

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.

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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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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [DAVID Welshman](#) - Sunday, April 21, 2019, 8:32 AM

fMost of the class has not responded to the poll as of yet. the few that have were mild Reservationist. My view is that if we see a country mistreating its people or if it is takin power to threaten nations into a world war we should intervene.

Wilisonism is a foolish though that Obama also seemed to think and act like. He took it upon himself to do things that the congress was not in agreement with most of the time. He has a total disregard for what the American people needed. He looked very foolish when he was talking foreign policy with other nations. We need to respect other nations as we want them to respect us. As a president you should put the nation first. We cannot have an indecisive leader such as Wilson or Obama in office. There lack of taking a stand is a threat to America.

Bush I know did take a stand for the wars we had because we as Americans were attached on 9-11. This was something we had to go to war for because we needed too show the world that no terrisort attacks would be allowed in America or around the world. Many people died and this time in history will never be forgotten. as the world has evolved so has the need to not be weak on foreign policy. Wars are not fun, but a necessary part of being a nation that has to stand for those countries in need of help to defend freedom and democracy. Wilsonism is not going to work to help these countries.

Lodge view is one I believe we must be part of the world of nations and when necessary act independently as a nation in times that require us to defend our own freedoms. His belief is how and why President Bush acted during the Iraq and Afghan wars. Both President Bush and his Father did what was necessary to protect the people of

those countries and to defend America. The proof is the other nations our partners supported us during these wars and fight beside us, in the name of freedom.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Zachary Oswald](#) - Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 6:42 PM

I believe that Obama was similar to Wilson, but I believe that Bush was too. Bush got us into Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama kept our troops in Afghanistan and involved the country in Libya, Yemen, Somalia, and Syria. We also saw our troops go back to Iraq because the third time's the charm. Both Bush and Obama were fans of interventionism and using military power. Obama was characterized as being more diplomatic, but Bush was entirely willing to use diplomacy as well. The main difference, which makes Obama more similar to Wilson, is that Congress was controlled by the opposition for most of Obama's presidency.

I believe that you're overstating the difference between Obama and Bush's foreign policies. Obama held similar inclinations as Bush, he was just a worse cheerleader for war. Bush could be decisive because in the post 9/11 atmosphere the entire country supported war and him. Obama, on the other hand, attempted to do similar things but didn't have the domestic support to achieve his goals. The difference between Bush and Obama's foreign policy isn't in the presidents, it's in the congresses.

Like Wilson, Obama faced a hostile Congress. Roosevelt's statement, "The world will notice that Wilson has no authority to speak for America," could have applied to Obama as well (lecture notes). It makes sense that both men would push for more authority in foreign affairs, though that involves greatly reducing congressional power.

Most of our classmates placed themselves in the mild reservationist to strong internationalist camps. I suspect that the difference between students of today and the public during WW1, is that students today have been fed the propaganda that forever wars are good and climate change can only be dealt with by international cooperation, leading to a shift towards internationalism on both sides of the political spectrum.

I'm pretty skeptical that war is the best method for foreign policy or that avoiding war is "weak." The Iraq war lead to millions of Iraqis dying and the creation of Isis, the Taliban has barely weakened in a decade, Libya now has open slave markets, and the war in Yemen will be referred to as a genocide in future history books. War makes a president seem strong and decisive but how many people need to die for America's ego?

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [DAVID Welshman](#) - Thursday, April 25, 2019, 10:34 AM

ISIS was not formed by the killings of Iraq's. ISIS was formed back in 2004 under Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. After the second battle of Falluja, Zarqawi was killed his followers "ISIS" went into hiding and waited until the U.S troops pulled out of Iraq. Bush told Obama that pulling troops out of the country would destabilize the region. There policy's were completely different. I fought in the war, there wasn't anything when I was growing up as a kid saying that long wars are good or bad. So idk where you got your information from on that. The reason so many Iraq's were killed is because the didn't wear uniforms, they wore regular clothing and face masks and forced there people to conduct suicide attacks against NATO troops. The United States was not the only country in Iraq and Afghanistan. I've been trying to post links and videos but my computer wont let me. I think what's wrong is people watch CNN and believe what they hear instead of actually doing the research to find the real truth. Luckily I have had the opportunity to have served in the military and go to war for this country. So I have seen first hand what it is really like and what those groups do. I will post links as soon as I figure out how

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Zachary Oswald](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 10:45 PM

I'm also a veteran and I'm well aware of how complex, messy, and difficult our involvements in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia are. The throughline from our invasion of Iraq is the complete destabilization of the country, our subsequent failures at nation-building that unleashed sectarian violence, and our decision to leave Iraq with an anemic and barely functional military.

I find Ron Paul's arguments in his ABC interview to be incredibly compelling. He rightly makes the points that we don't have the constitutional authority for most of our recent wars, such as Yemen, Libya, and Somalia (ron paul ABC interview). Also, I'm not sure what moral authority or reason we have to involve ourselves in civil wars like Libya, or proxy wars between regional powers such as the war in Yemen. Diplomacy is a safer and more effective option, war is far more unpredictable than politicians seem to realize. The point isn't to abnegate our responsibility around the world, it's to recognize that, the majority of the time, war is a losing game. It's a similar position to the one that Wilson held before the United States entered WW1, a desire to avoid entanglement and trade with everyone.

My reference to the forever wars is based on the fact that we've been engaged in a constant war for 18 years. We now have soldiers stationed in Afghanistan who've never lived in a world where we weren't occupying that country. The fact that we have no exit plan or victory conditions in that country are more disturbing. Given that there's no public controversy or outcry over our continued occupation, I expect we'll be in Afghanistan for another 18 years. I don't personally believe that it's possible for a nation to spend such a long time at war without becoming blase to war declarations. Proof of this comes from Yemen and Somalia, where we've engaged in undeclared wars without public commentary or concern. A recent poll found that a third of Americans didn't even know we're at war in Yemen. Our values have certainly changed in the post 9/11 era, I think we're in an age that can be rightly characterized as including "forever wars."

