

HST 203: U.S. History Sp19 (Escobar)

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The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, April 19, 2019, 11:49 AM

This thread is for discussions on the The Role of the U.S. in the World topic.

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, which clearly describes the part number, the source, or the questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Role of the U.S. in the World

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Woodrow Wilsons ideas vs today
by [Kaylee Calvert](#) - Sunday, April 21, 2019, 3:22 PM

I personally do not believe that Woodrow Wilsons ideas concerning foreign affairs and his strong support of internationalism would be better received today. I do not believe his ideas would be better received today because I think there are more reservationists than internationalists in today's world.

A majority of the class who answered the Foreign Policy Poll fell into the reservationist side of the spectrum, further supporting my claim. Also, it shows that the largest group of students today does reflect the largest group in 1918, which is reservationists.

I would not consider myself to be in this group because I support the principle of cooperation among nations.

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1

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Re: Obama Following in Wilson's Footsteps?
by [Lily Teague](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:09 PM

As Senator Mitch McConnell stated, former President Obama seemed to have been following in Wilson's footsteps. For example, McConnell argues that Obama had no respect for the role that the United States Congress plays in the "process." (RollCall Video 2:05) The Senator believed that Obama, like Wilson, disregarded the founding father's belief in the power of the United States Congress, and desired unchecked power of the presidency. From McConnell's point of view, there are many parallels between Woodrow Wilson and 21st-century president's such as

Barack Obama, however, I do not fully stand beside him on that issue because I think that their intentions were not to abuse power or demote congress, I believe that at least in Wilson's case, he was merely determined to instill a system in which the world could find peace among its nations.

Furthermore, based off of our class poll it seems that Woodrow Wilson's beliefs in foreign policy would be accepted more by the Reservationist party because I suspect that Reservationists would be in greater support of Wilson than Irreconcilables because the US wants to be involved in world issues as opposed to being isolationists. In addition, the leading poll was the Mild Reservationist Party, interestingly enough, the Reservationist Party was also the largest group in Wilson's day. I also fell in that party, because I do believe that if a government fails, then "there is an international responsibility to step in." (Comparing Wilson and Bush Video 3:50)

In addition, when it comes to the United States involvement in foreign affairs, there is the potential for the centralization of power and a lack of liberty. However, I do believe that the United States, should leave countries to "self-determination," (Comparing Wilson and Bush Video) however, again if that country is unable to protect and provide for their people and therefore they are left to suffer, I think that the United States must step in and offer relief.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

