Monument Introduction Articles

The following are helpful articles for your study of the resolution that was debated during the   
2012-2013 school year in the Stoa speech and debate league. Give due attention to checking all hyperlinks before attempting to run in competition as Monument Publishing does not update this archive information.

**Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reform its foreign military presence and/or foreign military commitments.**

Early History of US Military Presence 2

“Quasi-War” with France: 1798-1800 3

19th Century Overview 4

Spanish-American War: 1898 5

World War I: 1914-1918 5

“Banana Wars” 1898-1934 7

Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima: World War II 7

Post World War II 9

NATO & The Cold War 9

Korea 10

Expansion: Vietnam 10

The Carter Doctrine: 1980 12

Intervention in the 1980s 14

Persian Gulf War 1990-1991 14

The 1990s: Somalia and Yugoslavia 15

9/11 and the War in Afghanistan 16

Iraq: 2003-2011 17

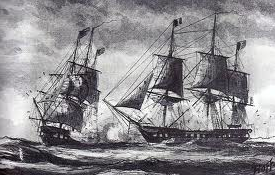
Intervention Under Obama 18

Case Summaries 19

Worksheet 32

Answer Key 33

Early History of US Military Presence

In addressing our topic this year, it is necessary to understand the commitments and public attitudes of the United States over the past two centuries. Homeschoolers set on making it to the National Invitational Tournament of Champions (NITOC) in June 2013 will need to know the ins and outs of the Stoa resolution. The following is the Stoa resolution that has been adopted for the 2013 National Invitational Tournament of Champions (underlines added):

*Resolved: That the United States Federal Government should substantially reform its foreign military presence and/or foreign military commitments.*

Foreign military presence and foreign military commitments have not been present in the United States throughout all of our history. The modern superpower with a global military presence is a feature of the second half of our country’s history and a substantial contrast with its origins. In this chapter we will discuss how America started as an isolated, inward-looking nation concerned only with self-defense and show how and why it transitioned into a global power. There will be a number of military events in our nation’s past (for example the War of 1812, the War with Mexico, and the Civil War) that, although they were significant military engagements and important historical events, did not substantially impact our nation’s interest in projecting foreign military power. Since we need to stay focused on the resolutional topic, we will focus on US history that leads into foreign military engagements and leave aside these other important events for another day.

In this chapter, we will make you a better debater by going over the history by going over the following significant events of military foreign presence in American history:

* “Quasi-war” with France: 1798-1800 & The Barbary Pirates 19th century Overview
* Spanish-American war: 1898
* World War I 1914-1918
* The “Banana Wars” 1898-1934
* World War II 1939-1945
* NATO & The Cold War
* Korea
* Vietnam
* The Carter Doctrine
* Interventions in the 1980s
* Persian Gulf War
* The 1990s: Somalia & Yugoslavia
* 9/11 and the War in Afghanistan
* Iraq War
* Intervention under Obama

“Quasi-War” with France: 1798-1800

After the French revolution, the Republic of France demanded that the United States pay the debt it owed to France for its assistance in fighting against the British in the American Revolution. The United States refused to pay the Republic of France, claiming its debt was to the French Crown, which no longer existed. This led to the first foreign military engagements in our nation’s history (if you don’t count fighting American Indians on the North American continent during the Washington Administration) Congress authorized what became known as a “quasi-war” with France after the French attacked American cargo ships. Congress voted to authorize attacks on ships headed to French ports, but not for an all-out battle to defeat France (which the U.S. could not have won anyway). To fight this conflict, the previously disbanded US Navy and Marine Corps were re-established . Note that the idea of having a standing Army and standing Navy was something our nation had not yet accepted, because there was no perceived need for such permanent forces. State militias were expected to provide immediate defense against sudden attacks (like the American Indians), with federal forces to be called up later (after Congress had voted to hire and pay them). And America certainly wasn’t going to engage in foreign policies involving large standing armies and endless wars like the Europeans had done for centuries. By 1800, both sides wanted to put the quarrel behind them, so they signed the Treaty of Mortefontaine at the convention of 1800. That treaty also ended the only formal foreign alliance the United States had (with France), and the only one we would have until the 20th century.

In 1801, President Thomas Jefferson sent the Marines to the shores of Tripoli, on the north coast of Africa, where they fought the Barbary pirates who were preying on American and European merchant ships. Scholars debate whether Congress authorized this foreign military intervention in advance or learned about it long after the Navy had already been dispatched.

Both of these military adventures were limited engagements, in response to attacks on American shipping, with no long-term foreign military presence or commitment. But they demonstrated that the United States, while inwardly focused and unwilling to join alliances, was not afraid of military conflict in defense of its citizens, even if it meant a military engagement halfway around the world.

19th Century Overview

Between the involvement with the Barbary pirates and through to the Civil War, the US was focused on Westward expansion and economic and territorial growth. The major wars of the 19th century included the War of 1812 (repelling British invasion), the Indian Wars (territorial expansion within North America), the Mexican War (also territorial expansion), and the Civil War (triggered by irreconcilable issues regarding states’ rights and slavery). None of these substantially impacted our foreign policy of avoiding foreign military commitments.

“Unhappy country, where the sacred forces that were meant to support each man’s rights are perverted to accomplish themselves the violation of these rights.” –Frederic Bastiat

In 1823, the Monroe Doctrine was signed. Penned by John Quincy Adams, who was at the time the Secretary of State, President James Monroe announced that no European powers should try to regain jurisdiction over any of their former colonies in the Western Hemisphere that had declared independence, and that the United States would not intervene in Europe’s wars. .

This doesn’t mean the U.S. had no foreign military activity during this time. There were numerous minor interventions, skirmishes, and raids involving chasing of pirates, avenging insults, opening sea lanes, protecting US citizens in danger, retaliating for attacks on US citizens, peacekeeping, and chasing cattle rustlers. Some examples of places and dates of these minor engagements are listed below after the War of 1812, along with the milestones of the Civil War and the Mexican War. These minor engagements did not result in permanent placement of US forces overseas, nor change America’s policy of avoiding foreign alliances.

1622-1924 – Indian Wars

1812-1815 – War of 1812

1822,23,24,25 – Cuba

1827 – Greece

1838-39 – Indonesia

1833,52,53 – Argentina

1840,55,58 – Fiji

1843 – Ivory Coast

1846-1848 – Mexican War

1843, 54,55,56,59,66 – China

1853,54,57,67, – Nicaragua

“As Holocaust survivors become extinct and deniers' voices become louder, I fear that...the lessons and memories of World War II will become lost on future generations of Americans including the country's eventual leaders.” –Lauri B. Regan, *The American Thinker*

1855,58 – Uruguay

1860, 68 – Colombia

1861-1865 – Civil War

1863,64, 68 – Japan

1871 – Korea

1873-96 – Mexico

1882 – Egypt

Spanish-American War: 1898

Seventy-five years had passed sine the signing of the Monroe Doctrine, which had been reasonably respected and left dormant during the US internal conflicts. Near the end of the 1800s, however, the relations between Spain and the US were dwindling. The original disagreements were not with the country of Spain itself, but jurisdiction over Cuba. Seeing opportunity with Cuba’s rebellion against Spanish rule, the United States took sides with the Cubans. In February of 1889, the USS Maine sank, killing over 200 Americans. Though reports of the cause of the explosion were inconclusive in their links to a Spanish attack, the American public suspected a Spanish source of fire. The cry was sounded in the streets of New York, there was finally an excuse to get involved on behalf of the Cuban dissenters: “Remember the Maine!” It took President McKinley only ten days to go to Congress for the ability to declare war on Spain over Cuba and for an amendment declaring that the US wouldn’t be taking over Cuba after defeating Spain to be written and passed. Involvement in Cuba lasted only four months, and the US pulled out in August of the same year, leaving the Cuban revolution to continue on its own until 1959.

The result of the Cuban conflict was not in freeing Cuba, but in paving a way to gain control over other small countries off the coast of the US, including the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Cuba itself. Between 1899 and 1902, Filipinos who did not accept US sovereignty and wanted independence declared war on the US, losing their own freedom in the short 3-year conflict.