Here's a link describing the poll on American's opinions and lack of knowledge about Yemen
<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/larison/poll-most-americans-oppose-u-s-support-for-the-war-on-yemen/>

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [DAVID Welshman](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 12:30 PM

First I would like to ask what branch you "served" in. Second we never had troops in Yemen or Libya. What we did have was CIA and Contractors and Embassies. We are the only country that goes al over the world and helps regardless if its a war or a earthquake hurricane volcano etc. no other countries get called but the united states. I find it hard that your saying your a "vet" that you call it a forever war. The reason we its still going on is because of the Obama office. if he listened and not pulled troops out and actually have Hillary answer her cell phone for the Benghazi incentadent, Isis would have been crushed right then and there. As for Somalia we were there I 1992 to 1994, to help the United Nations, who where there to help the millions of people starving. Yemen we do not have troops on the ground. we supply the forces fighting for freedom and independence. That's why every other country that wants freedom or just needs help they call the United States.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Adam Moore](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 4:01 PM

First, I would like to say I am not a veteran and my opinion holds the same weight as yours. Not all veterans have the exact same mindsets, so it is ok if you two have differing views. I would also like to point out that Obama and Bush where horrible presidents and decimated our constitutional rights. If we review history, we see that Wilson knew this about our country.

“A few days before his speech to Congress, he had confided to a journalist his worry that the American people, once at war, will “forget there ever was such a thing as tolerance. To fight you must be brutal and ruthless, and the spirit of ruthless brutality will enter into the very fiber of our national life, infecting Congress, the courts, the policeman on the beat, the man in the street.” (textbook page 752)

President Bush was able to pass the patriot act through congress which removed a plethora of our Rights and Obama continued that sentiment by bolstering the over reach of NDAA allowing for the president to effectively sign a person’s death warrant, no trial, or jury, just a man with a pen. The reason

these two presidents where able to behave in such a fashion is because we have been in a continual war and as W.W. said we forget who we are when we are at war. We have forgotten what our constitution protects.

I think to compare Obama or Bush to Wilson is compromising his idealistic view of the world. Obama dropped bombs on more countries than we have in years, Bush waged wars some just, others just because. Ron Paul says it best" Under the constitution we do not have the authority to just put troops in foreign countries willy nilly, and we are not at war." Both Obama and Bush have gone to war without the consent of our congress. Dropping bombs our sending drones to strike at other nations is an act of war and should have to be approved by congress before they are done.

Ron Paul is much closer to Woodrow Wilson than either president Bush or Obama. He may not have been president but as far as leadership in America today he is a better representation of Wilson.

The argument of Obama facing a hostile congress like Wilson is not exactly true to the times. Before WW I that was the case but once the United States was in total war Wilson got his way in most areas, only after the war was over did a senator speak out against him.

I will agree that today many more people today are internationalist, however I find myself as a mild reservationist.

The US does not need to be the police of the world and would greatly benefit from a more Ron Paul esc stance on foreign policy.

The fact that neither of you really looked at the constitutionality of the question is rather telling. We have been at war so long we are going blind to the ideals of America. I think this may also be a reason why our latest presidential election was so volatile. War has engulfed us and to echo Woodrow Wilson the brutality has entered our very fibers. We have seen in our own time how the UN and NATO can conflict with our constitution. If we take a full-fledged internationalistic view, then our constitution gets in the way of global harmony. I for one am glad that we are afforded so many rights in this country and would only be less reserved if the world adopted our constitution as the basis of international rights.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Dago Franck-Nathan Kouassi](#) - Sunday, April 21, 2019, 11:27 PM

part 1

Consider the foreign policy faction terminology and statements included above. How do they affect your own position on the internationalist <-----> isolationist spectrum?

Considering the terminology and statements of the foreign policy faction included above, I consider myself irreconcilable, for I endorse their view of U.S's non-ingeniousness in the foreign affairs of another nation. Fact, that I think the decision of whether punished a nation or not does not return to the US. Yes, I understand that. in the textbook "Submarine warfare in the Atlantic kept tensions high, and Germany's sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania on May 7, 1915, killed more than 120 US citizens and provoked outrage in the US In 1917, Germany's attacks on American ships and its US-Mexican relations drew the US in the war on the side of the Allies, The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. " United State has made its way to war and fight for all its people That die during the outrage in the Us in 1917. That was fair and right to us to go in war against Germany to revenge Us citizen that die during the outrage. However, all the world was victims of the first world war more than the US. because this war was not made on the American continent, no bombs were dropped on American soil no American civils lost their lives while they were at home, nobody suffers from starvation. but on the European continent, Many European civilians have lost their lives because most parts of the world war 1 had been made in their continent, country. so for that, I think that the decisions of versals or the acts that have been taken should be taken between European countries.

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The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Gregory Graff](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 11:44 AM

My position on the internationalist and isolationist spectrum will vary depending on the topic at hand. If I could give advice to Woodrow Wilson knowing what I know today I would warn him of Hitler and the events to come. I would tell him not to allow American corporations to rule Latin America and that if he truly wants other countries to become democracies of their own than he needs to let the people of that country choose their leaders with no US influence. America has stuck its nose way to far into Latin American governments and has caused nothing but chaos and corruption. America will only help others when it knows it will get something in return.

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Is the United States intervening with the rest of the world really that beneficial?

by [Alex Davis](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 1:39 PM

Obviously everyone will have their own opinions to what they think the United States should be doing. Anyways over time the United States seems to believe that they need to help when help is needed. Sometimes this is good and sometimes it's not necessary. I know the United States is considered an Imperial Power and an Imperial Power supposedly should help other nations when they need help which is good. Then there are times when the United States gets themselves in a situation where it doesn't seem necessary to be in a certain place but believing it's our duty to intervene which can be bad. Personally, I'm in the middle when it comes to helping out I just think sometimes the United States needs to take a second and really figure out if the situation is really worth it and not just saying it is because we are an Imperial Power. Is what the United States doing smart or should they take a step back and reconsider?

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Radical internationalism

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 2:27 PM

I personally find it hard to subscribe to the strong internationalist ideology because it is too radical. I know that the anti-radical nativism card has been played countless times by now but it is a recurring theme here. In the class [foreign policy opinion poll](#), for example, there were many more students in the middle of the spectrum than there were on either radical end. Wilson’s demand for a League of Nations contained items that were arguably too radical and thus faced stiff resistance. Many of the opposing arguments dealt with the aspects of the proposed League that seemed to challenge the sovereignty of the American people and that of the United States itself. “Did Americans want to authorize an international organization to decide when the United States would go to war? Was this not a violation of the Constitution, which vested war-making power solely in Congress?” (textbook p. 766)

I think Wilson would have had to take a less radical position on the League of Nations for it to be ratified. However, “He [Wilson] refused to consider any of the Republican amendments to the treaty, even after it had become clear that compromise offered the only chance of winning U.S. participation in the League of Nations.” (textbook p. 768) For the umpteenth time in American history, the radical ideology was defeated. Interestingly, according to Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., “the United Nations of today falls squarely within the limits of that [Lodge] proposition. The representatives of nations at the United Nations are ambassadors, and for the very reason that the sovereignty of their country is not compromised.” (qtd in Fleming article) Perhaps if Wilson had acquiesced to an arrangement like this, he would have been able to see his vision fulfilled in his lifetime if not during his presidency.

