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Afghanistan  
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I think the best policy to help Afghanistan would be the second brief; to promote security by supporting democracy. I think that in order to gain stability in their government and economy, they need to begin by lowering corruption. If everyone has their own agenda, along with the fact that there is no money, then no matter what, Afghanistan is still going to struggle.

I think like in any war, everyone has borne the cost of the war. Everyone that has been involved has lost people, money and resources. Afghanistan has definitely taken a majority of the cost. The war is on their soil which means their civilians are put at risk, and unlike the states, which is a first world country, but have few and less resources, which they have been forced to spend due to the war. That is not to say, however, that the US has not borne any cost of the war. We have definitely lost lives, and spent billions, but the difference is more that the US can spend it without affecting a majority of the country. As for Afghanistan, they're country is still very unstable, corrupt, and their civilians are continuing to flee the country due to the dangers from the war. As the *United States in Afghanistan Student Text*, states, "The war led to hunger and displacement among much of Afghanistan's population. Fearing U.S. bombing, thousands of Afghan civilians fled Afghanistan's cities when it became clear that the United States would lead an attack on the Taliban. Many entered Iran and Pakistan as refugees." By promoting security, and relying less on the military, I think the United States may have a better chance at helping Afghanistan. Although the war has brought a lot of unnecessary hurt and created a lot of damage, it has had its benefits. The United States has helped dissolve Al-Qaeda's presence in Afghanistan, and they have helped bring more gender equality to the bigger cities. The States has

also helped Afghanistan advance its military, and bring a little more economic stability, though a lot of it has not really helped due to the amount of corruption in the country. This situation will not be resolved by continuing to have the US military in Afghanistan, but rather by helping the country through diplomatic relations with its neighbors, and supporting democracy. When the United States went to Afghanistan, it was to fight the Taliban and assassinate Osama bin Laden, not to help Afghanistan gain stability. Although their objectives were necessary, I think they have spent too much energy and resources on fighting back with force, and not enough on helping Afghanistan gain stability and security, two key components to a thriving country. As said in, *United States in Afghanistan Student Text*, “And although they support democracy, many Afghans are frustrated with the government's inability to hold fair elections, improve security, establish the rule of law, and fight corruption.” By helping improve security, and eradicate corruption, the United States can actually begin to help Afghanistan.

Juanzi Rainer

Afghanistan

Ranked options:

Option 2 : Promote Security by Supporting Democracy

Option 3 : Withdraw Our Troops

Option 1 : Preserve the Gains in Afghanistan

Rate each of the statements according to your personal beliefs:

1 = Strongly Support

2 = Support

3 = Oppose

4 = Strongly Oppose

2 - The Taliban are a threat to U.S. security.

2- Pakistan is an essential and reliable partner of the United States.

2- Strengthening Afghanistan's democracy and economy is an important part of reducing the threat from extremist groups.

2- Taxpayer dollars currently being spent in Afghanistan would be better spent back in the United States.

3- Unmanned drone strikes against targets in Pakistan are an effective and justifiable method of fighting extremist groups.

2- Using military force against targets in Afghanistan and Pakistan creates more enemies than it kills.

?- Al Qaeda is no longer a threat to the United States.

2- It is possible to negotiate an end to violence with the Taliban.

? - Reducing tensions between India and Pakistan will help reduce the role of extremists in the region.

1- Afghanistan can become a secure, stable democracy with continued international assistance.

2- A continued U.S. presence in Afghanistan is costly and does little to promote our national security.

Title of Your Own Option: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What values and interests should guide U.S. policy in Afghanistan?

I think they need to gain stability in their government by lowering corruption, and stabilizing the economy. If everyone has their own agenda, along with the fact that no one has money, then no matter what, Afghanistan is still going to struggle.

2. What policies should the United States pursue to put these values into action?

3. a. How would your option affect people living in the United States?

b. How would your option affect people in Afghanistan?

c. How would your option affect people in Pakistan?

4. What are the two strongest arguments opposing your option?

a.

b.

5. What are the two strongest arguments supporting your option?

a.

b.

