

Cameron

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Div 4 Humanities

Post debate reflection

As I said during the debate, I believe that a mix of options one and two would be the most realistic. Option two was ideal, however, it is a long term solution and keeping a *small* military during that process would possibly ease the transition.

Personally I do not believe anyone really benefits from these wars. The only acceptable grounds for going to war, in my opinion, would be to liberate and assist people of the region. Obviously, that's only if it is *absolutely* the last resort. Invading another country is a much more complicated issue. The plan for this war clearly wasn't entirely thought out and it feels like the end goal itself was even unclear. I do not believe that the U.S should still be in Afghanistan, however Afghanistan has developed such a reliance on foreign assistance over the past 18 years that an abrupt withdrawal seems irresponsible and would leave them vulnerable. At this point the cost of war very much seems greater than the gains.

In my opinion, the U.S should continue assisting countries as needed but definitely not through war and political manipulation (blackmailing presidents). As a global superpower, it seems like a given that we should demonstrate our own values of freedom when we are involved with other countries. Obviously we can't financially support the entire world, and frankly it would be extremely irresponsible to get so deeply involved with another country, especially when our involvement is negatively impacting both parties. But it does seem hypocritical and difficult to observe a human rights issue in a place that we've so deeply impacted (arguably negatively and positively) and try to pretend like it was all just a bad dream.

Quite honestly, I don't think there's much high school students can do outside of learning about current afghanistan events and having discussions. Obviously we can advocate for what we believe is right, but to most adults, we already don't understand enough about the

world, much less about war. However, I do believe there is power in discussion. Even if we don't *actually* stake in what happens in Afghanistan, learning about it now and having discussions about it would emphasize its importance. And because the issue may continue on longer than anyone would like, we may actually have more of a voice during the decision making process. We will one day be able to talk about this with deeper knowledge than we'd get had we simply read about it on the news.