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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.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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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Lodge and Internationalism

by Norman Stolba Stolba - Monday, April 20, 2015, 1:07 PM

I don't think this article changed my position in the spectrum very much at all. I am fine being on the spectrum of being limited. I think that the country of the United States shouldn't be completely isolated and cut off from the world. I believe it does not hurt anyone to come together with other leading countries and work together to make this world a better place economically and politically. And the reason as to why I am leaning towards more of the limited side of the spectrum is because in my opinion, for example, I don't see much of a point of sending drones over to the middle east. So, once again I don't think we should be isolationists, because it is good to know that we have other countries that have our backs to an extent, economically, politically and in war. But I think limited internationalism is appropriate because America has had a recent history of abusing some of its powers. I do not know if all my sources are 100% accurate, but I do believe everyone agrees to an extent that America has abused its powers before, whether it be within our nation or across the globe. Just my opinion.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ivan-eland/unauthorized-government-k_b_6596114.html

<http://www.rawstory.com/2010/04/video-shows-forces-firing-killing-reporters/>

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/04/10/u-s-militarism-and-perpetual-war/>

<https://www.aclu.org/top-ten-abuses-power-911>

Best,

Norman Stolba



Multilateral Solutions
by [Kyle Quinoveva](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 7:19 PM

This article has done little to change my views on the issue of the Internationalists vs the Irreconcilables. I do not share Mr Lodge's views on absolute good and evil as stated in the article but it does help put into perspective the different viewpoints and reasoning for each side.

I identify myself as a Limited Internationalist. I believe that the United States mainly needs to work bilaterally or multilaterally with other nations to help make the world into, what I would consider, a better place. This is because, while certainly flawed, organizations such as the League, UN, WTO and so on are essential in the creation of an international community. This is because these organizations provide a framework for the handling of disputes and grievances between nations and as well as often providing inherent disadvantages for not being a member, like the majority of other nations would be.

Do I believe that this stance is an end all solution to prevent all future wars and conflicts? No, I do not. But I do believe that it will certainly help to prevent wars such as the First World War, which was essentially a result of extreme nationalism and refusal of major powers to negotiate multilaterally. Moreover, with the end of the Cold War the vast majority of the world shares our general ideological views of Capitalism and Democracy to some extent or another making more ideological conflicts events such as the Second World War or another Cold War also less likely. Are ideological conflicts going to still exist? Yes, but with organizations like these major conflicts are less likely and currently most ideological conflicts with the United States today come from non-state actors or states with relatively limited power.

It is for these reasons that I feel as though, today, the United States can't isolate itself *or* go about imposing its inherent "Goodness" unilaterally. And that we must continue to *at least try* and build an international community of mutual trust and respect while using bi- and multilateral solutions to create a world with less relative conflict.



Lodge
by [Mikaila Riddle](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 9:51 PM

No, the information in the Lodge article did not cause me to change or reconsider my original self-placement on the internationalist to isolationism spectrum in any way. I made me rethink about some things but I wouldn't change what I voted as. I mean, I'm going to be honest, I don't have very strong views on what the United States "should do" or what we "shouldn't do". I just know that it takes more than just my thoughts or views to actually make a difference.

But since I have to make some sort of choice to right this forum, I think that we, the United States, should learn to keep working with other nations and try to make the world a better place, one country at a time. We shouldn't just try to fix the U.S. We need to fix the world as a whole. Now this is a little easier said than done, however. It takes a lot of believers and a lot of cooperation form many many people. Part of me thinks that Lodge's logic was somewhat on point. At the end of the article, it says that "Lodge's vision of an America that is prepared to work with the international organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations but retains the freedom to act independently when necessary..." This kind of thinking could work, but could also backfire. We need to be willing to work with foreign countries and organizations.

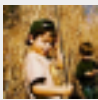
I think reading this article confirmed my vote to be true to myself and that I voted for the right option.



