do with us, but when you said we could help instead of just fighting, it made me stop and think. Maybe we should be able to help out other countries in need, help them fight for good. But I agree with you that we shouldn't be the "World Police". We should be looked at as an ally, or a helping hand. We aren't these huge war master minds or crazy killers, we simply want to help aid those countries when they need it most.

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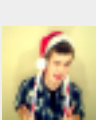


To intervene, or not to intervene, that is the question.
by [Colt Eubank](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 10:01 PM

Even prior to watching these clips featuring Ron Paul, I believe America should not be a "world police." I don't believe America has anything to prove to the rest of the world by inserting ourselves were we clearly don't belong. On the other hand I do think it is important for America to help our allies in times of war. I feel that what is going on in Iraq right now is partially our fault. We left there too soon, before our mission was complete. I don't agree on why we were there in the first place, but once you start something it is important to see it through to the end. ISIS would not be in power in Iraq if our military was still there. As a US Army combat vet that served as the last Brigade to deploy for a full year to help train the Iraqi military I know for a fact that they were not ready to take the reigns and defend their country. They were set up for failure by us. I would personally rejoin the Army to go and combat ISIS on Iraqi soil, because as I said it is important to finish what you start.

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Where's the line?
by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 10:29 PM

The cases for intervention and non-intervention seem to be argue in many types of formats. The similarities between the

after-math of WWI compared to issues raised today are drastically similar. For example, before the attack on the Lustinia (L.E.P 772) there was no call for war among the majority of Americans, they still exhibited a more isolationist sentiment until innocent American lives were lost. That outraged sparked the intensity to fight, even if it meant an expensive war overseas. Patriotism was a very evident theme. However, after the war, Americans fell back into (at least partly) the isolationist ideology. The goals were to focus on the issues at home (I.e., the economy, civil liberties, working conditions etc.) Much of the same similarities toward nationalism or isolationism could be pointed out before and after 9/11. The outcry for “justice” is demanded so quickly once America(n’s) are harmed by a foreign threat but I believe that the realization and slow sentiment change ensues after a war (or when a war goes on for too long) and the people seem to start wanting to focus on their own issues inside their borders.

Personally, I am not sure whether I believe that the U.S. should hold a certain position of power in this world that is greater than others. I believe that there are atrocities and injustices going on in its borders and overseas and I believe it would be hard for American to stand by and let certain atrocities to be committed when they are able and willing to help. The question really becomes down to “How much help is too much?” and “When do our other agendas take priority over the safety and well-being of others?” This to me, seems to be the battle in politics when confronting foreign policies issues.

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Re: Where's the line?
by [Colt Eubank](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 8:35 PM

Jesse,

I believe you make some strong points. Americans do tend to very quickly demand "justice" when something happens that affects us. I think that very rarely do everyday Americans think about what exactly their "justice" includes, and the after affects it will have, not only on the country or people we are trying to help, but also our soldiers and other workers that will have to deal with these situations first hand. As soon as people realize that things are going as planned Americans tend to demand that troops be pulled out regardless if our mission is complete or not. I think this can be seen today in whats happening in Iraq. I know for a fact that the Iraqi Military was not ready to defend their country from threats. While I was deployed to Baghdad in 2010-2011 part of our mission was to train the Iraqi Army in basic Army tasks and drills. We did not get enough time to train them properly before we were told that Obama was removing the troops from the country. At the time I thought that something like whats happening now could happen, I just didn't realize it would be so soon after we left. So in the future weather we become more isolated or stay our current role as kind of a "world police," we need to make sure we finish what we start no matter how long it takes.

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Re: Where's the line?
by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 8:34 PM

Colt,

What exactly are you referring to when you say "I thought that something like whats happening now could happen, I just didn't realize it would be so soon after we left."? I am not completely up to date on the all of the current issues in the Middle East.

In regards to your statement about Americans demanding the return of troops when things are not* going as plan during overseas missions, are you referring to all wars overseas that Americans were involved in or specifically the Iraq war? From a personal citizens standpoint, it seems that much the the fervor towards the war was because the people felt lied to and felt like this particular war was too costly for the American people - and then I believe the sentiment of "Should America be spreading its "Democracy"" sprouted up. (Much of the sentiment for pulling troops out in particular could be attributed to the fact the there was no initial exit strategy set up in the initial invasion in 2003)

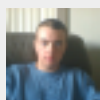
I agree with you on your point about the U.S making decisions and following them through to the best of its abilities. This seems to take a backseat to the political agenda, unfortunately.

P.S. Thank you for your service. Regardless of my views on the war or politics or anything else, the decision you made to serve your nation is extremely admirable.

Sources: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/14/opinion/14fri1.html>

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I sort of agree

by [Brent Hill](#) - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 11:30 PM

I agree with Ron Paul and is point in saying that we should not be the world police. When we are too involved in places such as Iraq things seem to just end up in a giant mess. I thought it was really noble how he said that we should rely more on diplomacy rather than just immediately go to arms. I believe that if we had relied more on diplomacy on some of these events in the past we may have been able to prevent or stop some of these horrible events. I think having a smaller world presence such as having less stationed troops in other countries could help with foreign relations. I also like how he said that we should not act unless provoked ourselves. Although I believe that this should not be an absolute rule. Some acts of true evil such as genocide I think are perfectly valid reasons to get involved. I would say that some of the smaller conflicts that go on we don't need to get involved in because it would only fuel the problem. I think that some problems do require our intervention and they can not solve themselves. I am not sure what these situations are exactly. Overall I would say that I do agree with Ron Paul on his points although I disagree with totally abstaining from world affairs should be an absolute rule.

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Re: I sort of agree

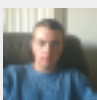
by [Colt Eubank](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 8:18 PM

Brent,

I agree with what you are saying overall. I believe you make an excellent point that some true acts of evil should not be ignored, and we should intervene. They only question I have for you is what besides genocide constitutes "true evil?" Were do we draw the line as far as do we or don't we intervene? As Joe showed us in class events happen all the time all over the world where people die at the hands of terrorists and other extremists. How many people have to die, or get harmed before we decide to intervene with troops? I myself have no clue, on one hand I want to say 1 person is enough, but on the other hand I think is that 1 life (whatever race/country they are from) worth the life or lives of our soldiers?

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You have a really good point

by [Brent Hill](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 12:02 AM

I had the exact same thoughts go through my mind when he talked about that in class as well. To be honest I do not really have an answer either. I guess that is why this is not a black and white issue that can't be solved with one answer. Maybe we get involved when the situation becomes out of hand and the place where the tragic event is going on can't contain the situation and they need outside help. We do not want other people in the world to suffer at the hands of evil people but then we do not want to lose our own people trying to stop the situation. It is such a delicate thing. Maybe we draw the line when our own people become threatened which seems like a good idea because none of our people would have to get hurt but when i think about it don't want to leave out other people in the world who really need our help. You asked a very good question and I am sorry I don't really have a better answer I am kind of stuck in the same spot that you are.

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