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

by [Zachary Oswald](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 8:47 PM

I've always understood the League of Nations as operating in roughly the same way as the United Nations, and supported the League of Nations as a result. However, reading about how much more restrictive and onerous the League is than the United Nations pushes me further toward the isolationist side. The League of Nations appears to operate more like the European Union than the United Nations, with powers of parliament, judiciary, and a trans-national army (League of Nations section from textbook). While a transnational government is often critiqued as an attack on sovereignty, I view it as an attack on democracy. A legislative body filled with appointed representatives who make binding decisions for the member states greatly reduces the power of the voter over their own life.

Regardless, the enforcement of the League's binding resolutions is terrifying. What happens should a country disagree with the League's decisions? As the Irreconcilables stated, "but in case it works for war, withdraw our cooperation? " (quotes from political factions in forum materials).

If I had a time machine and could counsel Wilson, my primary advice would be to begin with a much more modest proposal. Lodge wasn't a head in the sand isolationist, he supported a vigorous foreign policy. His rejection of the League wasn't based in any desire to avoid European entanglement, he wanted more involvement in Europe (article on Lodge from forum materials). The Republicans in Congress also seemed more concerned by Article X, which obligated the U.S. to fight in wars on behalf of the League, than anything else (textbook pg 766).

An international coordinating body would still have helped America reduce the severity of the Treaty of Versailles through diplomatic means and allow Europe to better meet Nazi aggression. Wilson should have proposed an organization based on international cooperation and diplomacy, not transnational governance. This would still achieve the aims of increasing American influence in Europe while defanging the congressional opposition's main argument against the League. Regardless of Wilson's personal goals for the League, a plan that passes Congress is typically better than one that doesn't. Rejecting the amended treaty was pure folly. An amended League of Nations with American involvement would have been much stronger than the historical result. It's telling that our textbook authors discuss Wilson's stroke as a possible cause for Wilson's rejection, his actions make no sense otherwise (textbook pg 768).

Also, should have sent a few Republican's to the Paris peace delegation, at least as tokens. This was one of the sources of Republican opposition to Wilson, and an easy one to counter (textbook pg. 766).

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 5:47 PM

I agree with you here on several points, especially that Wilson should have acquiesced to a less radical version of his League of Nations if he wanted it to be ratified. At the same time, I have to sympathize some with Wilson because he was trying to bring about his vision of world peace only to see it gutted at the Paris Peace Conference. Germany had agreed to sign the armistice if the peace treaty was based on Wilson's Fourteen Points, which I would think would give Wilson a legitimate claim to at least some credit for ending the war. (class lecture notes) However, "Wilson quickly learned that his negotiating partners' support for the Fourteen Points was much weaker than he had believed." (textbook p. 764) Wilson succeeded in some of his self-determination proposals, but "the points having to do with freedom of the seas and free trade were omitted, as were the proposals for open diplomacy and Allied disarmament." (textbook p. 765) He was able to keep the League of Nations in the treaty though, but I have to imagine that Wilson was reluctant to compromise his vision still further upon returning to Washington.

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Moving my Reservations
by [Ryan Monett](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:13 PM

In reviewing the course material, I must say I was surprised.

At first, I believed I agreed with the mild internationalist viewpoint, given the Great War and thinking that internationalist meant a possibility of preventing WWII. However, there is always a chance to change one's mind. It seems from the quotes that I have moved to the right on this issue. A reservationist approach seems more plausible, as America should not be "forced" into any war by any other country. Our Constitution makes it clear only Congress can vote to send our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and family members into war. That is something I do strongly stand by; our leaders in Congress are there to (hopefully) reflect the voices of their constituents. I would not want any war without representation and the will of the people. We cannot always trust that other countries always have our best interest in mind (often, their interests come first if not always - just as here in America). That is the way it should be. To go to war has so many unintended consequences - think Iraq, which yes was voted for sweepingly by Congress after 9/11 - which has given rise to the mess in the middle east (think ISIS, Syria, etc.) and no real victory for the soldiers who have come back broken from PTSD and lost limbs (did I mention we lost thousands in this war - the longest war in American history).

Back to the isolationist - internationalist issue: Most of our foreign entanglements have made things more complex and we must ask: did going into Vietnam help either country? How about Iraq?? WWII we most certainly had a business in entering. We must not lose sight of the horrors of war and should help and seek counsel from our allies. To allow another body other than Congress to dictate our direction is to go against what is at the core of our values and Constitution. Should we work together? Absolutely. Should we abandon our allies? Of course not. We must proceed with caution, and never rush to war unless American lives are at risk.

To be reserved is a good thing. To keep it simple, even better. To save American lives - here and abroad - is best.

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Sources:

Forum 2 materials

"The League would threaten U.S. sovereignty by requiring the U.S. to follow directions from an international body, so all decisions of the League must be considered as suggestions only."

Website: <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/1580>

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Re: Moving my Reservations

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 9:12 AM

Looking at your post and a few others in this discussion, it seems that several students (myself included) found themselves to be further to the right of the spectrum than they would have thought. What is surprising though is that the [foreign policy opinion poll](#) is still considerably left-leaning despite the apparent shift to the right. Perhaps a lot of people thought they would be more on the radical left but then decided to go for the gray area after a bit more thought.

When Wilson was trying to ratify the League of Nations treaty in the Senate, many of his opponents voiced the same concerns that you expressed above. Henry Cabot Lodge and other reservationists supported the idea of the League, but they still had objections. They wanted to ensure "that 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." (textbook p. 768) Wilson definitely fell on the far left of the spectrum, and because he didn't relinquish that position he wasn't able to get the treaty ratified.

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Foreign Policy Factions

by [Dylan Thomas](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:16 PM

Despite what I initially thought of, both sides of internationalism and isolationism seem closer together than they seem, apart of the extremist on each side. Both internationalists/reservationists were in favor of the treaty Wilson had come up with. While internationalists didn't want any changes to the treaty, or at least the majority wanted none, that isn't too far off as to the other side. Because reservationists welcomed the treaty, they were also worried about some of what it stood for. Like how after the 'war to end all wars' had just occurred, there may have been some resistance to what had just been witnessed by the whole world. Some on this side of the spectrum seemed to want to protect America, and not fully just support world peace at this time. Hostilities were still brewing after this war, so it seems somewhat fair for the U.S. to not be hesitant in faith that a treaty will last. It should stand to reason that as a country we will never always be on the same page. But what should be acknowledged the most, is whatever side the people are on, they will want this treaty to go through. Most would agree that war may be necessary at times, but not everyone all the time will want to fight others.