World War I: 1914-1918

When the first “global” war broke out in Europe in 1914, the U.S. tried to continue its traditional policy of neutrality and resistance to being drawn into Europe’s troubles, continuing an allegiance to the principles of the Monroe Doctrine. President Woodrow Wilson won re-election in 1916 on the campaign slogan “He kept us out of war.” But the war began spilling into the lives of Americans. Germany had a submarine campaign in the Atlantic, which intended to sink ships attempting “to approach either the ports of Great Britain and Ireland or the western coasts of Europe or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany within the Mediterranean.”[[1]](#footnote-2) In 1915, the British ocean liner Lusitania , carrying British war supplies and nearly 2,000 civilians, was sunk by a German submarine in the Atlantic. President Woodrow Wilson’s response, instead of declaring war on Germany immediately, was to demand that Germany refrain from sinking passenger ships, and give adequate warning to all ships in danger of attack.[[2]](#footnote-3) The German announcement of “unrestricted submarine warfare” in 1917 resulted in more American civilian casualties on the high seas, raising the stakes and provoking American anger. Probably the last straw was the discovery of the “Zimmerman Telegram,” a diplomatic message in which Germany offered an alliance with Mexico that could enable Mexico to recover its lost territory in the American southwest.

US intervention in World War I from 1917-1918 turned the tide of the war and ensured Germany’s defeat. While the US resisted early intervention in a conflict not their own (hundreds of US citizens had been killed before it got involved), it became a precedent for American involvement in European affairs. It also created a policy of using the military abroad to spread or defend an ideology: “Make the world safe for democracy,” said President Wilson. The United States was now clearly recognized as a global power, but there was no long-term presence in Europe at the end of the First World War.

After the war was over, Pres. Wilson proposed the League of Nations, to guarantee faster intervention and restoration of world peace by a global community of concerned nations whenever a war broke out. But the US Senate, responsible for ratifying treaties, wanted just the opposite: a return to the non-interventionist policies of Washington and Jefferson. Sen. William Borah (R-Idaho), a leading opponent of Wilson’s post-war policy outlined in the Treaty of Versailles, explicitly cited in his Senate speeches these two Founding Fathers and their policy of avoiding entanglement in Europe. The Senate agreed with Borah and refused to ratify Wilson’s scheme. The League of Nations carried on without US participation.

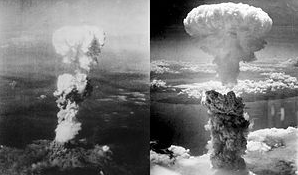
“Banana Wars” 1898-1934

In 1904, Theodore Roosevelt announced his Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, saying Europe should not intervene in the Western Hemisphere, but the US could and would. The US engaged in numerous interventions and some long-term occupations of Latin American nations, many of which still today remember these occupations and wars long after we in the U.S. have forgotten them. According to U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler, who was decorated with two Medals of Honor, the 33 years he spent fighting were not for anyone’s freedom, but for safeguarding the foreign interests and investments of big business, Wall Street, and bankers. Calling himself in 1935 a “gangster for capitalism,” he ascribed the conflicts he fought in Mexico to oil interests, Haiti and Cuba and Nicaragua for the banks, the Dominican Republic for sugar interests, Honduras[[3]](#footnote-4) for American fruit companies, and China for Standard Oil. Some of those interventions and occupations are listed below.1843, 1856, 1903, 1989 – Panama

* 1912-1933 – Nicaragua occupation
* 1898-1902, 1906-09, 1917-22 – Cuba occupation
* 1915-1934 – Haiti Occupation
* 1903,1904,1914 – Dominican Republic, occupied 1916-1924, 1965
* 1903,’07,’11,’12,’19,’24,’25 – Honduras
* 1914, 1916-17 – Mexico

Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima: World War II

War again broke out in Europe on a grand scale in 1939 with Hitler’s invasion of Poland. As with the first great war, the U.S. remained on the sidelines but provided aid and encouragement to Britain, which was left to carry on the war after France was defeated in 1940. Public resistance to active American military intervention lasted until Dec. 7, 1941. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which killed over 2,000 Americans and inflicted major damage on the US Navy, and it immediately ended the debate over intervention in foreign wars and entanglement in foreign alliances.

World War II ended in Europe with the defeat of Germany in the spring of 1945. The war against Japan was finished when the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 1945. The war left Europe and Japan in smoldering ruins and the United States as a global superpower, with a monopoly on the most horrific weapon ever invented and troops spread out around the globe.

The aftermath in the American mindset was substantial. Pearl Harbor had proven to many that the United States could not sit safely in isolation behind two oceans. And the fact that American troops had been called in, not once, but twice in a generation to save the democracies of Europe suggested that we needed a new foreign policy that would prevent such crises from recurring. Instead of belatedly reacting to foreign wars and being drawn in reluctantly after much damage had been done, perhaps it was time to put our forces in place before they were needed, either to deter future wars from happening, or else to win them faster, if deterrence didn’t work.

Post World War II

“Social change comes most meaningfully through non-violent action. But…what about Vietnam? …I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today, my own government.”

–Martin Luther King, Jr.

NATO & The Cold War

George Washington’s farewell plea, urging Americans to “steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world” died its formal death after World War II. ”” The bitter ideological struggle of Communism versus democracy, often called the “Cold War,” ended the wartime cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union and had a dramatic impact on US foreign military presence and commitments. Though the Cold War ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, its impact continues today.

Lots of experts in the 1940s, including Winston Churchill, who expressed the concern during his eloquent “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946, believed the Soviet Union was on the path of repeating the path of aggression and expansion taken by Germany in the 1930s. In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) began, according to its first Secretary General, Lord Ismay, with a desire to “keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down.” The treaty declares that all of its members should consider an attack on one to be an attack on them all. The goal was to prevent the forces of Communism, led by the Soviet Union, to do what the forces of Nazism and fascism led by Germany had done earlier: build up military might, pick off small countries one at a time, and build a totalitarian empire that would again mount an existential threat to the Western democracies.

Though the Cold War ended in ’91, NATO has continued adding new members. Comprising 28 countries today, NATO offers the promise of security to its smaller members, some of which were former allies under duress or even components of the Soviet Union and still fear Russian hegemony. But questions remain about whether NATO is still necessary (what’s the threat? Is Russia really going to invade Europe?) or even wise for its non-US members, given that it creates a “moral hazard” incentivizing them to reduce their own defense spending and simply rely on US military protection. Too, the United States faces increased risk of involvement in many more conflicts – conflicts we might have avoided had we not been committed by the treaty. Others argue that NATO provides international legitimacy for US military actions and guarantees the availability of troops and equipment from other nations, providing extra forces available for missions like the multinational effort in Afghanistan.

Korea

Japanese troops were driven out of Korea by Soviet (in the north) and American forces (in the south) at the end of World War II. This left the Korean Peninsula divided into a communist North and a non-communist South Korea. US troops were withdrawn from Korea in 1949 and many (particularly in North Korea and the Soviet Union) believed the US had lost interest in Korea.

After consulting with Soviet leader Josef Stalin, North Korean leader Kim Il Sung (grandfather of current N.K. leader Kim Jong Un) ordered Northern forces to carry out a surprise invasion of the South in 1950, to reunite all Koreans under a single (communist) government. The United Nations passed resolutions authorizing a military response, and U.S. forces under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived and pushed the North Koreans back.

The counter attack was so successful, in fact, that it triggered Chinese intervention to save their threatened ally North Korea. Chinese troops by the thousands streamed across the Yalu River border with North Korea and changed the war from an allied rout of the North into a lengthy and exhausting stalemate close to the original line where the two Koreas had originally been divided before the war began.

An armistice was signed in 1953 that ended the shooting, but no peace treaty was ever concluded and the two sides remain technically at war to this day. The U.S. still has around 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea.

Expansion: Vietnam

Richard Nixon said: “No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now. Rarely have so many people been so wrong about so much. Never have the consequences of their misunderstanding been so tragic.”

After World War II many Vietnamese revolted against French colonial rule. Having just gotten rid of the Japanese occupiers, they were in no mood to go back to being ruled by the French. Ho Chi Minh, led the Vietnamese rebels who fought for independence and began guerrilla attacks, and then full-scale battles, against French forces. The French were defeated in the northern part of Vietnam in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu. Their agreement to withdraw from the region included a temporary partitioning of Vietnam into a communist-controlled North (run by Ho Chi Minh) and a non-communist South Vietnam, allied with the United States. Elections were supposed to follow, to create a democratic unified government, but the U.S. canceled the elections in the South, fearing (probably correctly) that Ho Chi Minh would win.

