

U.S. Interventionist Foreign Policy: Later U.S. History

How could the lessons learned from these past U.S. foreign policies help support your proposal?

I) The following events are typically thought to be *successful* U.S. interventions:

a) World War 1: After remaining neutral for most of the war, the U.S. joined to support the British and French against the German empire. As soon as fresh U.S. troops begin to arrive in the summer of 1918, the war turned and by the fall of 1918, Germany surrendered.

b) World War 2: The United States eventually entered to stop Japanese expansion in Asia and Nazi German expansion in Europe. Less than a year after the DDAY invasion, Germany surrendered and the “death camps” were freed by American and Russian forces. Fierce fighting continued in the Pacific against Japan until the U.S. decided to drop two atomic bombs in August of 1945.

c) The United States remains the top funder of humanitarian and relief aid to nations in need

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/countryprofile/united-states#tab-humanitarian-response>

II) The following events are typically thought to be *unsuccessful* U.S. interventions:

a) The Bay of Pigs Invasion: After Fidel Castro led a communist revolution in Cuba, the CIA organized an invasion to take back the country. 1,400 U.S. backed fighters and 8 CIA supported B-26 bombers invaded Cuba on April 15, 1961. The Cuban army successfully defeated the invasion leading to an embarrassing situation for the United States.

b) The Vietnam War(1961-1973): The United States provided economic and military support to the Southern Vietnamese government. The overall goal of U.S. intervention was to stop the spread of communism and support a democratic government in Vietnam. After billions of dollars, and 60,000 American lives, the United States military withdrew as U.S. public support for the war fell and communist North Vietnam took over.

III) The follow events remain *debated* on whether U.S. interventionism was successful

a) Operation Enduring Freedom/ The War on Terror: (October, 2001 to Present): The U.S. military invaded Afghanistan and other nations to stop Al Qaeda, the Taliban and other terrorist groups.

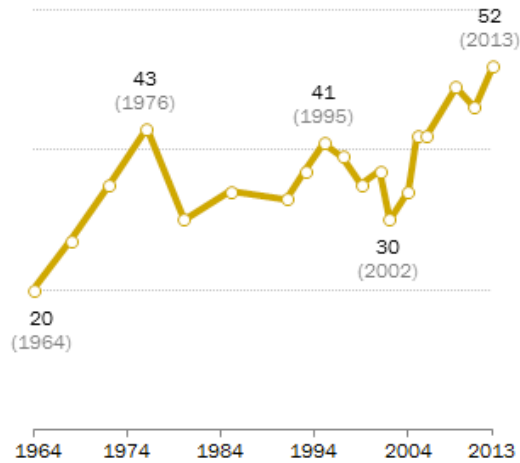
successes: Terrorism plots stopped, Osama Bin Ladin removed, Al Qaeda training camps destroyed
failures: U.S. tactics (CIA prisons/ Gitmo prison) encourage terrorist supporters, costly in money and lives.

b) Operation Iraqi Freedom/ The Iraq War (2003- Present): U.S. military invaded Iraq to remove the dictator Saddam Hussein.

successes: Hussein removed and process of democracy started in Iraq
failures: a triggered civil war between Sunni and Shia Muslims, development of ISIS

Majority Says U.S. Should ‘Mind Its Own Business Internationally’

% agreeing that ‘the U.S. should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own’



Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public: PEW2d (Omnibus). 1964-1991 data from Gallup.

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Many of Public's Top Foreign Policy Goals Reflect Domestic Concerns

% saying each should be a top policy priority ...

	General Public %	CFR Members %
Protecting U.S. from terrorist attacks	83	76
Protecting jobs of American workers	81	29
Preventing spread of weapons of mass destruction	73	81
Reducing dependence on imported energy sources	61	47
Combating international drug trafficking	57	17
Reducing illegal immigration	48	11
Strengthening the United Nations	37	17
Dealing w/ global climate change	37	57
Promoting and defending human rights in other countries	33	19
Helping improve living standards in developing nations	23	25
Promoting democracy in other nations	18	12

Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public: Q33. CFR: Q17.

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A Wider Age Gap in Views of Which Region is More Important for the U.S.

% saying each is most important to the U.S.

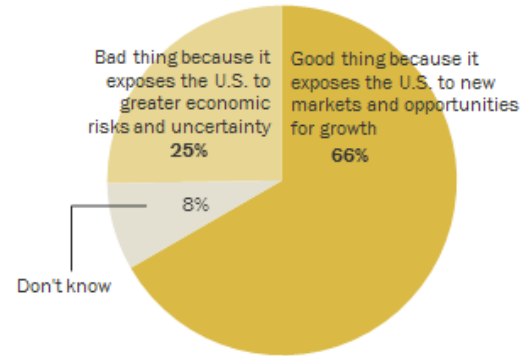
	Jan 2011		Nov 2013	
	Europe %	Asia %	Europe %	Asia %
Total	37	47	50	35
18-29	39	52	37	52
30-49	36	47	46	40
50-64	38	43	57	26
65+	33	45	60	21
College grad+	31	55	41	44
Some college	34	54	50	34
High school or less	41	39	54	31
Republican	43	46	58	29
Democrat	34	46	48	37
Independent	34	52	45	40

Source: America's Place in the World, 2013. General Public: Q31.

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Two-Thirds Say Greater U.S. Involvement In Global Economy Is a Good Thing

Greater U.S. involvement in global economy is a ...



Source: America's Place in the World 2013. General public: Q41.

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