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Oscillation of American isolationism and International interventionists Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Jason Fitzsimmons](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:19 PM

Since the formation of the country, the United States has moved between isolationism and a policy of interventionism.

Isolationism in the US has largely affected by geography. The US is a large landmass sandwiched in-between two relatively weak and unthreatening countries of Canada and Mexico. America is also rich in resources and has the luxury of near absolute self-sufficiency at its disposal. It is also a clear advantage when the US is separated by two large Oceans from Asia and Europe, Africa. This geographical bulwark has up until the advent of long-range weapons systems left the USA with little to fear from invasion.

The country was founded by rebelling and isolating itself from the tyranny of imperialist England. During the infancy of the 13 colonies and on, sentiment by Americans was an “aloofness” about foreign affairs. Thomas Paine believed, “We have in our power, to begin the world over again” (2019, M. Macmillan). From its early formation America and the countries 1st 150 years +/- America was largely withdrawn from the rest of world and focused on internal, continental expansion and protecting American Exceptionalism. George Washington in his farewell address said” Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none or very remote relationship. Our detached and distant situation invited and enables us to pursue a different course’”. In Washington's Farewell speech he warned Americans about the dangers of entanglements and long-term or permanent foreign alliances (2019, M. Macmillan).

After a brief stint in globe hoping imperialist forays, smaller scale wars, and two world wars the USA had become a true super power and was locked in the cold war with the former USSR and fought proxy wars to hold back the tide of communism. After the fall of the Soviet Union the US has continued with mixed results to engage in military conflicts and nation building or general meddling in foreign states.

I take a cautious approach to Americas involvement in especially civil wars and wherever we are sticking our beak into to other states where our military personnel is being put at risk. I am not in agreement with complete isolationism, on the other hand the idea of the United States as world police force getting embroiled in messy actions is worse. I believe firmly that the US should always look after internal affairs firstly, shoring up our core and taking a rational approach to any international issues that may need varying degrees of involvement, Realistically the US is part of a complex world of states vying for resources and as a true super power cannot hope to live behind the walls of fortress America, My only hope is that we have the wisdom to act only when prudent and in a measured response, considering long term consequences and ensuring it is in the best interests of the American people not military contractors and corrupt politicians.

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Salvage
by [Jack Swisher](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 9:24 PM

Knowing what I know now, I would have told Wilson to salvage the treaty after Lodge fought hard to ratify it. Lodge had a lot of support behind him, and Wilson was going to have a tough time convincing the senate to ratify the Treaty of versailles. Lodge had people like the irreconcilables in his corner, they were conservative isolationists who “wanted the United States to preserve its separation from Europe.” (page 766 Ch 23) This group wanted this separation because “the self-interest displayed by England and France at the peace conference convinced this group that the Europeans were incapable of decent behavior in international matters.” (page 766 ch 23) Lodge not only had people behind him, but Lodge himself did everythig that he could to obstruct the ratification. He would pack the committee with senator that were going to oppose the treaty, he would delay action and when his committee gave their treaty to the senate, there were nearly fifty amendments. These amendments being, “participation in the league would 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.” That is when Wilson should have cut his losses, and salvaged the treaty, rather then get no treaty at all the way he would have liked. The biggest thing that sparks my interest is the war involvement with this issue. Why should America have to be involved war, like with article X? “Which gave the league the right to undertake military actions against aggressor nations.” This also would have been a subject that I would have told Wilson to re-evaluate if I was an advisor. Personally, that was probably the biggest issue that had Lodge going after Wilson.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Gabe Sorber](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 10:01 PM

One piece of advice ,knowing what i know now, would be to tell Wilson to not be so stubborn with his 14 points and allow some negotiations. In class we have really started to drive home the three strands of american Nativism. One of which is anti-radical. Wilson wanted a treaty to be ratified and to join the league. And president Wilson opposed any one who was open to just small amendments to the treaty and if they were opened to changes they were against the league. One thing I learned from the popular youtube series, "Crash Course History," was that people opposed joining the league and being involved with everything overseas, because congress didn't want to give up the ability to declare war by ourselves. I believe that had Wilson taken some changes into account, he would have been successful in his attempt in the treaty and specifically point fourteen in his fourteen points creating the league of nations. He was viewed as too radical and therefore was not given the support he was expecting from congress and the american people. I want to know if you guys think this advice would be good advice, and if this advice was implemented, would it have worked?

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:33 AM

You're absolutely right. Wilson definitely fell on the strong internationalist side of the spectrum but he was seen as too radical. "Many Republicans were prepared to vote for ratification if Wilson indicated his willingness to accept some of the proposed amendments. Wilson could have salvaged the treaty and, along with it, U.S. participation in the League of Nations, but he refused to compromise with the Republicans and announced that he would carry his case directly to the American people instead." (textbook p. 768)

If Wilson had agreed to some of the amendments, then the treaty would very likely have been ratified. In the grand scheme of things, the League of Nations continued without U.S. participation but failed to prevent World War II. As the United States was becoming a more and more powerful country, "it seems fair to suggest that American participation would have strengthened the League and improved its ability to bring a lasting peace to Europe." (textbook p. 769)

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creating a new world
by [Levi Savage](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 10:30 PM

If we as a nation and as people of this world ever hope of achieving peace and having stability in this world then certain sacrifices must be made for that world to exist. Look at the united states we are a union of 50 states that gave up their sovereignty to live together and share the same dream of becoming a unified people and to live under one banner as Americans. if the united states did not exist there would 244 nations in this world but there are only 195 that means that roughly 20% fo the nations of the world banded together to form the US. A step in creating what the united states are today is to be involved in the world and creating the UN was a vital first step for ensuring a prosperous world that could look like the US. granted I don't see this happening anytime Wilson was ahead of his time by wanting this league to form it would mean giving up some sovereignty that countries enjoy. but this is a step in the right direction this got the world thinking about the possibility of a united world that could work together to solve problems. I believe it is only a matter of time before we take real meaningfully steps in achieving this dream of a world government of some sorts will the process be slow and face opposition yes it will but with time and enough supports it will be done and may all stand as one people united behind one banner working for the betterment of humanity.

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Woodrow Wilson's Ideas Nowadays
by [Daniel Quirk](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 11:13 PM

Wilson hated ALL Trusts (monopolies) because he thought they were nothing but harmful, and our current president is very pro-monopoly. This is kind of a surprise to me but it is very clear that President Trump embraces economic nationalism. I feel like his ideas would be even less supported in the present. I saw this only because most people I personally know are against internationalism and believe we should only be concerned with local problems. The majority of the class voted for Mild Reservationist, including myself. I feel like most people would vote this nowadays because people want to come up with the most effective and efficient solutions that benefit the 'winning'

side and isn't completely immoral to the 'losing' side. The largest group of students is, in fact, the same as in 1918 and I am included in this group for reasons I have already stated. A big problem mostly all nations have is figuring out whether or not to deal with other nations problems. This is because of a lot of reasons like secret allies, is it ethical, would 'the people' be for or against it, etc.