The South was not a functioning democracy, but it was anti-communist, so the U.S. supported it. Communist rebels in the South, aided by the government of the North, began a movement to finish the unification of Vietnam by force, since the elections had been canceled. American forces arrived in the late 1950s as military advisors to the government of South Vietnam. More began arriving in the 1960s to provide additional combat forces to engage directly in the war, as it became apparent that South Vietnam could not win the war on its own. Congress voted in 1964 to authorize US military involvement in Vietnam when it approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, after the Johnson Administration reported that North Vietnamese vessels had fired on US ships in the waters off the coast of Vietnam.

By 1968 the U.S. had over ½ million combat troops in Vietnam, and many Americans wondered why, with such great dedication of resources, time, money and lives, we had not yet won the war. Public opinion began turning against the war, and America began promising a plan to de-escalate the war and turn it back over to the South Vietnamese.

The public was thus surprised, and many were angered, to see Pres. Nixon coming on TV in 1970 to announce that American forces were invading Cambodia to cut supply lines being used by enemy forces infiltrating from the North. Congress never voted to authorize an invasion of Cambodia and the U.S. was not at war with Cambodia. And Congress voted to repeal the Gulf of Tonkin resolution in 1971 (at which time, Pres. Nixon said he had the power to engage US forces in Indochina with or without the Resolution, since he was Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces).

After the Cambodian adventure, President Nixon began to withdraw troops from the conflict and to initiate peace talks with the Northern leaders. In 1973, North Vietnam signed a cease-fire treaty with the U.S. This gave the US the ability to bring the rest of its troops home, but the conflict continued shortly after US withdrawal. Congress voted in 1973 to cut off all funding for further US military involvement in the region. In April 1975, South Vietnam was defeated and the North subsequently united the two as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The consequences for American attitudes toward intervention were great. Lots of questions swirled in public debate:

* How had small bands of poorly equipped forces been able to defeat the best-equipped military on earth?
* How did America get dragged into further and further escalation from such a small beginning?
* How can we rein in Presidents from entering or escalating wars without the checks and balances of Congress? Once a war starts, how can public opinion be effectively engaged in stopping it?
* How do we balance our credibility when we make promises to defend our allies with the futility of pouring men and resources into a situation that appears unwinnable?
* What should be America’s policy of when to intervene and when to leave other nations’ troubles alone? Are we intervening too much?
* Should we have clear goals and an “exit strategy” before entering any future conflict?
* What principles were we fighting for? Since South Vietnam was not a democracy, what values were guiding our foreign policy and determining what kinds of “friends” were worth the lives of American troops? And if the South Vietnamese people were not sufficiently motivated to fight for their own country, how many American lives was it worth?
* To what extent do we need to win the “hearts and minds” of the population in order for a long-term military strategy to be effective? Was the war in Vietnam lost because much of the population supported our enemies, or at least, did not support us?

All of these are issues you will probably be involved in debating to some degree in many of your debate rounds this year, and at the very least you should understand the principles so that you know the background for many of the issues that will arise.

Congress, reacting to the anger of the American people, passed the War Powers Resolution (also known as the War Powers Act) in 1973. The law demands that the President notify Congress within 48 hours of any military intervention and withdraw such forces if Congress has not affirmatively approved of their deployment within 60 days. Congress also abolished the military draft that year, although they reinstated mandatory Selective Service registration for young men in 1980 to provide the information needed in case the draft should ever be reestablished.

The Carter Doctrine: 1980

In his State of the Union address in January, 1980, President Jimmy Carter announced: "An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force. " Thus began the American commitment to military defense of the Persian Gulf that continues to this day.

President Carter made it plain in that speech that the availability of oil was the driving force behind this military commitment. Oil was (is? Scholars debate whether it has the same impact today) so important to the economy that ensuring Middle East petroleum makes its way to world markets in safety was to Pres. Carter an overriding national security interest worthy of our defense dollars and soldiers’ lives. The Carter Doctrine is arguably the motivation behind US military support for Persian Gulf Arab states, and intervention in two major wars (the Persian Gulf War 1990-91 and the Iraq War 2003-2011) and various Naval skirmishes with Iran in the Gulf. Arab petro-states like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait certainly do not uphold American values of democracy and human rights in their internal affairs, so our defense of these kingdoms and sheikdoms can only be attributed to our interest in their oil. This raises numerous questions that you get to debate:

* To what extent does oil need to be “protected” by anyone other than those who produce it? Don’t the producers themselves have the biggest incentive to pay for its protection? After all, petroleum is merely a worthless slimy sludge if its producer cannot sell it to anyone.
* To what extent can market forces solve for oil supplies? Is US military intervention for oil merely another government subsidy that distorts market outcomes that would otherwise follow if nations had to protect and manage oil security on their own?
* Since China is the biggest customer for Saudi oil, for example, to what extent does the US military subsidize the Chinese and other competitors’ economies at the expense of American taxpayers?
* Is oil still vital to the US economy any more? Do oil price spikes cause recessions or is our economy more technologically advanced to the point that oil is like any other commodity – important but not catastrophic? Even if it is vital, is its value sufficient to justify the cost in dollars and lives we devote to it through military intervention?
* To what extent does US support for unsavory Middle Eastern regimes tarnish our foreign policy and our principles? How do we resolve the dilemmas that happen when we support a ruler of a country that supplies our oil and his people oppose him and overthrow him? (Think Shah of Iran 1979)
* To what extent does US presence in the region create backlash and terrorism motivated by anger at the presence of “infidels” in the homeland of Islam?
* Are there other independent non-petroleum reasons for US engagement in the region, like containing/deterring the Islamic Republic of Iran? Protecting Israel?

Intervention in the 1980s

Immediately after Vietnam there was little support for large interventions, and American foreign military engagements were minor in the ‘80s. Examples include:

* 1979-1992 – military aid and advisors in the civil war in El Salvador (21 US casualties)
* 1982-1984 – Lebanon peacekeeping mission. Became unsustainable after the Marine barracks was destroyed by a suicide bomber in Oct., 1983, killing 241 Americans. US forces were withdrawn a few months later.
* 1983 – Invasion of the small Caribbean island nation of Grenada, to overthrow the Cuban-supported government.
* 1980s – US military aid and troops in Honduras related to civil wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua nearby. The US has around 500 troops in Honduras today.
* 1987-1988 – “Tanker Wars” - protection of oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and minor naval skirmishes as the tankers came under fire as a result of combat spilling over from the Iran-Iraq war.
* 1989-90 – US invasion of Panama to overthrow Gen. Manuel Noriega. US military presence in Panama ended in 1999 in accordance with the Panama Canal Treaty.
* 1989 – US troops in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru as part of the “War on Drugs.”

Persian Gulf War 1990-1991

Mentioned above under the Carter Doctrine, the United States led a multinational coalition to rollback the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This intervention had several features that bear our notice:

* International and multilateral. The United States acted after achieving a consensus from a wide range of foreign countries, numerous UN resolutions calling for the action, along with troop and financial commitments from our allies.
* Congressional support. Congress explicitly voted to authorize Pres. George H.W. Bush to use force to roll back the invasion of Kuwait and enforce the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.
* Limited mandate. When Iraqi forces were quickly driven out of Kuwait, the President ordered US operations to stop. Many wondered why he did not “finish the job” and continue all the way to Baghdad to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power. In later discussions, he explained that he had been given only a limited mandate by the Congressional resolution and the UN resolutions authorizing force, and that he was mindful of the experience of Vietnam, where ever-expanding missions and changing objectives led to endless commitments and ultimate defeat (the term “mission creep” became associated with this concept). Highly criticized for this decision at the time, some suggest he was proven correct by the experience his son, Pres. George W. Bush, had with the all-out invasion of Iraq 12 years later.
* No “Cold War” implications. With the Soviet Union in the process of reforming and ultimately collapsing, the U.S. had the freedom to intervene without worrying about any escalation of Cold War tensions or even the risk of triggering a nuclear World War III if we went too far towards upsetting the Soviets. Iraq had been an ally of the Soviet Union, but with the communist giant neutralized, and the US effectively the only superpower in the game, Iraq found itself isolated and easily defeated. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union later in 1991, the absence of any “Cold War” implications to US policy has created a new dynamic in our nation’s decisions to intervene abroad.

The U.S. today still maintains a military presence in Kuwait.