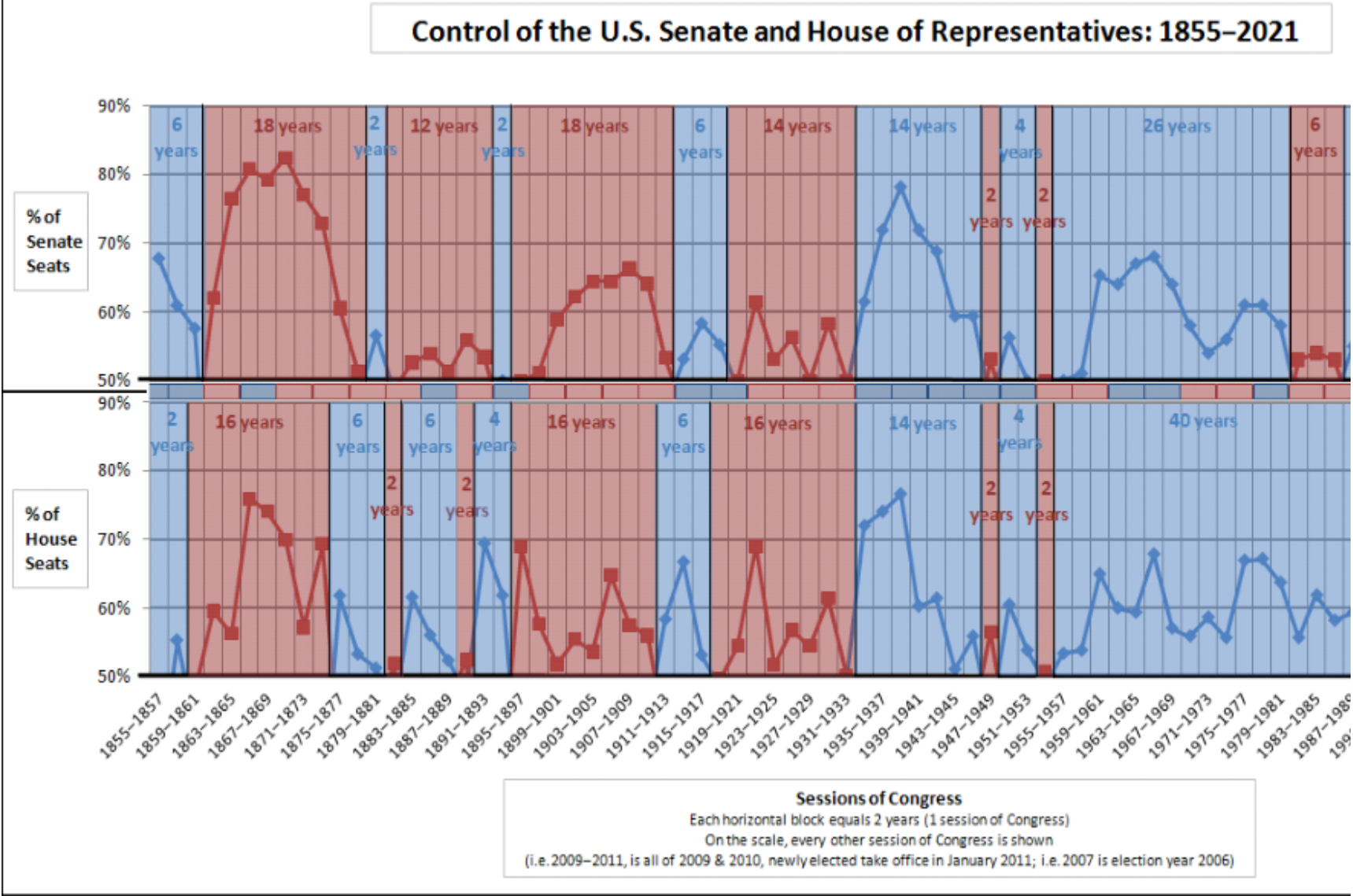
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Re: Obama Following in Wilson's Footsteps?
by [Kate Adkisson](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 9:32 PM

One of the similarities I noticed between Obama and Wilson is that they were both Democrats who had to try to pass reform with a Republican-controlled House and Senate in their second terms. Wilson was elected in 1913, and at that time, Democrats controlled the House and Senate. But then, in 1918, Republicans took back control of both the House and Senate during his second term. Similarly, Obama was elected in 2008 and Democrats were a majority in both the House and Senate, but then Republicans took back the House and then the Senate in 2014, Obama's second term. Both presidents struggled to compromise or work with the Republican Congress. In Wilson's case, he struggled to get The Treaty of Versailles ratified through the Senate, who had "two groups within their ranks that determined to frustrate Wilson's ambitions" (Textbook p. 632). With Obama, he "continued to grapple with Congressional Republicans over government spending, immigration, judicial nominations, and other issues" (Presidency of Barack Obama Wikipedia). Though Obama wasn't trying to get a treaty ratified, this similarity between these two presidents concerning clashes with Republican Congresses is interesting. While McConnell tries to compare the two by saying they both have beliefs in "unlimited executive authority" (McConnell clip, 1:08 minute mark), perhaps what they have in common more was their relationship to Congress.

Also, here's a thought-provoking graph that shows the trends around the political parties of Presidents, House of Representatives, and Senate throughout the years. It's interesting to see the checkering back and forth of who controls the government.



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Re: Obama Following in Wilson's Footsteps?

by [Lily Teague](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 12:41 PM

Wow, that is a very detailed comparison! It is interesting how McConnell compares the two saying that they both sought unlimited executive authority, however when you observe who controlled the house it seems that later in both Wilson and Obama's presidency they had the odds stacked against them because Congress was not controlled by the Democratic party.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World; Wilson and Lodge