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US Roles Part 2
by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 11:42 PM

They affect where I put myself on the spectrum because I thought I was more of a strong reservationist but I see I'm more in the moderate side. While I think we definitely should be doing what's best for the U.S. government and economy and all, I think if there was other countries being outrageous, we should step in and try to help. I only feel that way if all other options have been exhausted and we are very threatened by the country. We have homeless veterans all across America, I think that should be a bigger priority than helping immigrants runaway from their country. I would have told Wilson to sign the treaty under the condition that those other countries help America do whatever it is we needed to do to get our veterans properly clothes, fed, and housed. I would also tell him to include in there that we are only called upon as a last resort. I might have even told him to just straight up not sign it.

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Re: US Roles Part 2
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 3:53 PM

You make a good point here. However, I think Wilson also knew that for the League to achieve its intended status, it would require American participation. "No stable international order could have arisen after the First World War without the full involvement of the United States. The League of Nations required American authority and prestige in order to operate effectively as an international parliament." (textbook p. 769)

I think it also has to do with the idea that we should be a model for other nations to follow the example of, like John Winthrop's city on a hill. After all, the United States is the greatest nation on Earth. If other nations see America as reluctant to accept a leadership role in the world, what incentive do they have to be international leaders themselves?

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Foreign Policy Spectrum
by [Alexandra Lindbloom](#) - Monday, April 22, 2019, 11:45 PM

I think Wilson's ideas could maybe be a little better received today. We still have big problems in our country, though, like with people not having food or clean water. The majority of people who have voted have said they are mild reservationists. I had an idea of where I was on this spectrum, but it's made me think a bit more and I'm unsure of where exactly I land.

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Re: Foreign Policy Spectrum
by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:24 PM

Why exactly do you think they will be better received today? I've seen a couple people disagree with this but the majority agreed so I would be interested in your reasons. I agree that we definitely have some problems here in the U.S. I was expecting more people to learn towards being more internationalist since we had a majority of liberal/democratic answers in the first poll we took. Oregon is also almost always a blue state so I made an assumption which was proven wrong! I hadn't really known where I was on the scale until I just decided in order which I found things important and it matches up pretty well!

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Is the United States of America's world role to far reaching?
by [Gregory McGinnis](#) - Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 9:35 PM

I view the whole concept of Americas role as the policemen of the world to the liking of U.S. citizens loving cheap mexican labor in the U.S. but hate it because they eat up all the jobs or lower the wages for citizens of the U.S. The same thing idea I can relate to the U.S. being the "policemen of the world". Lot's of countries hate when America gets involved in other states affairs, but want our support and aid (resources, policy advisors, security technology and advisors, and so on). The Mild Reservationist position for me sums it up fairly well in that; if there is not order (in this case the policemen U.S. providing security) throughout the world, there will eventually be a state which will push its will upon a less powerful state and take from it.

If I was an advisor to President Woodrow Wilson, I would have simply said, stay out of the affairs of other countries, unless the interests of the U.S. were being affected, in which case, make sure you subdue the threat swiftly and make an example of that threat, so as to show the other states that getting out of line within the world view (eyes of all countries looking) and how to operate civilly, trade, grow economically, with the rest of the other players (states). The treaty of Versailles 28 June 1919 shows just how difficult and interconnected the relationships of European nations were, and how one thing could cause a domino effect which would in-turn lead to WWI (Assassination of ArchDuke Franz Ferdinand). Due to legal agreements between countries, (G.B, U.S. France) the U.S. was essentially obligated to take action against Germany.

The League of Nations, I believe the U.S. was smart to stay out of the agreement which is presented. I say that because I believe it would have hindered the economic growth of the U.S. more so if it was a member of that agreement and the terms within that agreement, because it would have been obligated to provide aid (security, economic, agricultural) resources to any country in the League of Nations if in need. That would in-turn slowed the growth of the U.S. in my view substantially due to the already hindered agriculture/economy of the U.S. after WWI, as described in pg. 797 in the history book we use in class, when it talks about immigrants coming in droves before and after the war, especially when they were not really needed. Pg. 792 also states that foreign demands for farm products significantly increased during WWI and when the war ended the over supply of those products hurt the U.S. economy and farmers alike. The rise of tractor use in farming operations also made the prices of produce fall drastically, which essentially put farmers who were in high demand during the war, out of work after the war and made many start looking for a new job in the urban areas of America.

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Wilson different from Trump

by [Jack Swisher](#) - Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 3:46 PM

Personally I think Mitch McConnell compares Obama to Wilson by saying he is audacious is crazy. Audacious means bold risks, and what bold risks did Wilson take? Wilson wanted America out of world war one for some time. I think that Wilson’s 14 points are good examples of how he is actually not audacious, and that his 14 points are just ways to create peace. “The Fourteen Points speech of President [Woodrow Wilson](#) was an address delivered before a joint meeting of Congress on January 8, 1918, during which Wilson outlined his vision for a stable, long-lasting peace in Europe, the Americas and the rest of the world.” (history.com) Looking at Wilson’s presidency and Trump today, I can find some big differences. Especially with immigration, “Wilson took a clear stand against the anti-immigrant sentiment that arose in the US during World War I, directed toward war refugees from Europe in particular. When the US Congress passed a law in 1917 that limited immigration, Wilson vetoed it.” (dw.com) We all know Trump's opinion on immigrants! “He also wants to [restrict legal immigration to the US](#), and reduce the number of refugees the country takes in to a historic low.” (dw.com on Trump) The second biggest reason that Wilson and Trump are so unlike has to do with foreign relations. Wilson believed in a multilateral foreign policy based on cooperation. He thought that the United States could not do it alone, that it would be a job for the entire world. “His plan for a League of Nations would provide the framework for this cooperative, international political organization. Wilson wanted to create an organization in which action could be taken only if all the members agreed.” (dw.com) Trump however, does not have the same view as Wilson. Here is why, “Since Trump's inauguration in January 2017, the US has already pulled out of numerous treaties sanctioned by the United Nations and has withdrawn from several UN organizations.” (dw.com) Trump wants to do this job alone in the world with no help.