The 1990s: Somalia and Yugoslavia

Before leaving office in the early ‘90s, Pres. George H.W. Bush sent US troops to intervene in the civil war and resulting humanitarian crisis in Somalia after the collapse of its government in 1991. The scope of the mission evolved over time (see the above reference to “mission creep”) and US forces were drawn into a battle with the forces of a local warlord. The embarrassing loss of that battle (which became the subject of the movie *Black Hawk Down*) led to American forces being withdrawn in 1994. The civil war in Somalia continues today, and the US continues to intervene with drone attacks and Special Forces activity. Somali pirates off the coast of the Horn of Africa menace international shipping, and the US and other countries have ongoing naval patrols in the area to reduce that threat.

Later in the ‘90s, another civil war, this one in Europe, triggered US military intervention. Pres. Clinton ordered US forces to conduct aerial bombing to influence the outcome of the civil war in Yugoslavia and sent in US forces in 1996 as peacekeepers to enforce a settlement to the conflict. In 1999 he ordered a new aerial bombing campaign against Serbia to deter it from further action during its ongoing conflict in Kosovo. A resolution was introduced in Congress to authorize this bombing, but it was defeated. Clinton ignored the legislative defeat and continued the bombing, which achieved the desired effect of forcing the Serbs to a settlement of the Kosovo conflict. US forces stayed in the former Yugoslavia for several years to enforce the peace settlements before handing peacekeeping duties off to Europeans.

The political implications of this intervention included:

* What can be done if the President continues military activity after Congress votes not to approve it? In this case, no action was taken and Pres. Clinton suffered nothing other than political criticism in some media. A lawsuit was filed to enforce the War Powers Resolution, but a federal court dismissed it on technical grounds without resolving the issues it raised. (***Campbell v. Clinton***, 203 F.3d 19, in 2000). In Clinton’s defense, Congress made several contradictory statements at the time. Congress voted down a proposal to declare war. Congress voted down a proposal to authorize Clinton’s air strikes. But Congress also voted down a resolution demanding Clinton stop the bombing. And Congress voted to continue funding the operations. So, how could the President know what Congress intended? And how can Congress effectively exercise “war powers” when its political motivations lead it to vote not to approve and then vote not to oppose the same military operation at the same time?
* What US interests were at stake and what motivates the US to intervene? Is humanitarian concern sufficient to justify US intervention even if we have no geopolitical interest in the region? Most observers agreed that unrest within the former Yugoslavia posed no significant threat to the security of our allies in Europe nor the United States. But if humanitarian concern is enough to justify intervention, why not intervene in “all” humanitarian crises the world over? For example, why Yugoslavia and not Rwanda? What criteria guide American foreign policy for making the decision to intervene with military force?
* Since the conflict was in Europe and affected only Europeans and was not a major threat requiring massive outside force to come to their defense, why didn’t our European allies take full ownership of the intervention? Why was anything necessary from the U.S. side at all?

9/11 and the War in Afghanistan

Four passenger jets were hijacked on the morning of September 11, 2001, and two of the planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. The third plane hit the Pentagon in Virginia, causing serious damage to the headquarters of the US Department of Defense. Another half-hour later, a fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania after some passengers fought off the hijackers who were allegedly headed for the White House.

Like Pearl Harbor in 1941, these attacks brought great unity among Americans in support of a military response, and thus the (metaphorical?) “War on Terror” was born, along with entry into our longest military conflict, the still-ongoing war in Afghanistan.

The first US military response to the September 11 attacks was to invade Afghanistan the following month with the help of troops from Britain, Australia, joining up with alliance of northern Afghan opponents of Afghanistan’s Taliban government. The goal was to overthrow the government that had provided safe haven to 9/11 mastermind Osama Bin Laden and replace it with something better. NATO was brought in to the action in 2006 and continues to involve troops from our allies in the conflict, although various members of the alliance have reduced or withdrawn their forces over the years at various times. Today American troops remain in Afghanistan to continue the search for terrorists and to maintain stability there, while trying to establish a government that can effectively rule a splintered and devastated land. President Obama has announced that US forces will leave in 2014, but he has also discussed leaving some 25,000 US troops after that date for an indefinite period, to aid the struggling Afghan government.

Iraq: 2003-2011

President Clinton warned the American public of the dangers of a growing program of “weapons of mass destruction,” [[4]](#footnote-5) being carried on by the defeated (in 1991), but not removed, dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein. Hussein made an easy target for American dislike, with his atrocious human rights conditions and his bitter enmity against the Untied States for having defeated him in ’91 and his resentment of the ongoing “no fly zones” and occasional American bombing of his forces. When President George W. Bush took office in 2001, he escalated further the warnings about Hussein’s WMD programs and pressured the UN to inspect possible weapons sites and sanction Iraq. When the UN did not move fast enough, Pres. Bush argued that the threat justified unilateral American military intervention. “This is about imminent threat,” said White House spokesman Scott McClellan on Feb. 10, 2003.

The United States invaded Iraq in early 2003, removing Hussein from power (he was later executed after a trial by the new Iraqi government). Defeating Hussein on the battlefield proved to be the easy part. His defeat unleashed sectarian violence (Shia Muslims against Sunni Muslims against Kurds) and violent resistance against the foreign occupation. The eight-year occupation that followed cost the lives of over 4000 Americans, and leaves a fragile democratic government in place in Baghdad. . The last US forces left in December, 2011[[5]](#footnote-6). No weapons of mass destruction were ever found.

Political questions raised by this intervention include:

* See the “hearts and minds” issue raised earlier in Vietnam. While many Iraqis were grateful to have Saddam Hussein gone, they were bitterly opposed to foreign troops patrolling their streets.
* The consequences of the war in terms of casualties (both American and Iraqi, the latter often being forgotten when human losses are discussed). Since perhaps over 100,000 Iraqis lost their lives in the eight-year conflict, did American intervention do more harm than good when measured by humanitarian problems solved versus human losses inflicted?
* America, rightly or wrongly, received a world reputation as being quick on the trigger and indifferent to world opinion, not willing to wait for the UN inspection process and other diplomatic efforts to work themselves out. A lot of people were able to say “I told you so,” when no WMDs were found, suggesting that the original justification for the war had been at best a tragic error, or at worst, an intentional deception). It may be OK to do things alone, but there are times when we need allies and friends in the world, and we have to consider how our actions will be perceived before we take them. Sometimes it’s worth the risk, and sometimes it’s not. You get to debate that.

Intervention Under Obama

In May of 2011, Osama Bin Laden was finally tracked down and killed under an intricate operation carried out by US Navy SEALs and CIA operatives. He was found in a house in Pakistan and killed along with several other associates. His long-term presence in Pakistan raises many questions about that nation’s involvement with the United States in the ongoing war against insurgents in Afghanistan. The war in Afghanistan has spilled over into Pakistan, and the US has carried out numerous drone attacks against Pakistani targets.

Near the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011, the movement of rebellion, reform and revolution known as the “Arab Spring,” took hold and began reshaping the Middle East. While full discussion of these events is beyond the scope of this material, we mention it briefly here because of the link to US foreign military involvement in Libya. The overthrow of dictatorial governments in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt led to a similar movement against Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi. When the rebel assault against government forces began flagging, the UN authorized NATO to enter the war with air power. The bombing weakened the Libyan government, and the rebel movement was able to take control. Pres. Obama authorized US airstrikes in Libya without consulting Congress, arguing that the War Powers Act did not apply.

President Obama has also dispatched a small number of US forces to Africa to engage in combat with the “Lord’s Resistance Army,” a rebel group involved in numerous human rights violations. In addition, US drones target and kill militants, terrorists and bystanders in Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Somalia.

Total US foreign military presence in 2012 includes over 800 military bases abroad[[6]](#footnote-7) and around 300,000 military personnel deployed abroad, including sailors on the high seas.

Case Summaries

*Blue Book* is stocked with 13 solid debate cases, the core cases that you may hear a lot about throughout the season. Even if you branch off on your own and create a case unique to any of these, it would be wise to familiarize yourself with these 13, for they likely will pop up in debate rounds at your tournaments. All cases are written by Vance Trefethen.

Understand that these Affirmative cases do not necessarily reflect any political views held by any of us at Training Minds or Monument Publishing. These plans for change are offered because they are supported by lots of experts in published literature. We may or may not agree with them, and it's never our goal to use *Blue Book* to express our own political views. It is our goal to provide evidentially supported cases that would make for a good educational debate round, that's all. The case descriptions below describe these cases so that you can understand them and think about whether you would want to use them in a debate round. We also publish extensive Negative briefs against all of the positions described in these Affirmative cases.