by [Joe Kiefer](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:44 PM

It seems that I fall into the mild reservationist category, while I believe that we have a large role to play in the world, mostly to fight for justice of nations that cannot defend themselves or to secure peoples human rights, I do not feel that we should be there to pick up the pieces afterword, meaning we should not be nation building. With this mind, I would have given President Wilson the advice not to give into the other allies demands of punishing the Germans as harshly as we did, because that didn't work out to well. That was probably the single biggest reason Hitler was able to generate so much popularity, punishing the German's into poverty and chaos, with no way to stop someone like him. The second point I would have stressed to Wilson would have been to compromise Henry Cabot Lodge on the League of Nations, which would have probably gotten the Treaty of Versailles ratified by the Senate. In the textbook it said, "Wilson had won approval of the most important of his fourteen points – that which called for the creation of the League of Nations.(pg.765 textbook) What good did it do to get "the allies including the United States to sign the treaty of Versailles (pg.765 textbook) if he could not get it ratified by the Senate? If Wilson had compromised with Lodge on the League of Nations I would imagine it would have looked more like the United Nations which would have gotten more support form Lodge as his main stitching point to the League was it's ability to get the United States into a war without the consent of Congress. "Wilsons concept of a League of Nations that would obligate the United States to fight future wars without the consent of Congress violated Lodge's belief that the use of force should spring from the united will of the American People.(end of the 8th paragraph Lodge article) If Wilson had compromised on the League I think he could have gotten some more support here at home for some of his other

points that he gave up to get the League included in the treaty and possibly ratified by the Senate. Like I stated earlier, in hindsight the harsh treatment of Germany at the war with the reparations, the limitations on their military, and the severe economic conditions that resulted from the destruction and splitting of the country was probably the perfect scenario for the rise of Hitler, someone promising to restore the glory and dignity of the country and people of Germany. Today, we have many of the same problems between the branches of government, where neither of the branches work together unless one party has control of both branches and that still doesn't mean they will work together. Compromise usually results in the best legislation, because that usually means that you have a solid majority of votes and will of the electorate, but this rarely ever happens anymore.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Patryce Miller](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:53 PM

Part 1:

I am still a limited internationalist even while considering the foreign policy faction terminology and statements that are given. For example, "

Limited Internationalist Positions

- The combined pressure of the world's nations will prevent the unlikely possibility that the U.S. could be forced into a war against its will" (statements that members of the factions would have made in 1918).

I agree with if I was at that time with no knowledge of the future. I still agree with a little bit at this time. So if I was one of President Willson advise in1918 I would advise him to not do his the treaty of Versailles, but to "amend the treaty for a ratification".(pp 768)

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Patryce Miller](#) - Thursday, April 25, 2019, 10:56 PM

part 2:

I think that there is some similarity between President Wilson and a president in our time. President George W. Bush to me is that president. They have a similar Idea of what government has to do. For example, they both enter war we were neutral in at the beginning(Whitehouse.gov). The way they applied their ideas were different President George W. Bush wouldn't change their idea while President Wilson would (Comparing Wilson and Bush video). Even so, I think President Wilson idea on foreign affairs would be a little more excepted Reservationists I am not too sure about Irreconcilables in our time. I am basing it off our class poll on foreign police we just took. Most of our classmate ends up as a mild Reservationist(poll from HST 203). So that why I said we will be a little more excepting about his idea on foreign policy because they're more open mind about these policies. I am not in that group I land in the limited Internationalist because I believe that we should help out on some foreign matter but only it directly involves us or could harm the whole world like WW1 & 2. Right now we should focus inward trying lower our debt as a Nation and fix our problems that fall under the government job description and only help foreign nation when it is really needed. We put our trust in the government at stake because the will argue at each other about these policies without really agreeing with each other at the end most of the time.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Lily Teague](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 8:22 PM

Yes I agree, I think that it is crucial to our own prosperity to prioritize our nations well being, and resolve issues like our gargantuan debt. But I also feel that as a world power it is our responsibility to assist countries whose governments have failed. However, I do not believe that we have the right to force democracy on them, instead, I think that they should be able to organize them in a way that they see fit.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Patryce Miller](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11:30 AM

part 3:

These videos and article don't change my opinion on foreign policies. I mostly agree with Ron Paul when he said need to get our forces back home or out of other countries (Ron Paul interview video). If we are losing more lives than saving them then what are we doing over there? The Republican candidates in 2008 Paul have more common with Henery Cabot lodge while

Keyes and McCain have more in common with President Wilson. Paul and Lodge both don't what to be peacekeeper to the world (Paul interview video and study.com henry lodges politics foreign policy during WWI). Keyes and McCain agree with Wilson being the peacekeeper to the world (video Alan Keyes on Darfur and John McCain on WW 2). I really don't see any difference or similarity in 1918 or today except that president Trump is having problem with Congress just like President Wilson was having in 1918. What is your opinion on it?