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by [Dago Franck-Nathan Kouassi](#) - Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 9:16 PM

Where are most of your classmates (who answered the Moodle Foreign Policy Survey)? The largest group of students today is it the largest group (Reservists) of 1918? Are you in this group? Why or why not? According to Poll Poll, the majority of the class is on the side of "mild reservation" more numerous than the people of the "strong reservist" I put myself of those of the "mild reservation" because I think that the idea of Woodrow Wilson of the United States joined the League of Nations was a failure at that time because many people and groups of politicians, thought a lot about the interest that the US could or not have . Also at the same time, after the war, the US encountered an economic problem, had to think about how to pay back debts, for that there was an increase in the taxes. The American economy was in a critical state. But nowadays, I understand the idea of President Woodrow Wilson, in the video (During the Presidency of the Republican George Bush (2000-2008), he was compared to the Presidency of Democrat Woodrow Wilson, especially after the events of 9 / 11.) the lady said Woodrow believes in self-determination, and hope people can choose this ideology. He Wanted Advocacy of the Spread of Democracy, all this in he would have created world peace if implemented by successfully making the US enter the league of Nation. For him, he could use the wisdom of the government or the American system to show the other nations how to walk, behave. I think it gets a little closer to imperialism. I think he had the same idea as all the former president. "the one to guide the world, to be the model that another country must follow", but his idea may have been seen in a wrong way or not perceiving well, for that I support a little his idea, but not all because, I also think that each country, has received these same rights, freedom that God to give to the Human to decide, whatever would be good for themselves.

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Internationalist or isolationist?
by [Adam Moore](#) - Thursday, April 25, 2019, 8:05 PM

Upon deeply considering the definitions and information provided, I find myself falling between mild to strong reservationist. I tend to shy away from the extremes in most situations. If you lean to one extreme or the other, you are completely deaf to other perspectives and that prevents dialogues. I also feel very strongly that the Constitution of the United States should be upheld and our sovereignty as a nation is important. International relationships are important for a strong country, but also for the betterment of man. It is difficult for me to accept a one world government scenario because of our nations value on freedom, a lot of the world does not share in the ideology of freedom like we do here.

If I could somehow send a letter back in time to President Wilson, I would advise him to be more open minded about his ideals; because, they may not align with the rest of the world at the time. Had President Wilson gone with the allies to see the destruction he would have shown that he was sympathetic to their cause, but he could also use that in negotiation. Very few great idealistic revolutions happen without compromise. Had he been more willing to negotiate with Lodge or understood his limitations and sent someone else to negotiate with the legislative branch on his behalf the outcome would have been much different. Negotiating on such a grand scale is difficult especially given the time they were in. Nationalism and imperialism where at near peak levels, and when you dig in your heels, you are more likely to get bulldozed as he was. A victory through compromise approach would have been truer to who he was and would have garnered more results than his all or nothing approach because as we know he ended up with no league of nations.

The after math of WW I lead to another great world conflict WW II. There was not much give and take Germany and its allies (central powers) had lost and it was time for them to pay. The allied forces minus the United States where looking to maintain the status quo of to the victor go the spoils. They divided up lands and separated Germany in order to give Poland a path to the sea. Germany was a shell of what it used to be and struggling to pay of the nation's debt lead to the rise in power of Adolf Hitler.

Had two head strong US politicians been able to compromise instead of being two immovable forces who knows what the world would look like today, but one can theories that it would be a much more peaceful place. The league of nations as it was drafted was never going to work but as we have seen other organizations like it have worked and still do today (N.A.T.O. and the U.N.). Reviewing the past and examining how that can change our actions in the future is important. If our leadership in the modern world would take a moment to reflect on some of the decisions made in WW I and the consequences of them I think we would do a better job of making sober decisions when resolving conflict.

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Our Recent Wilson in the White House

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Thursday, April 25, 2019, 9:24 PM

History has many parallels to our past, but it is important that it has relevance in current time.

Of the recent United States Presidents, it seems as though Obama was on the more internationalist viewpoint. The Paris Accord, our favor increased with the European nations, NATO and we took a more active role as a leader of Democracy. Obama seemed to embrace our allies, as did Wilson. Both were highly intellectual and well-educated. Both embraced fairly progressive ideals. Where the two alter is that Wilson left office without a lot of support and joy surrounding his departure. Obama likely would have won a third term.

Currently, Trump has taken a more reservationist - dare I say isolationist - stance on the world's stage. NATO hasn't been abandoned, nor will it be abandoned, but the love affair with our allies seems to be over in terms of the honeymoon that we had with Obama. The Paris Accord has been left to other nations, and we seem to be moving towards more a reservationist "every nation for itself" viewpoint with our current President. I will not bring my own personal viewpoints on the right or wrong of either of these qualities and viewpoints of the last two Presidents. It's simply where each seems to be falling on the spectrum.

Wilson would likely have embraced Obama's policies, and not endorsed Trump's.

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Website: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnzogby/2017/01/10/the-obama-legacy-our-21st-century-woodrow-wilson/#2918ef529507>

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Re: Our Recent Wilson in the White House

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:23 PM

FYI, I'm not saying either Obama or Trump got it right, just where each compares with Wilson's viewpoints. 🤔
😊

—

(Written for non-credit clarification)

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Good Intentions, globalist doctrines and unforeseen consequences: beneath the veneer of Wilson's progressive policies Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World

by [Jason Fitzsimmons](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 8:26 AM

As with most of history when peering beneath the veneer of heroic, popular or demonized figures things can be become complicated, however, it is important to obtain a clear picture of the era and social-political climate being discussed to extrapolate motivations in historical context

President Wilson (28th president, 1913-1921), the only US president to hold a doctorate degree. A noble peace prize awardee, believed firmly in self-determination, that people had the "right" to determine their own form of governance ideally through democratic means. Wilson has also been seen as an overreaching authoritarian, a supporter of eugenics, a racist, who believed that Congress held too much power and that the executive branch should be endowed with more latitude in order to bring the power of the federal government to rapidly effect policy without interference. While Wilson was the Governor of New Jersey he signed a bill, which led to compulsory sterilization of criminals and mentally ill (Eugenic sterilization bill. 1911).

Wilson a steadfast progressive passed many reforms, including legislation to create the Federal Reserve, federal trade commission, child labor laws, 8-hour workday for railroad workers and govt. loans to farmers (2019, Woodrow Wilson, History.com). During Wilson's first administration, he strived to keep America's neutrality. During his 2nd administration he "stuck to his guns" and advocated for peace. On April 2nd, 1917 after unrestricted attack by German U-boats on American ships and the revelations of the Zimmerman telegram, Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war on Germany, stating "The world must be made safe for democracy". In retrospect it can be said that Wilson broke with a near century-long anti-militarism and anti-interventionist policy of a largely Republican

tradition and his policy of international liberalism led to a permanent US war machine putting out fires all over the globe with interventionist fervor, a bitter and vengeful Germany hell-bent on reclaiming national pride after millions starved to death. The outcome of WW1 led to the failure of the USA to join the League of nations, and to the creation of a bitter bankrupted Germany (War guilt clause) which after being harshly punished for the war led to the rise of the NAZI party ultimately leading to WW2 (2015, Stockman, rethinking Globalization).