**1. Graveyard of Empires: The Case for Withdrawal From Afghanistan**

It started out as a necessary reaction to the events of 9/11 -- destroying the enemy that attacked us and shutting down their operations. That mission was accomplished. Today, however, the ongoing war in Afghanistan benefits no one - not the American people and certainly not the Afghan people. This case argues that we need to immediately withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan.

President Obama has announced a pull-out of US forces from Afghanistan by 2014. This announcement is problematic for two reasons. First, the strategy we’re pursuing isn’t working, so continuing it for another couple years will not help and will only cause more harm. Second, while advertised as a pull-out, the current plan in fact will still leave 25,000 US troops in Afghanistan long-term after 2014.

There are multiple flaws with the policies promoted by the ongoing US military presence in Afghanistan. The goal of a stable democratic government ruling the entire territory of Afghanistan is unattainable, so every dollar spent or life lost in pursuit of that goal is wasted, and the sooner we stop, the better. Our current counter-insurgency strategy, which consists of trying to find a way to make a large mish-mash of angry ethnic groups live together under the direction of foreigners (us), is doomed to fail and is only succeeding at creating terrorist backlash. Imagine how Americans would react to armed Afghans arriving here and reorganizing our government and social institutions, and you can easily see why our efforts to do the same for them can never succeed. And the government we have created for them, led by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, is hopelessly corrupt, which means our military support for that government is tainted by association.

One of the experts who endorse this plan admit that a civil war would probably break out if US forces leave. But that’s a good thing, not a bad thing, because the countries in the region (like India and Pakistan) who have a stake in Afghan stability would intervene and carve out spheres of influence. Local ethnic groups would create local centers of power, rule over their own people, and leave the others alone. In any case, the results would be better than the war and chaos we have now. External conquerors have never succeeded at controlling the Afghan people, a fact that led to that country’s nickname as the “graveyard of empires.” Ultimately, the Afghans are going to rule themselves on their own terms, it’s just a question of how many lives and how much money we spend delaying that process. The sooner we leave, the sooner the recovery and self-determination of the Afghan people can begin.

Negatives will argue that US intervention in Afghanistan is key to avoiding a repeat of the events that led up to 9/11. In those bad old days, the Taliban ruled Afghanistan and provided a safe haven for terrorists like Al Qaeda and its chieftain Osama bin Laden. Our current anti-insurgency and anti-terrorism strategy in Afghanistan has these bad guys on the run, and if we see it through to the end, we can ensure that the terrorists are defeated. Surrendering on the eve of victory would be a tragic mistake. In addition, military intervention safeguards human rights for a population once terrorized by Islamic radicals, as well as interdicting deadly narcotics that end up killing people on the streets of American cities.

**2. No Blood for Oil: The Case for Revoking the Carter Doctrine**

In his State of the Union address in January 1980, Pres. Jimmy Carter announced a foreign policy that continues in effect to this day, more than 30 years later. “An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force.”

The resulting US military commitments and interventions in the three decades since have cost our nation dearly in blood and treasure, in addition to making the problem worse that it was supposed to solve. The Persian Gulf is not more stable today than it was in 1980, the pernicious influence of Iran is far worse, and the cost in dollars and lives has been colossal. The wars we’ve fought over it (for sure Gulf War I and Gulf War II) plus the annual cost of naval patrols and military bases in the region have run into hundreds of billions of borrowed deficit dollars. And the negative view in the region of our outside intervention has been a magnet for terrorism.

Oil doesn’t need US military protection to arrive on world markets any more than any other commodity does. The countries that produce and sell oil have every incentive to find ways to safeguard their product, since they are the ones who profit from it. Removal of the heavy US military footprint from the region will solve one of the main causes of terrorism and eliminate a huge unnecessary expense for US taxpayers.

Negatives will argue that the situation in the Persian Gulf would be far worse without the US military security guarantees created by the Carter Doctrine. Gulf oil facilities are vulnerable to attack, either by terrorists or by Iran. The Strait of Hormuz, where a large percentage of the world’s oil passes each day, could easily be choked or threatened. Even the threat of these scenarios, and even more, their fulfillment, would cause an immediate spike in the price of oil, with big impacts on the US and world economies. In addition, US presence in the region deters Iran from gaining influence and blocks it from bullying its neighbors. Given the dangers of the Iranian regime, including its nuclear weapon building program, now is not the time to be removing the security guarantee that has kept the region stable until now.

**3. Attack of the Drones: The Case for Reforming Drone Warfare**

A few years ago it was the dream of science fiction: armed machines operated by remote control, fighting our nation’s wars in place of soldiers, sailors and airmen. Today, drone warfare is a reality, but this case argues that our drone warfare program is a foreign policy nightmare and a constitutional travesty.

There are two components to America’s drone warfare policies: a military side, and a CIA side. While drones may be useful in battlefield situations when we are at war, the widespread use of drones to perform military missions by CIA operatives is causing numerous problems. First, a lot of civilians have been killed. The government won’t admit it, but it is widely known that many innocent bystanders get killed when we target a terrorist individual overseas. And that’s assuming we even hit the right person - sometimes we blow up a car or a person and then find out later that it was a mistaken identification. Oops. You don’t have to imagine what that does to terrorist recruiting in populations nearby - we know for a fact that we are handing out terrorist propaganda victories. We may even be creating more terrorists than we kill.

To make matters worse, some of those targeted and killed are US citizens. If the government does not (and it should not) have the authority to summarily execute US citizens on the streets of America without a trial, how does that authority get created the moment the US citizen steps across a border? It sure isn’t in the Constitution, and we’ve taken a step down a dangerous path when we say it’s ok for the government to target and kill US citizens at the point where they are accused, before they are arrested or put on trial.

Another issue with drone warfare is the problem of constitutional separation of war powers. Congress has the power to declare war, so it is problematic that the President (first Bush, now Obama) claims the power to unilaterally start blowing up people in several countries we are not at war with.

This plan reforms drone warfare three ways. First, no targeting of US citizens. Second, drone warfare has to be conducted entirely under military control, because the military has the safeguards and training to do it properly. Third, no attacks in any foreign country until Congress votes to authorize them. Note that this plan does not “cancel” drone usage (although there are advocates for that plan and it could be a viable option for debaters this year. We avoided it because a “no drone” policy would probably attract more disadvantages by handicapping our military efforts more than a “reform drone” policy would.)

One key issue in this case is the question of topicality with regard to the CIA. The plan reforms both current military and CIA drones by changing the rules of engagement (for all drones) and by bringing all CIA drones under military control. Since the CIA drones are operated by civilians (CIA employees are not members of the uniformed military services and are not in the military chain of command), one can certainly argue that reforming their drones is extra-topical. Several responses: 1) The drones themselves are “armed forces” (they fire missiles and kill people), which complies with the definition of “military” hence reforming the drones = reforming armed forces = reforming military presence. 2) Common usage. AFF will have evidence that says the CIA drones are a form of military activity regardless of who pushes the button. 3) The plan mandates extending US military control over all drones, so the uniformed military services are involved in all plan mandates. View it as “adding a mission to the US military presence abroad,” and you can see how it’s arguably topical.

In addition to CIA/topicality, Negatives will argue that drones are an effective means of eliminating terrorists, and restricting drone warfare will hamper our efforts in the war on terror. There are status quo efforts already underway to reduce civilian casualties. In addition, drones are a dramatic advance in the technology of war and protection of civilians, given that they allow attacks on precise individuals and buildings, rather than flying overhead and dropping bombs on the entire neighborhood.

With regard to American citizens, the Supreme Court has already looked into this issue and has issued rulings that justify status quo targeting policies. If an American terror suspect wants his due process rights and his day in court, all he has to do is come home and turn himself in to authorities. Running and hiding and meeting with Al Qaeda in Yemen is not the normal way of claiming the safeguards of the US Constitution. You can’t run from justice and claim its protections at the same time.

**4. Let My People Go: The Case for Reforming Military Aid to Egypt**

(Note: Due to the rapidly changing situation in Egypt, be sure to do more research before running this case, to ensure you have the latest information.)

