

Afghanistan Debrief

Niko

Moving forward, I believe that the United States should move toward withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, but not until certain measures are put in place. These measures would include a strengthening of the democratic structure of the Afghan government, as well as some form of a peace deal with terrorist groups.

I think that both the United States and Afghanistan both suffer great consequences from the war. The United States pays millions of dollars toward this cause, and Afghanistan suffers civilian casualties, mass corruption, and other economic issues. Although the war has many consequences, I believe that the military presence by the United States benefits the civilians of Afghanistan, at least a little. They are protected from a mass takeover from the Taliban and the harsh Muslim laws they would impose. A 2005 poll demonstrated that “most Afghans felt that their country was heading in the right direction”, and “...held a favorable opinion of the United States and felt that their situation was better than it had been under the Taliban.” I believe that, for the United States, the grounds for going to war would be a direct threat to lives of civilians in the region, or threats to civilians of other countries’ lives. When deciding to end a war, there should either no longer be a direct threat to civilian life or a peace deal agreed on by the conflicting parties.

While the United States is considered the world’s greatest superpower country, I feel that it tends to take matters into its own hands too often. While I do agree that the United States made the right decision to hunt Osama Bin Laden, I think that United States’ involvement

in Afghanistan should have ended there. I do think that, since Al-Qaeda did attack the United States, that they did the right thing by retaliating; the military action should've ended after Bin Laden was captured. However, since the United States is involved in Afghanistan and has invested many resources into it, they should stabilize the country, and withdraw as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

There is nothing that students can do now that would have any influence on the conflicts in Afghanistan. However, the best course of action is for high school aged students to become as educated about these issues as possible. Then, the current-day students that choose to run for office could be better suited to handle issues like the one in Afghanistan. The Choices program is a great example of a program that educates students in such a way that they would be more prepared to handle these issues in the future. In conclusion, the war in Afghanistan started on the anti-terrorism mindset of the United States, but it escalated too much. However, since the United States is now heavily involved, they should slowly work on stabilizing the country and withdrawing.