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Lily Teague](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 12:46 PM

It is interesting that Alan Keyes and John McCain have more in common with Wilson, Becuase they are both Republicans. Whereas President Wilson was a Democrat/Progressive.

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To Intervene or not to Intervene
by [Kate Adkisson](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:54 PM

In the video clips provided, cases are made for intervention and non-intervention. One clip shows an interview with Ron Paul. In it, he explains why he believes we shouldn't be the world's policeman, and makes the case for non-intervention. Off the bat, the man interviewing him remarks, "We're wise, powerful. Isn't it our responsibility to help others in that way?" (Ron Paul clip, 0:15 minute mark). This question shines light onto what Americans now, and in the past, think about what this country is. We are wise, wiser than all the other nations. We are powerful, one of the most powerful on earth. Shouldn't we help those poor, uncivilized countries become great like us? Ron Paul answers this initial question by saying that on a personal level, we can feel a responsibility to help others struggling. But on a national level, trying to spread democracy or "our goodness" doesn't always work, and has unintended consequences. "We're spreading our goodness in Iraq, we can't do that without dropping bombs and killing a lot of people" (Paul clip, 0:45 minute mark). When asked if he believes war is ever justifiable, Paul answers that only when attacked is it justifiable. That means that American involvement in World War II was okay in his eyes because of Pearl Harbor and that the invasion of Afghanistan to find Bin Laden after 9/11 was justified, however, the occupation and attempt at transformation were not. He then goes on the say that the Korean War, the Vietnam war, and the first Iraq war were not justified, as they were not our business. But what about genocide? Shouldn't we step in when a country is committing atrocities? He rebukes, "You can't use force of arms to invade other countries to make them better people, our job is to make us a better people" (Paul clip, 3:02 minute mark). The interviewer then brings up that if we don't attack there, they'll attack us here. This made me think of Vietnam, and how some tried to rationalize the war by saying that if they didn't defeat communism there, communism and its evils would make their way to neighboring nations and eventually to the homeland. Paul explains that invading countries and angering them will only create more radicals, and more instability, as our occupation or attacks, are propaganda to these peoples. Our involvement in overseas affairs motivates the people that are negatively impacted to negatively impact our country, which I think is sound logic. Paul later gives two important reasons why we can't be the world's policemen, and why we need to pull troops out of territories. For one, we don't have the authority under the constitution to put troops in foreign countries when we're not at war. Secondly, we don't have the money to keep spreading ourselves out as we have been. To summarize Paul's argument on why we should be non-interventionists, Paul argues that it is not our business unless we are directly attacked, spreading democracy or goodness doesn't always work and has unintended consequences, our involvement in overseas affairs helps radicalize the populations, and we don't have the authority or money to keep putting troops in foreign lands. Paul ends on an interesting note. He says, " (The Soviets) had nuclear weapons there. But we were able to talk to them. We took our missiles out of Turkey, they took their missiles out of Cuba..we should be talking to people like this. But we didn't invade them in order to get rid of those weapons. It's the lack of diplomacy that is the greatest threat, not the weapons themselves" (Paul clips, 6:47 minute mark). That last sentence he said regarding the threat of lack of diplomacy I feel really hit the nail on the head.

The next clip focuses on Alan Keyes, who argues for American intervention in Sudan due to an ongoing genocide. He replies to Ron Paul's argument of non-intervention by explaining that America is a diverse nation of people from all over the world, and that to ignore the rest of the world and to "retreat into some kind of fortress America and forget who we are" appalls him (Keyes clip, 0:40). What I find interesting is that he felt that we didn't need to send troops in order to get involved in this issue, but that we "need to support and reinforce the sense of local, regional responsibility for both humanitarian and military order" (Keyes clip, 1:09). This sentence sort of confuses me, as I

don't know how a country reinforces that sort of responsibility. In short, Keyes' argument for intervention is that we are a nation of different nationalities, and to turn our back on international issues is to turn our back on Americans. To not intervene is to be isolated.