Egypt was long a military client of the US, receiving billions of dollars of military aid beginning in the 1970s. When despised Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in 2011, many thought it would open the door to a new era of human rights and democracy in that country. Unfortunately, the Egyptian military is suppressing human rights and promoting anti-American propaganda, even as they accept our aid!

The US has a commitment to cooperation, training, and aid to the Egyptian military that originated as a reward for Egypt agreeing to sign the Camp David peace treaty with Israel in 1979. We give $1.3 billion/year in military aid, with a provision that Egypt has to meet certain standards of human rights and democracy to qualify. But there’s also a provision in the law that allows the Secretary of State to waive the human rights considerations and just go ahead and give the aid anyway if it is for the objective of “national security.” That’s exactly what the Obama administration did recently, much to the disappointment of human rights advocates both within and outside of Egypt.

This issue came up because of the recent arrest of a number of foreign and Egyptian workers for non-profit agencies advocating democratic reform. Some Americans were in the group arrested, and the Obama administration threatened to hold up the aid until the Americans were freed. They were freed (the Egyptians were not), and the aid was restored. But there remain serious violations of human rights in Egypt and nothing really changed.

While the military (as of the time this article is being written) is currently running the country, Egypt is in the process during the summer of 2012 of transitioning into a more democratic government. You will need to watch the news carefully to understand where they are in this process. But even if an elected government takes power, that doesn’t mean the problems are solved. The largest political party in the Egyptian Parliament is the Muslim Brotherhood, which may be bad news for civil rights for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, depending on how they govern. Advocates for military aid reform argue that holding up the aid is the only way to get Egypt’s attention and to restore US leverage. They also argue that other countries with questionable civil rights records are also watching how we deal with Egypt. If our statements about the importance of human rights are not taken seriously in Egypt’s case, other countries will also be bolder about ignoring them.

Negatives can point to a number of foreign policy experts who say that our military aid policies with Egypt should not be based on human rights standards because it simply won’t work. We’ve tried in the past to use the aid for leverage to influence Egypt and it never works. In addition, the US promised Egypt the aid as part of the Camp David deal. Signing the Camp David treaty to make peace with Israel was a dangerous thing to do at the time (it got Egyptian President Anwar Sadat assassinated a couple years later), and the promise of US aid was part of the incentive needed to make it happen. Egypt may well reconsider renouncing peace with Israel if we drop our aid.

**5. With Friends Like These: The Case for Reform in Honduras**

The Central American nation of Honduras had 27 years of uninterrupted democratic government when a military coup in 2009 overthrew elected President José Manuel Zelaya. After an interim regime ran the country for a few months, current president Porfirio Lobo took office. Many argue that his government, because of the coup, is illegitimate. The US has had a long military relationship with Honduras, going back decades. We have troops stationed there today and we have a military commitment with the current Honduran government, to whom Pres. Obama wants to increase military aid.

The problem with US military aid for the Honduran military is the human rights situation. It may surprise you to learn that Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world, a fact many blame on social disruptions caused by the ‘09 coup. Much of the violence is directed at peasants, political opposition, and journalists who report things the government doesn’t like. The Honduran military, supplied with US weapons and training, is involved in these human rights abuses and we need to stop supporting them.

Negatives will argue that the “coup” was in fact a lawful and proper removal of a president who was violating the national constitution. The murder and mayhem that is happening is a reason that justifies our aid, not the result of it. US troops in the country have provided help in aiding Honduras recover from natural disasters. And we need to stay involved in Honduras in order to interdict the flow of drugs into the United States.

**6. Blowing the Horn: The Case for Disengagement From the Horn of Africa**

During the Cold War, the US supported brutal Somali dictator Mohammed Siad Barre. When his government collapsed in ‘91, Somalia fractured into warring clans. The US sent in military forces to intervene -- and if you saw or heard about the movie Black Hawk Down, you know how that turned out (failure). The US pulled out, but later we supported an Ethiopian invasion to defeat an Islamic faction that was growing in power. Somalis backlashed against the foreign invasion. The Islamic group Al Shabab rose up, defeated the Ethiopians and began growing. Meanwhile, a “Transitional Federal Government” TFG - supported by outside aid - tries to govern, but does not actually run much of the country. Today, the US pursues a policy of fighting Al Shabab with drone attacks and Special Forces missions, while supporting the TFG. This case argues that America’s attempt to impose a military solution in Somalia is a serious foreign policy mistake and should be abandoned.

The failures of the Status Quo are easy to understand. US intervention essentially causes more problems than it solves by creating a magnet for terrorism and local anger against outside meddling. A US base in Ethiopia is being used to launch drone attacks inside Somalia on the grounds that Al Shabab is an Islamic terrorist group. While they have formally announced an alliance with Al Qaeda, the actual operatives of Al Qaeda have never been able to become established in Somalia, and the alliance may in fact have been driven by outside intervention itself.

US support for the TFG as a central government for Somalia is doomed to fail. They are notoriously corrupt and don’t have the support of the Somali people. In fact, many Somalis don’t even want a central government at all, and would prefer to be led by local clan leaders and elders. Why not let them decide that for themselves? In areas of Somalia that have reverted to local rule, they have democracy and stability.

Negatives will argue that Al Shabab is a dangerous radical Islamic group that wants to implement the human-rights-destroying Islamic Sharia law and provide a safe haven for Al Qaeda. In addition, if we don’t help stabilize Somalia, piracy off the coast (which has become an increasing problem in the busy shipping lanes nearby) will increase. The US also has recently adopted a “second track” or “two track” policy, which means we engage with local groups outside of the TFG in order to find alternative governance options. We should give this dual-track policy a chance to work and minor repair it with some increased humanitarian aid.

**7. Less Is More: The Case for Withdrawal From South Korea**

In 1950, the United States came to the rescue of the people of South Korea when they were overrun by an invasion from communist North Korea. But the conflict ended in 1953, and times have changed. While the Korean peninsula is still a dangerous place, the best way to reduce that tension and promote peace is to withdraw the US troop commitment and disengage.

This case argues that our current military presence in S. Korea is unnecessary and counterproductive. It’s unnecessary because South Korea has twice the population and 10 times the economic power of North Korea, its arch-enemy. Conceding that the North could be a substantial threat, nevertheless South Korea is easily able to defend themselves if they are left alone to do so. For now, they are happy to free-ride on US guarantees of protection; if their military is not strong enough, it’s because they choose not to make it so. Nothing is stopping them from making it stronger.

Our presence is counterproductive because our current policy irritates China. This case proves that China’s cooperation is essential to negotiating a reduction in North Korea’s threatening posture and proliferation of nuclear weapons. While China today is not willing to use the influence it has, if the US were to withdraw, China would fill the void. Since they are the only country that has any chance of influencing North Korea, this is the best hope for improving the volatile situation in the Korean Peninsula. Let Korea be China’s problem instead of ours - they are going to be far more affected by it than we are, in any case.

Negatives will argue that “deterring North Korea” should be the goal of our foreign policy, not worrying about China. Whatever it takes to deter N. Korea from attacking S. Korea is what we should do. And that means supporting S.Korea with whatever it takes. The Status Quo is stable right now, and any radical changes could upset things and increase the risk of war. In addition, Negative will argue that Affirmative’s premise that S. Korea is “free-riding” on US defense spending is incorrect, because S.Korea has been dramatically increasing its spending for quite some time now. They are a reliable ally in a dangerous situation in need of our defense, not a free-rider worthy of our contempt.

**8. Pie in the Sky: The Case for Canceling NATO Missile Defense**

It's expensive, it doesn't work, it disrupts our foreign relations, and it increases risks to our country. And the Pentagon says we're going to do more of it. It’s missile defense, specifically the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) program that the US is building in Eastern Europe in cooperation with our NATO allies.

Part of the US military presence in Europe is our missile defense program currently underway. While the US insists that the program is designed against “rogue states” like Iran, Russia has trouble with it. The capabilities of the program would, in later phases, be able to shoot down ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) that are in the Russian arsenal. This causes Russia to fear that it would lose its deterrence and require it to start an arms race to ensure that its forces could not be neutralized and its foreign policy intimidated by the US.

This case argues that missile defense is ineffective at actually preventing missile attacks. But the attempt to do so will generate reactions in other countries that will end up reducing US national security. And in addition to wasting money on a defensive shield full of holes, the cost in our foreign policy of alienating Russia is far too high. Instead of continuing to pour money into this counterproductive strategy, we should just cancel it.