Re: Lodge
by [Chaofan Huang](#) - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 12:52 AM

Mikaila,

I strongly agree with I'm going to be honest, I don't have very strong views on what the United States "should do" or what we "shouldn't do". everyone have free speech that to say whatever you want to say. I think cooperation is becoming a powerful force, state and national cooperation, the country will learn the benefits of powerful countries.



Re: Lodge
by [Norman Stolba Stolba](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 11:14 PM

I couldn't agree more. Lodge had some good points, but they never fully persuaded me into changing my original beliefs. Why would we be complete isolationists? I guess you could say it really depends on what issue we're talking about in relation to the spectrum. I could see why someone would vote for isolationism in Lodges sense, I mean, I don't want the USA to be required to go to war with other countries if the reason behind it all is something stupid. But at the same time, I believe most people would agree with me that having healthy relationships with other counties/foreign powers and uniting as one would be more productive in the betterment of our world. But I also do think our country needs to know when to not intervene.

Best,

Norman Stolba

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Re: The Role of the United States in the World
by [Brent Hill](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:20 PM

I would consider myself a Limited Internationalist. I believe it is important that the United States comes together with other countries to solve important issues. Some things are easier to solve when collaborating with others rather than to just try to solve something by yourself. However involvement by countries where it is not needed would only fuel the issue and may make the problem way bigger than it originally was. I think the United States should take things on a case by case scenario. Sometimes being involved internationally can have its benefits but there can also definitely be major negative consequences that go with being involved internationally. Overall I think that international affairs are not something to be taken lightly but should be dealt with strong caution and careful consideration.

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Re: The Role of the United States in the World
by [Norman Stolba Stolba](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 11:18 PM

Exactly. Sometimes it seems that we intervene with other affairs a little too much, and we have to know when to back off. Back at the same time it's good to know we have the power to seriously help other counties when they do need us and want our help.

Best,

Norman Stolba

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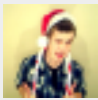
Re: The Role of the United States in the World
by [Yiqing Xiao](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:52 PM

However,I am not that kind of guy who would affected by others' words so those article didn't influence me at all. I established my own view of the world years ago and I think I really believe it.In the other hand, I do know something that most of people thinking right and I won't against such things. For example, nowadays Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is really a big thing on the world. There are lots of country attend in that bank recently. I think the reason there are so many countries need another bank besides World Bank and Asian Development Bank is that people thinking America play its own game too long. They are no more patient to play under his rule not only because those failure it did before but also because the development of the world. Even though America is still the strongest and richest country on the world, his path is still somehow slower compare to this society. America must treat other countries as equal power as soon as possible. The world is changing so America need to change too. For example, after hundreds of years, European do solve a lot of welfare problems of their citizens, but I can't believe that America is still sucks poverty and welfare while its country rank is way more high than those Europeans'.Race problem is still a big thing in America nowadays!God!you killed Indians hundreds of years ago and even made them to a festival and after those years you still don't know how to really solve this problem? Is that problem harder than quantum mechanics? Weapon is not that useful nowadays, and I don't think the country who build the money-rules which lead this century did it well. Playing own economic games can do nothing beneficial to the world. The

earth would not get changed by a bunch of data on the screen in the bourse. America, please don't stay at your home and use machine replaced you to watch the world. Try to put down your computer and play with somebody outside.

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Suggestion: U.S History with Joe Escobar all 3 Terms.

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 8:12 PM

This post is riddled with many over-simplified mis-conceptions and false assumptions of the culture in America. To say it in the simplest of terms, I strongly disagree with your statement.

In regards to your statement about the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank being "a really big thing", the reason the bank is being developed in the first place is because China has a massive infrastructure funding gap (S.R Ranganathan). I am not sure how that is relevant.

Your perception of America is lacking too much historical context to even attempt to bridge the gap between ignorance and understanding.