Finally, in the John McCain clip, McCain makes the case for intervention by saying right off the bat that American isolationism caused World War II by allowing Hitler to come to power. Ron Paul fires back that McCain doesn't understand the difference between isolationism and interventionism. "I'm not an isolationist, I want to trade with people, talk with people, travel, but I don't want to send our troops overseas using force to tell them how to live. We would object to it here, and they're going to object to us over there" (McCain vs Paul clip, 1:36). While Paul didn't confront the issue of WWII, that if we had intervened Hitler wouldn't have come to power, I believe he answered back thoughtfully and once again hit the nail right on the head. Not wanting to intervene or send troops overseas does not equate wanting to isolate our country from the world.

Does America have the obligation or right to be the world's policeman? Why do we feel the need to spread democracy, or make the world safe for democracy? Is it out of good intentions, or is there something going on in the background that the average American is oblivious to? I have wrestled with these questions for a couple of years now. As American children, we are taught that our country is one of the best and that we are "the good guys". We fight the bad guys and make the world a better place. Only later as we grow up do we learn about some of the iffy things our country has done in the past. As we mature, we learn the real reasons why our country goes to war, or why we invade faraway lands. As I've grown older, I think I have shifted away from believing that America should be the world's policeman and that spreading democracy or our goodness is what the world needs. After watching the video clips provided, I think I agree more with what Ron Paul has to say about our role on the global scale. But at the same time, I am still struggling with the atrocities of the world, and if we should intervene since we have the power to. Is it our responsibility as human beings, or as a nation, to end these horrors? Or is it the responsibility of that place itself to end issues such as genocide?

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Re: To Intervene or not to Intervene
by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11:47 PM

First off, I want to say that you have provided a good clear and extensive look into each video clip. Secondly I find myself partially agreeing with you in some aspects but also having a level of disagreement. It might be due to my younger age than most of my peers in this class or the strong sense of nationalism/patriotism that I have, but I don't find myself shifting away from believing that the United States should be one of the worlds policemen. I don't completely believe that the U.S. should go on mission to spread or force democracy to other nations but I do believe that it is our duty to help keep the peace of the world, not only to foster new/old allies but to also protect the integrity of our nation.

However, I am not naive or stupid to not think that as a nation we are always in the right. We have our own issues/problems internally and get involved in the conflicts of other nations that we don't necessarily have anything to do with. Now I want to make it clear that I am against war due to all the death and destruction it brings, but it has also pulled the U.S. out of economic crisis many times(WW1, WW2). By taking a role in those wars by providing weapons, vehicles, foodstuff, ammunition, and later on manpower we secured and strengthened our own economy. I believe that the U.S. has good intentions in foreign affairs overall, but also is thinking mostly of itself at the same time. I don't think this is a bad thing, since it is the duty of every nation to protect and help provide for its people.

Though it might not always seem like it, the U.S. government and the freedoms given are pretty good and I say this coming from an immigrant family. My parents are from South Africa and I am a first generation American. There is plenty of racial and religious prejudice within the United States but I feel pretty confident of admitting that I am a Christian without fearing of being imprisoned during this day and age in the U.S. I can't say that I would feel the same way in many Middle Eastern nations, where there isn't any religious freedom. So my view my be slightly biased but I would feel better if I could worship my God anywhere in the world without fear of being executed and if the way to accomplish that to an extent is by the U.S. "spreading democracy/our goodness" then that is something I would support.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 10:44 PM

The majority of my classmates/peers are in the mild reservationist point of view, while I myself am in the limited internationalist category. I do believe that the United States must put its own integrity and stability at the forefront but I believe that to do so we need to take a level of involvement in the world policies/affairs. Todays students do seem to reflect the same opinion of those in the 1918 (reservationist). I believe that the United States has to know what is going on in the world and have an active role in it to continue its success or even improve. By focusing not just own ourselves we can create allies and progress hands of friendships towards, creating opportunities to grow our economy. By knowing what is happening in the world and having an active role in it we will also be able to see many of the threats(terrorists, rogue nations, weapons of war) to our country and get the chance to face them head on possibly with allies by our sides.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Lily Teague](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 8:18 PM