The class poll on Foreign policy had Mild reservationist at 45% effectively representing the population in 1918. I have always held strong reservationist ideas of America's foreign policy, as when I began to research the timeline and outcomes of globalist or international liberal actions, many good intentioned foreign policies have led to tragic results, unforeseen or not. This has led me to take a cautious approach to endorsing internationalism, Of course, sometimes intervention is seemingly unavoidable, for example, foreign aid in drought-ridden countries, or relief after natural disasters, military intervention should only be used in extreme cases and after careful consideration of the costs versus benefits. Stomping around the world trying to bring "democracy" to the masses is a very bad idea and diametrically opposes the notion of self-determination. The idea of a one world government ran by technocrats, oligarchs and authoritarians is a nightmare scenario of Orwellian proportions. Wilson was no doubt a very intelligent and capable man, however, his world views regarding peace through the use of a globalist coalition seems to contradict the notion of self-determination of a nation to create its own destiny without interference

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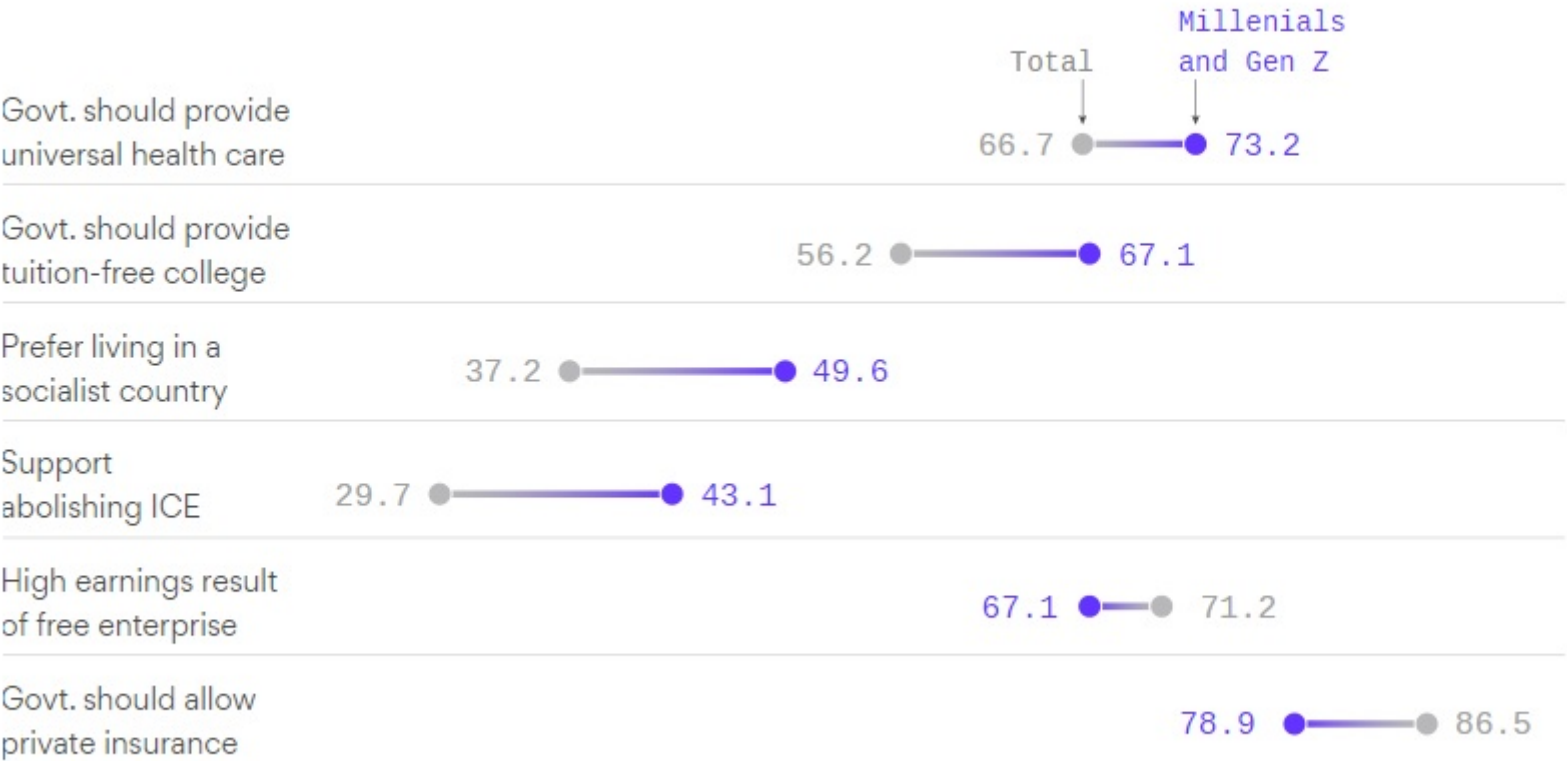


Gen Z for you, me. . .and history.
by [Ryan Monett](#) - Friday, April 26, 2019, 8:25 PM

One of the things I find fascinating is the initial polling results from our foreign policy class poll and how it correlates to national beliefs that stem further to the left on issues nationally. It seems that Gen Z students seem to take a differing view of international policy further to the right, or is it just our class??

Being in college, in Eugene, Oregon (not known for conservatism), I assumed that the poll results would suggest more of an Internationalist viewpoint. Especially considering the major issues around campus and in the media. It seems most of the younger people of this most recent generation side more to the left, as depicted in this Harris poll:

Percent of Millennials and Gen Z agreeing with statement



Data: The Harris Poll; Poll conducted Feb. 21–25 among 2,035 adults; Chart: Axios Visuals

Where this comes into our class poll results, sure we're comparing the above poll to the foreign policy we're discussing. So here's how this changes domestically to an international stage:

"According to polling research, 47% of millennials believe that the U.S. should stay out of world affairs, as compared to only 51 percent who believe that the U.S. should play an active role in world affairs.

Furthermore, millennials are friendlier towards cutting defense spending than previous generations. Millennials are less accepting of American exceptionalism, which impacts America's role in foreign policy.

Furthermore, millennials and generation Z are advocates of less militarized foreign policy. Kruger refers to the millennial generation as "cautious millennials."