Negatives will argue that missile defense is a necessary and vital component of our national security due to the missile threat from Iran, particularly in light of Iran’s nuclear weapons development program. Missile defense can be configured to provide a substantial increase in our country’s protection from rogue nation attacks, and Europe needs this defense as well.

With regard to Russia, some of the Negative strategy depends on what position the Affirmative takes with regard to Russia’s view of the US missile defense program in Europe. If the Affirmative is arguing that we should stop the MD program because Russia opposes it (and Russia may pull out of the START treaty in retaliation), you have to choose whether you want to argue A) that Russia does not really oppose it very badly and would not actually pull out of START; or B) agree that Russia opposes it and would pull out of START and that would be a good thing, so we should continue with the Status Quo -- then run Disadvantages on why the START treaty is bad.

We have evidence for both positions, but you may run into trouble if you try to run both. You could always try to argue in the alternative: “Russia won’t get mad enough to pull out of START, but even if they did, that would be a good thing because START is bad.” If you think a judge will buy that line of argumentation, that could work and would give the judge more reasons to vote Negative. Otherwise, pick one or the other and be careful to argue consistently with whatever position you choose. In either case, explain your Negative position on Russia to the judge in the 1NC.

**9. Lethal Legacy: The Case for Removing Tactical Nuclear Weapons From Europe**

During the Cold War, the US deployed hundreds of tactical nuclear weapons at bases in Europe to be used against a Soviet invasion that never came. Today, this lethal legacy remains, even though its usefulness has long since vanished. This case, itself a legacy (though updated with recent evidence) of the “Russia” debate resolution year, argues that the risks posed by these obsolete weapons compel a plan to remove them.

The case for removal is pretty simple. The weapons are useless militarily because there is no target for them. We simply aren’t going to nuke anyone in Europe. The only way these weapons would ever be used would be in an escalation scenario, where some general during a conventional war hastily decides to drop a nuke without authorization, or else in a terrorism scenario, where someone steals one of these weapons and uses it (or just threatens to). Given the poor security on the bases where the weapons are stored (multiple break-ins have occurred), these weapons confer all risk, a maintenance cost of about $1 billion/year, and no benefit.

Negatives will argue that the weapons do, in fact, have redeeming value. For one, the increased military preparedness and exercises that would be required to maintain deterrence in Europe would upset Russia and hurt relations. Removal would also be perceived in Russia as a sign of weakness, leading Russia to a more aggressive and harmful foreign policy. And without US nuclear weapons, some NATO countries (particularly Turkey) would consider building their own nuclear bombs, spawning a new nuclear arms race with disturbing risks to global peace.

**10. Aurevior: The Case for leaving NATO**

The US commitment to the military defense of Europe was a powerful ship driving our foreign policy. A generation ago, that is. Today the US commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, is merely a useless boat anchor that ties us down and weakens those we were supposed to protect. This case argues that it is time for the US to leave NATO.

NATO is an alliance of 28 countries, and this case argues that most of them add little or nothing in the way of benefit to US foreign policy. Instead they add to our liabilities. We have to come to rescue them, but they will never do anything for us. Actions we would like the alliance to take are slowed down considerably when we have to get all 28 members to agree and coordinate. Our foreign military engagements just aren’t helped by that kind of help. And we are more likely to be involved in unnecessary wars as we enter more unnecessary military commitments.

This plan does not abolish NATO. Europe and Canada (if Canada wants) can continue if they want to. Experts say US withdrawal would force them to confront the fact that they simply don’t spend enough to defend themselves. Not that there are any big threats, but if Europe feels insecure, Europe should pay for more security. They can certainly afford it, and it’s time they took the responsibility. Doing so will reduce costs and risks to America.

Negatives can argue there are numerous disadvantages to US withdrawal from NATO. For example, we need NATO’s cooperation to win the war in Afghanistan, which has lots of impacts (see the negative brief against US withdrawal from Afghanistan). For Europe itself, the smaller European states need US assurance in order to be able to resist the threat of Russian aggression. And for the US, our foreign policy works a lot better, in matters of cost and foreign policy legitimacy, when we have NATO support for our actions. Going it alone would create a loss of net benefits.

**11. UNPAK: The Case for Ending the Alliance With Pakistan**

Only three years after establishing the US military alliance with Pakistan, President Eisenhower in 1957 said it was QUOTE “perhaps the worst kind of a plan and decision we could have made. It was a terrible error...”\* UNQUOTE. Time has proven him right, and this case argues that we need to get out of that mistake.

The most obvious focus of US-Pakistan relations today is the war in Afghanistan. While Pakistan’s government claims to be an ally in that war, and receives US military aid toward that end, it turns out that they are also our enemy. After all, where was Osama Bin Laden hiding for 10 years but in Pakistan near a military installation? Too, the Pakistani version of our CIA (for them it’s the ISI, Inter-Services Intelligence) is well known to be supportive of some of our enemies on the ground in Afghanistan. When we try to cooperate on joint operations with Pak troops, we don’t share intelligence (because we don’t trust them and they don’t trust us), so mistakes happen and friendly fire takes its toll. The mistrust is well-placed: Some Pakistani troops have been discovered aiding our enemies, according to the NATO commander on the ground. With friends like that, who even needs enemies?

In addition, US military operations inside Pakistan are causing death and destruction. Drone attacks are supposed to kill bad guys, but they often kill innocent bystanders. That’s bad in itself, but it also inflames the population against America, and you can hardly blame them. An alliance that causes more death and destruction and aids our enemies is an alliance we need to get out of, and fast.

Negatives will argue that, in fact, Pakistan is doing its best to fight the same Islamic radicals in the region that we are fighting. They have done a lot to aid our war effort in Afghanistan (like opening supply routes), and losing their help might cost us success in that war. In addition, Pakistan faces a lot of internal security issues, and without our support, the country could be destabilized.

**12. Deal With the Devil: The Case for Reforming the Alliance With Saudi Arabia**

Some call it a “Faustian Bargain,” in other words, a deal with the Devil. President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated an alliance in 1945, and every President since has maintained it. But our “ally” acts more like an enemy, and commits terrible abuses against its own people. It’s long past time for us to reconsider America’s alliance with Saudi Arabia.

This case has a lot of overlap, in both Affirmative and Negative argumentation, with the Carter Doctrine case, but they are not exactly the same thing. In this case, we only set human rights conditions on the US alliance with Saudi Arabia. At no point do we cancel all US involvement in Middle East oil protection; for example, US sea lane patrols (the Strait of Hormuz) would continue under this plan, but would be canceled under the Carter plan.

During World War 2, the US government realized that oil was a huge strategic asset, essential to the nation’s ability to fight wars and essential to the economy. Pres. Roosevelt wanted to secure oil supplies for the Allies and deny them to other powers. To ensure access to Saudi oil, he made a deal with the King of Saudi Arabia in 1945 guaranteeing US military protection for the kingdom in exchange for access to their oil. Every US President since has reaffirmed and upheld that alliance.

The problem is that Saudi Arabia is a country we would probably never deal with were it not for oil. Their record on human rights is atrocious. They have no intention of establishing anything close to a democracy. And their funding for jihad-promoting propaganda throughout the world is notorious. It’s not a coincidence that the 9/11 hijackers were Saudis - their radical flavor of Islam originated in the same bubbling cauldron as their fellow Saudi native Osama Bin Laden. Experts say we have no business supporting a nation like that until they reform.

Negatives will argue that the impacts to cutting Saudia Arabia loose will be too big to ignore. Saudi Arabia, of course, sits on top of the biggest oil supplies in the world, so their stability is key to world oil market stability. Anything that goes wrong in Saudi Arabia will hit Americans in the wallet the next day at the gas station, and possibly long term when jobs are lost and businesses fail as the economy is impacted. We just can’t afford to take that risk.

In addition, the Saudis have said they are considering building a nuclear bomb because they are afraid (with good reason) of Iran. (Though both are Islamic countries, they are mortal enemies. Saudis are Arabs, Iranians are Persians. The ruling Saud family are Sunni Moslems, while the Iranians are Shi’ite Moslems.) If they do that, there’s no telling the awful results that could happen. US protection is the key to keeping the Saudis secure and calm.