That is a good point, I didn't really think about how international involvement can positively affect our own countries growth. Not only economically, but also possibly as positive power that helps struggling countries and ultimately helps people in need. I think that that is a great thing for a nation to aspire to. However, I believe that the United States should also pay close attention to its own current events. For example, I think we should make decreasing our nation's debt more of a priority. But also help countries whos governments have failed to provide from them.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 11:07 PM

I agree with you that the United States should pay close attention to its own current events/problems. Decreasing our nation's debt as well as removing health care fraud should be our nations top priorities. Like I said in my previous post, I do believe that the United States should take some role in the affairs/problems of the world. Our nation should help governments/countries that have failed to provide for their people or are failing, but also in investment opportunities that can bolster our own economy. By helping other countries with crisis's they face our nation gets the possibility of in the event of a crisis receiving aid from the allies we have made.

However I also have a very strong sense of patriotism and nationalism. I believe that we as a nation must always have our own interests in mind regardless of who we are helping. I don't mean that we shouldn't want to help other nations but that we also need to keep our own integrity in mind at all times. We can't forget of all the opposition that our nation faces, whether from other countries/nations, terrorist cells, even small groups of people and the actions they take. We need to face all threats both foreign and internal head on. While I do fully believe that our country is a great one, I also know that there are many issues/problems that plague our nation. The way to fix these problems isn't by closing our selves off from the rest of the world but by playing a role in it while still placing our own nation's interests and integrity at the forefront of our priorities.

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2008 Republican Candidates, Wilson, And Lodge

by [Kate Adkisson](#) - Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 8:29 PM

When comparing the Republican candidates of 2008 to Woodrow Wilson, I would say that the candidates who were most similar to him would be John McCain and Alan Keyes. Through the readings provided and articles linked, I know that Woodrow Wilson advocated for the spread of democracy, capitalism, self-determination of peoples, and favored intervention in international affairs (Wilsonianism Wikipedia). These ideals were touched upon when Wilson appeared in front of Congress to make his case for why the U.S had to enter the war. He says, “ We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free” (Textbook p. 620). Comparing Wilson to McCain, I would say that the two are similar due to them both being interventionalists. In the clip provided that features McCain, he argues that the reason Hitler rose to power was due to U.S non-intervention. This sounds similar to Wilson’s case for why the U.S needed to enter

WWI. Wilson justifies intervention by saying, “the world must be made safe for democracy” (Textbook p.620). By not intervening earlier in WW2, McCain argues that the world was not made safe for democracy, and in fact, gave rise to a dictatorship instead.

When comparing Alan Keyes and Wilson, we see that Keyes and Wilson shared the ideals of non-isolationism. In the Keyes vs Paul clip, Keyes voices his disagreement with an isolated America who doesn’t intervene in other countries’ issues, and in this case, the issue was a genocide.

The Republican candidate who has some things common with Henry Cabot Lodge but not most would be Ron Paul. Ron Paul believes in non-intervention in international issues as a nation, pulling American troops out of foreign countries, and not entering wars that were not caused by an attack on American soil. The difference between Paul and Lodge is that Lodge was “a strong advocate of American involvement in worlds’ affairs” (So Henry Cabot Lodge Was One of History’s Villains article), however, Lodge also believed that “the use of force should spring from the united will of the American people” (Villain article), and that we shouldn’t enter wars without consent of Congress. Though Lodge shares similar views on American involvement in other countries with McCain and Keyes, he shares the view of not involving the U.S in “ a unjust or illadvised war” (Textbook p. 633) with Paul.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World, Part #3, Non-Intervention as a Foreign Policy