But most countries that lean internationalist are more socialist by country. If socialism is to the left (at it's extreme it's communism) and the younger generation is leaning farther to the left, I would have expected or interpreted our poll results to show a similar trend. However, mild reservationist came out on top in our class poll. If Wilson (whom yes was a Democrat) seemed to espouse a world in which a league of nations prevailed and comparisons are made between Wilson and Obama, one would think there would be a correlation in our foreign policy. Yet, I believe that most of us in class (having actually LEARNED something from history and not just from the media) seem to have moved to the right on at least our foreign policy beliefs in this class.

What's more striking, is I believe even more of my classmates have moved further to the right after this last week of class to an even greater reservationist viewpoint from the discussions on here and from what we've learned since taking the poll. Sure, it's really a toss-up from the initial poll - but again, mild reservationist is the clear leader followed by the left side of the spectrum. Overall, I feel it is significant given we're in Eugene, in Oregon, at college, and the generation polled. One would think we'd be much further on the internationalist side of the chart (not roughly 50/50 but more 80/20?).

It's extremely important that we keep in mind that thoughtful people change their minds. It's important to critical thinking that when exposed to facts, we remain teachable, flexible and humble enough to admit that we don't know what we don't know. Only then can one make an informed decision.

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Class notes. Escobar, J. Lane Community College. 2019

Website: <https://www.axios.com/exclusive-poll-young-americans-embracing-socialism-b051907a-87a8-4f61-9e6e-0db75f7edc4a.html>

Website polling results: <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiezehnder/2018/08/09/how-millennials-and-generation-z-view-foreign-policy-n2508431>

Poll Results: <https://classes.lanecc.edu/mod/choice/view.php?id=2141826>

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Non-intervention

by [Levi Savage](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 12:19 PM

I believe the united states should be a non-interventionist nation. For too long we have seen our selves the hero of the world and that whenever there is a fire we must be the nation to put it out and to lead the charge against injustices around the world. That mindset has created many problems and enemies around the world that move against the US. I would bargin most of our allies don't like us very much but they know the consequences if they try to defy us so they normally go along with our ideas and plans. Because of this, we have become one of the most powerful nations in history if not the most powerful nation ever. We have a 22 trillion dollar debt that seems almost impossible to get out fro since we go around the world starting these wars with no intention of ending them and just creating these money pits that are bleeding this country dry of its money as well as its people who have paid the price of this with their lives dying in conflicts that we have no business being involved. A responsible government is not one that goes creating wars and killing innocent people there but our soldiers as well. A responsible nation is one that takes a step backs and listens for once to not only the world but most importantly its own people who beg them not to create these conflicts, to begin with, and instead focus on the problems and issues at home. Where we have a major gun issue and mental health were half of the gun-related deaths come from suicide (How To Reduce Shootings New York Times). We have major issues at home and we don't need to be out in the world creating them.

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US Pres. Then Vs. Now
by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 6:51 PM

The video on Bush Vs. Wilson said that their foreign policies resonated with each other and that they are similar but implemented differently. I think he would be received a lot better now. Our nation seems more caring and open to helping now than it did back then. We have accepted many refugees and have made many international deals since his time so I would only assume he would be better received. We have gotten involved in other countries when it was a threat to everyone so I feel good about my answer. The majority fell in the mild reservationalist category so I would say yes that we do reflect the mindset of the people back then. I am in this group because I believe we should focus on ourselves and do what's best for us before doing what's best for others. We have many homeless people here in our own country, we should focus on helping them before we go out of our way to help people from other countries. I don't intend on sounding cold-hearted towards those fleeing from countries that are in really bad situations, but I can't help but feel like we have a responsibility to help our citizens before going out of our way to citizens of a different country.

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Re: The Role of the U.S. in the World
by [Gregory Graff](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9:32 PM

I do see similarities between the Wilson presidency and the past few presidents, especially W. Bush. During Wilson's and Bush's time both had to deal with extremely daunting tasks, Wilson with WWI and Bush with the attacks on US soil. Both passed legislation they would not have been able to pass without the catastrophes. I think Wilson's idea's would be better received today mainly because the US is already overwhelmingly involved in nearly every other economy and government in the world. Also, present day has the European Union and United Nations. US corporations would have a whole lot to say about other countries being allow self-determination, especially in the Middle East and Latin America.

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Candidates and Cases
by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:12 PM

Ron Paul was discussing his views on getting involved and he seemed like he wanted us to get involved with others as little as possible and pull troops out of nearly everywhere. That we only attack when we are attacked first, that there is no justifiable reason to start a war. Alan Keyes was talking about the genocide in Darfur also wanted the troops pulled and only wanted us to get involved in matters of national security, not going to other places to feel good about helping. McCain was talking about getting to Iraq letting our troops stay where they are so they can win. He seemed to be the internationalist of the 3. I still feel more towards the right of the spectrum, I think I will mostly hang out to the right. I relate more to Ron Paul. I relate more closely to Ron Paul. He was talking about instances where he voted for war when it was appropriate. I think we really just need to focus on getting our homeless and struggling families and veterans the help they need to be successful. I think the similarities between now and then are that we are starting to pull troops out of places, or at least that's what I heard last during Obama administration. I think Trump is on a different level than the 3 candidates mentioned because I believe Trump would like to have a very big, very powerful army when 2/3 of the candidates didn't even want to be involved in war.

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Balancing American Interests and International Commitments
by [Anthony Nguyen](#) - Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11:36 PM

Based on everything we've learned thus far in the class I would be a mild reservationist after WW1. I would have been for the U.S. joining the League of Nations as long as we were able to balance American interests with foreign interests and prioritized protecting the U.S. The advice I would have given to President Wilson would be to put America first. The war was not our war and we only participated for one short year. We had wanted to be neutral but our hand was forced into it by interactional forces. If we had taken more reservationist approaches and had a more isolationist attitude perhaps we wouldn't have had to join the war that we never truly wanted to partake in. My point of view would have been a little similar to Lodge's with the exception of his pro-war attitude. Lodge's vision of "affirming an international commitment but retaining control of America's sovereignty" (Lodge article) resonates with me and seems to strike the appropriate balance. It's not in America's best interests to be completely neutral--we just need to put ourselves first before the interests of other nations and know when to say no.

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However, my views do differ between wartime and times of peace. I believe during times of peace our foreign policies should lean more internationalist because without the burden of war we have the privilege and ability to help other countries. The U.S. is one of the strongest countries today and while it isn't our job to police or protect other nations, we do have the means to help others and therefore I believe it is our moral duty to do so. During wartime though, we must put the interests of Americans first.

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