**13. Tug of War: The Case for Reforming War Powers**

The Founding Fathers originally made a clear separation of war powers in the Constitution. They gave Congress the power to decide to commit American troops to foreign combat, and they gave the President the power to command the troops to carry out the objectives Congress voted for. Unfortunately, in the two centuries since, that balance of power is now out of balance with serious implications for our country and the troops we send into harm’s way. This case is not about indicting any one particular President or party (several presidents of both parties are guilty), nor any particular war. Instead we will be looking at reform of the institutional process to restore respect for what the Constitution says about our foreign military commitments.

Presidents have taken on too much power to start wars on their own initiative and then dare Congress to stop them (and sometimes ignore Congress when they try to stop them). Many commentators say Congress should just cut off the funding but it’s not that simple. In the early days of the Republic, Congress voted to allocate money to specific military missions, even naming how many soldiers would be paid for and what rations they would eat. Presidents like George Washington couldn’t use the military for anything on their own initiative unless we were attacked.

In recent generations that has changed. Today Congress allocates a general defense budget for the Army, the Navy the Air Force, for ships, planes, etc. but without specifying what missions they are to be sent to. Given modern equipment procurement costs and the inefficiencies of stopping and starting construction of aircraft carriers, for example, you can see the logic. But once the President has all of these men and equipment, already budgeted and paid for, he is then tempted to use them. Once he initiates a conflict X, it then is up to Congress to pass a new piece of legislation telling the President that no funds may be spent on military forces for X mission. However, the President may now veto that legislation, meaning that Congress must have a ⅔ majority to control funding for any war the President starts. That’s a nearly impossible hurdle, and one not intended by the Framers of the Constitution, who intended war funding to be enacted or withheld by simple majority votes in Congress. Effectively, war funding has had its constitutional function amended, without an actual constitutional amendment.

Congress tried to solve this problem in 1973 by passing the War Powers Act (also known as the War Powers Resolution). It requires that the President notify Congress about any military action, and gives him 60 days to continue the action and receive Congressional approval. If Congress does not affirmatively approve the action within 60 days, he must withdraw the troops within the next 30 days. The question then is “Or Else What?” If he doesn’t withdraw (and Presidents have tried this) what happens? The answer is, nothing. Congress could find the President in violation of the law and begin impeachment proceedings, but they have never chosen to do that over the War Powers issue. Another related issue happens when Congress votes to authorize military action, and then the action grows beyond the scope and time intended by Congress in the beginning. The President takes a small incident and creates a huge war. This arguably is what happened with Vietnam and Afghanistan.

This plan focuses on the latter problem described above. The legal scholars we quote here say the enacts the recommendations of certain legal scholars who say the solution is to change the “rules of the house” for both the House and Senate. The Constitution gives both houses of Congress the right to set their own rules (without veto by the President). Each house will pass a rule declaring that all future war authorizations have a default 2-year expiration date, and that future military war funding appropriations expire at the same time as the war authorization (unless Congress provides otherwise in the text of the legislation). The President will now be forced to come back to Congress to explain the war and justify the ongoing US military commitment of lives and money, or else, by default, his war will be defunded. The burden shifts to the President to prove the need for the war, rather than a ⅔ majority of Congress to prove we “don’t” need it.

Negatives will argue that the President’s hands should not be tied. Presidents throughout history have engaged in wars without Congress being called every time - in over 100 incidents, in fact -- so what’s the big deal? Congress is normally too paralyzed politically to deal with issues of war. They really just want the President to handle it. If it succeeds, they will claim success since they funded it. If it fails, they will blame the President for getting us into a war they didn’t authorize. This is a body that cannot be trusted to properly manage a war, and they will mess it up if we give them the chance. In addition, setting dates in advance for troop withdrawals sends signals to our enemies that they can run out the clock and beat us on the battlefield if they know a vote is coming up.

Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Read *Blue Book* Chapter 5 and 6, the history chapters.

1. Memorize Stoa’s team-policy resolution. Be able to recite it from memory in class. Your coach and your classmates will expect this from you.

2. What was the first foreign war authorized by Congress? How did this war start and end?

3. How did the Monroe Doctrine help ensure limited foreign military commitments? What was the military focus for America for the next 75 years?

4. How was America provoked to get involved in World War I? How did this change the viewpoint of America’s involvement in world conflicts?

5. What proposal did President Wilson give in response to WWI? What was strange about its implementation?

6. Explain how World War II radically changed to this day the policy of isolationism and the resistance to foreign wars.

7. What is NATO, when was it formed, and what was it designed to do? Does it still serve a purpose today? Why or why not?

8. What was the purpose of the Korean War in 1950? Was America successful or not? Explain.

9. Richard Nixon claims that the Vietnam War is grossly misunderstood in American history. Explain how you have been brought to understand it in your home. Compare it to how *Blue Book* explains the history. What are the differences or similarities?

10. What is the Carter Doctrine? What major wars have been fought since its invocation in 1980?

11. What two wars happened in response to September 11, 2001, bombing of the Pentagon and the World Trade Centers? Which war was fought by NATO, and which unilaterally by the US? Why?

12. What interventions have happened under President Obama’s watch? Do you believe these conflicts have been justified?

Answer Key

1. No answer necessary.

2. The first foreign war was the “quasi-war” with France. It started from America’s refusal to repay the debt to France’s crown. It ended with the Treaty of Morefontaine at the convention of 1800.

3. The Monroe Doctrine announced that no European powers should try to regain jurisdiction over any of their former colonies in the Western Hemisphere that had declared independence, and that the United States would not intervene in Europe’s wars. America’s focus for the next 75 years was on westward expansions, essentially ignoring Europe’s problems.

4. America was provoked to get involved in World War I when Germany sank a ship in the Atlantic killing 2,000 civilians; Germany also tempted Mexico to ally with them against America. The US getting involved in WWI led to Germany’s defeat, but also set America up as a global power. President Woodrow Wilson set up the League of Nations, but America didn’t ratify it.

5. The proposal President Wilson gave in response to WWI was the League of Nations. What was strange about its implementation was that the US Senate never ratified the treaty. The Senate wanted to return to the pre-WWI days of noninvolvement. The League of Nations, though proposed by an American president, carried on without US participation.

6. America was attacked by Japan in 1941 at Pearl Harbor, forcing America’s involvement in the Second World War. America became the sole world power after devastating Japan and attaining the world’s most destructive weapon.

7. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed in 1949 with the purpose to “keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down.” It was a direct response to the events of World War II. Whether it serves a purpose today is debatable, and answers will vary.

8. The purpose of the Korean War was to push North Korea back from conquering South Korea. The push was successful, but lead to China’s direct involvement to help their friend North Korea. This put the original borders of North and South back into place, but a peace treaty was never signed. North and South Korea are still technically at war to this day, though fighting does not exist. Today 28,000 American troops are stationed in South Korea to help make sure this is the case.

9. Answers will vary.

10. The Carter Doctrine is what was taken from President Jimmy Carter’s State of the Union Address in 1980. Carter declared that any action in the Persian Gulf would be regarded as American interests. Numerous conflicts have resulted since then, the largest being the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq War.

11. The response to 9/11 were the Afghanistan War and the Iraq War. The attack on Afghanistan drew the support of NATO because it was proven that Afghanistan – controlled by the terrorist regime Al Qaeda – led the attack of 9/11. Iraq never directly attacked America, but fear of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) brought an eminent danger to America. The US launched a preemptive attack on Iraq, removed Saddam Hussein from power, and set up a new government.

12. Refer to pages 52-53 for a quick list of US military involvements under the Obama administration. Answers will vary as to whether or not they have been justified.

1. http://archive.org/stream/addressofpreside00unit#page/8/mode/2up [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F60C17F6385C13738DDDA80894DE405B858DF1D3>. For those eager to condemn Germany for the attack, notice should be taken of the fact that the German government took out ads in the newspaper before the Lusitania set sail, advising the public that the ship was carrying British war supplies and was therefore a legitimate military target, and vulnerable to submarine attack. Every passenger and crew member knew the risk they were taking before they boarded the vessel. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Honduras was the original target of the pejorative label “banana republic” during this time. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Weapons of Mass Destruction, or WMD, means: chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Although it is likely that CIA and Special Forces will continue to operate. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. <http://www.thenation.com/blog/161378/around-globe-us-military-bases-generate-resentment-not-security>. This source suggests 865 bases, but over 1,000 if new bases in Iraq and Afghanistan were included. Other sources claim in the 600s or 700s. No one is sure of the exact number and it depends on who is counting and what they are counting. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)