by [Joe Kiefer](#) - Thursday, April 25, 2019, 1:36 PM

In this post I wanted to discuss the foreign policy issue and look at the policies of the elected officials of today. Let’s start with some of the stances that candidates of today are endorsing. Ron Paul denies being an isolationist but does not want to use and military abroad, but rather just in case of national defense only. He stated, in the interview of him, “you can’t use force of arms to invade other countries to make them better people.” (7:25 into the Ron Paul interview). This sounds like an isolationist point of view to me, at least in terms of military use. Although, he does say that he wants to work with other Countries in areas of trade and have good relationships with them. I do think that this could have some unintended consequences though, we are one of the few countries in the world that can be a force for good in the world and change things for the better, but wee have not always done this. John McCain is no isolationist, he has no problem using American military power to fight for good in this world, although, he also thinks that we also need to push democracy on these nations as well, largely referred to as nation-building. This policy never seems to go as planned, take Iraq and Afghanistan as a point of fact. McCain believed that isolationism was a main cause of WWII, (:12 into McCain vs. Paul video). My belief is that we can and should help other democracies when we are asked or to stop gross human rights abuses from being perpetrated. But we cannot be continuing policies of nation building since they never work out very well anyway, it cost us to much blood and treasure that rarely ever yield positive returns. Which is why I like this stance of President Trump, no nation building! He also thinks that if country wants our help, they should help share our cost that we incur while coming to help them. To President Trump, financial implications are a big deal (four foreign policy article), which makes sense for a person that comes from a business background. I believe that we should be using our treasure to take care of all the people here at home, as we have some big problems here that need some immediate attention. I basically fall into the mild reservationist category from the class poll, which is where most of the class fell into.

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Today's Internationalism vs Isolationism

by [Alexander Marx](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 11:43 PM

The debate of foreign policy has arguably never been more important in today's age of technological advancement and ease of information sharing. Interesting points were brought up in all of the videos displayed, and I find myself heavily in agreement with most of Ron Paul's ideas on the matter. I hold the belief that constant intervention in matters related only indirectly to the United States can lead to “unintended consequences”, as Paul stated in the video interview. Whatever the goal is when becoming entangled in foreign affairs having to do with civil and international disputes between countries other than ourselves, there will be resentment and potentially more conflict as seen in the Philippines after the Spanish-American War. While times were different then and things seemed to be more of a matter of imperialism and a desire for expansion, there often seem to be similar incentives when getting involved in foreign affairs that do not directly relate to national security and are more a matter of economic gain. Paul brings up the cost of having military bases and troops all over the world and makes a good point of the dangers of spreading ourselves too thin. The cost of this in my opinion outweighs the benefit, and prevents us from being able to focus more attention on ourselves as a nation and hinders our ability for self

improvement which should be a priority over policing the world. Paul can be related to Wilson in that he believes in staying out of conflict unless extreme threat is posed or we are attacked first, which he relates to and supports our involvement in World War II and denounces several other conflicts.

We should defend our country at all costs, but I do not believe that means we should take extreme preventative measures at the cost of relations and peace. In the Republican Primary debate, John McCain makes the point of Hitler coming to power and that it was due to isolationist policies and implies it could have been prevented. While I see where he is coming from, we are living in very different times and with the ease of communication and potential reaction time for threats between countries I do not believe the same risk poses itself today. McCain then closes with support for the troops and their desire to “let us win,” and I understand that it's all in good politics to garner support from groups with statements like these but it was confusing for me in regards to the Iraq War. Let us win what? It seemed like he was chalking it up to a matter of pride for the military which is an absurd notion. Alan Keyes makes an argument of morals in his debate with Paul, stating that when there's someone in another country suffering, there's someone grieving in the United States. Our country is built upon many cultures and peoples and humans are empathetic by nature, so as a whole we certainly don't wish to see injustice and suffering in the world. However, when it comes to spending our resources on our own people versus things that “aren't our problem” the matter is simple, albeit somewhat grim to think about. Our priorities should be the well being and protection of our nation and it's peoples, and the suffering within should be addressed first and foremost.

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How Much Should We Intervene?
by [Zach Edmiston](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:37 PM

To start, I decided to mostly focus this forum post on Part 3 of this section, and the idea and concept of having an isolationist or internationalist country, and the benefits and side effects of both. I find myself overall after using all of our resources, most agreeing with the stance of Ron Paul (not fully), and I find myself to be quite isolationist in general, and as said in the interview, (3:00- 3:09) I do not believe that we have the right as a nation to use the force of arms to push our ideals and our democracy upon other countries; despite us viewing ourselves as a member of the ‘world police’ as i’m sure that some countries do not view our democracy as something that is desirable, despite us seeing it as the ultime and pinnacle of governmental systems, and as long as they aren’t being violent toward their people I feel that is their right as well.

However, I do disagree with some points of what he is saying too, and especially disagree with the concept of leaving other countries with travesties are going on, and I think that I lean a lot more towards Keyes in policing world events that have to deal with especially deplorable actions, such as genocide and mass violence against nations or peoples that have not made any aggression towards them; however I do not know whether I believe that the US should be throwing our weight around for every diplomatic dispute, or even the mistreatment of citizens in a case where violence is not being brought against them. While that does sound terrible that we would leave other countries to fend for themselves, I think we need to consider the consequences that comes both to the US as a country and the world picture in general when we interfere and intervene as much as we do within the world politics.