Every country has their issues and exceptional qualities and with respect to the idea of internationalism or isolationism, I think it would be a pity for America to become isolationists.

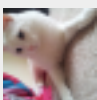
In this day and age, as humans we are so interconnected to such a degree that new ideas are flourishing and spreading across the airwaves in an instant to reach all the corners of globe and share in similar debates/ideologies. This leads me to believe the no country participating in the 21st century will be able to remain isolationist at all. I think the following quote sums up my current belief in how America should treat international relations, "Succeeding generations of voters and politicians have backed Henry Cabot Lodge, not Woodrow Wilson, in affirming an international commitment but retaining control of America's sovereignty." (Fleming).

The idea of every single country only involving themselves with internal affairs and respecting all other nations decisions and beliefs while their are countless atrocities being committed in the world reminds me the the "Bystander Effect" (something worth a google).

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2014/11/economist-explains-6>

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Re: Suggestion: U.S History with Joe Escobar all 3 Terms.

by [Yiqing Xiao](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:45 PM

I don't think there are any complicated things to realize the relationship between America and other countries or the American culture. There is something called history in the world and people should learn a lot from it. There is a saying goes "nothing is new under the sun" so we can easily find lots of models for the international relationship nowadays from before. The fail of Roman, which is one of the greatest country in the history and the weaken experience of China all can be the the teacher of the America nowadays. Bystander Effect didn't means anything. People usually follows their desire so if there is no one helping that means the system goes wrong. That system didn't make others be valuable or didn't make people realize other is valuable and there are some profit to save others. Yes, I am talking about nowadays social system. I don't think any country reached their goal which they promised hundreds years ago. For example, there is not any country try to protect the Edward Joseph Snowden from America and America also didn't do anything real for trying to save those people suffering in the darkness overseas. What's more, we even can't try our best for those people who is the citizen of the country. In fact, only middle or higher class could really be defined as American. Those poor guys live on the street and sleep under bridges everyday are lived by a worldwide life style which called poverty. If you already got a good life, it is no matter you want to be internationalism or isolationism,but if you really want to change your life, go outside is the only way.

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The U.S. as a world power then and now

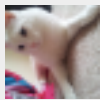
by [Joshua Melick](#) - Friday, April 24, 2015, 12:19 PM

After reading the article my idea of how we should have dealt with other countries slightly changed. I originally voted as a Mild Reservationist because I liked the idea that the League of Nations would decide on world matters instead of each country deciding for them selves but at the same time I believe we should be able to have some choice such as in our wars, we should not be forced simply because one of our allies had entered one. Lodges idea for the worst foreign policy sin is very true to me as well because we do need to pick sides otherwise other countries will pick for us. Our country needs to make decisions on how we would like to deal with other countries as a whole then uses these ideas as a backbone when we later discus issues with these countries.

These ideas were good for us in the 1920s as we were emerging as a world power but I believe we have gone to far in the present years. America has really taken on the role of the world police in the last few decades and this scares me. I would like to think we always try to do the “best thing” for everyone but this is somewhat impossible due to our biased and our own best interest. We need to step down some to allow things to take their course without our involvement instead of trying to stop hypothetical problems before they happen. If we continue to try to force our ideas on the world we will only become more and more isolated in our own ideas and be seen as a sort of threat to others instead of an allies. How can we push an idea of a democratic world if we are the ones trying to control it? It is good to have a dominant role in the world but we should be more of a community then the “U.S. against the world”.

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Re: The U.S. as a world power then and now

by [Yiqing Xiao](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:54 PM

I agree with what you said. World is belong to the world, and no one can really decide something for others. In fact, I think the America is just like the human, too cocky. People always says that we need to protect the enviornment for the earth, however they do realized that the earth wouldn't die with them no matter how hot or cold the weather is,only human are afraid of those accidents. America need to be internationalism because there are over 6 billion people are live outside and they are of course weighing higher than America.None of American can against 20 people.

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