As far as the modern (2016) elect’s and their opinion of foreign affairs, I disagree heavily with Bernie’s views of pacifism within the world, and I don’t agree with ‘undoing the work of US imperialism’ not to say that I agree with what happened during those times and that I am backing the US being imperialist, just that if the acts are already done, we must stay strong as a nation and not show any form of weakness or withdrawing our stances on issues. Clinton’s view of “humanitarian interventionism” is something that is viewed as an overwhelming failure, and that partly related to the point I made about the US tossing its weight around in world politics, and how I believe that often times there are unintended consequences. I do believe in stepping into countries with military might that are committing the most serious human rights violations. Cruz makes a decent argument following the inspiration of Ronald Reagan, but I believe that he goes about it in too heavy handed of a way, and that turns me away from the cause with terms of ‘carpet bombing’ despite the likely metaphor.

Trump’s view is obviously very unique in its own aspect; and while I do find that I agree with a mixture of Trump and Cinton’s views the most, I only side myself with certain aspects of each. The idea of making America much more wealthy and influential appeals to me very much, but the concept of treating nations like businesses really is something that I disagree with. Clinton’s eagerness to step in and help countries with suffering people is something

that while it goes against my semi-isolationist nature, but that I agree with personally; however the process must be improved and built upon, as clearly there needs to be some form of changes to avoid another disastrous result. My ideal foreign policy would be aiming for attaining wealth for the country such as Trump proposes, with Clinton’s willingness to (in severe cases) police some of the most atrocious situations of the planet, with Paul’s ability to step back and let other countries deal with their own issues; as long as violence isn’t occurring, I believe that all countries should for the most part account for themselves and their own people and actions.

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Foreign Policy Factions
by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:49 PM

While reading further into the definitions of the terms on the spectrum of the foreign policy factions, I would say I would fall on the spectrum as a strong reservationist. I took this position due to agreeing with some of the many amendments Henry Cabot Lodge's made to Woodrow Wilson's Treaty of Versailles. The amendments I agreed with are stated in our textbook, it states, "participation in the league not diminish the role of Congress in determining foreign policy, compromise American sovereignty, or involve the United States in an unjust or ill-advised war" (pg. 768). I believe this position is a justified amendment to the Treaty of Versailles because it allows the United States to keep control over our own country's future decisions in any foreign policy. Although I agreed with these views, I don't necessarily agree with Lodge's intentions of trying to stop ratifying the treaty because I believe that without the United States involvement in the League of Nations, the different country's were unable to prevent the events that drove the world into WWII.

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Advising President Wilson
by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11:41 PM

Knowing what I know today there are a few things I would advise President on in 1918 during his attempt at convincing the Senate to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. With Wilson knowing that it would be hard to convince them to ratify due to Republicans gaining the majority in 1918, I would have advised the President to be more willing to compromise with Republicans (pg. 766 in textbook). The big picture, entering the League of Nations, should have been more than enough of an incentive for the President to make minor adjustments to the Treaty. Having the United States apart of the "International Parliament and Judiciary" (pg. 765) would have still been putting the future needs of our Country's first by also putting the world's needs first. In our textbook the author's state, "Many Republicans were prepared to vote for ratifications if Wilson indicated his willingness to accept some of the proposed amendments" (pg. 768). When President Wilson refused to compromise, I believe it set in motion the beginning of his demise. I would have advised Wilson to not go through with cross-country tour and to compromise with the Republicans. If President Wilson had made the alterations to the Treaty and had not participated in a very rigorous tour, I believe he would have never suffered the stroke that ended up making his "emotions unstable" and ultimately making him a "invalid" for the rest of his term of Presidency (pg. 768). It's unfortunate that someone was unable to have the knowledge that we have now of future events that happened due to not having the U.S. involvement in the League of Nations. If the President was more open to suggestions and the Republicans of the Senate like, Henry Cabot Lodge, were able to come up with a compromise, maybe the outcome of Germany being punished and the rise of Hitler would have been diminished and the world wouldn't have suffered as much as it did.

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