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Humanities

Division 4

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Evaluating the Costs of War

We have had troops in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years. In the beginning, we had one objective: that was to kill Osama Bin Laden and take down the Taliban. The first part was completed in 2011, 10 years after 9/11. Yet, we've spent an extra 9 years in the country, still not having ended the Taliban. Because of this, Americans have argued that we should have left Afghanistan immediately, not looking back at our actions. While I agree we should leave, I don't think ignoring what we've done is a good idea. I genuinely think we must keep American advisers and organisations there to help the country. Throughout these 2 pages, I will be discussing the United States history in Afghanistan and why our long term effects led to my opinion of the matter.

A majority of people will usually think our history with Afghanistan began around the years leading up to 9/11. This belief is false, our history goes farther back to the Cold War, specifically the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. This invasion from the Soviet Union extremely worried the U.S due to the possibility of communism spreading throughout the region. Alongside the invasion, The US , through China, was giving weapons to the *mujahideen*.This act I believe was what truly began our time in Afghanistan. After the war, there were various conflicts in terms of who got power. As it's known, the Taliban eventually took control. Down the line came Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden was an islamic extremist, who'd cause a lot of trouble for America.

Eventually, he allied with the Taliban. Later on, he would commit 9/11. Due to his horrific actions, the United States decided to send troops to Afghanistan, thus starting our near 20 years of military presence in the country.

That's 20 years of war. Something we can't get back. The time we spent hunting and ending bin laden is over. "We should just leave, we're wasting man power and money". By just doing that, we'd be extremely inconsiderate of the trauma and suffering that the Afghan people are going through because of our attacks on the Taliban . The reading, *Choices*, explains a few effects from placement there. On page 24 the author writes, "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… Many entered Iran and Pakistan as refugees." If this quote should instill the fact that we are really hurting the people of Afghanistan. The ones who have to deal with the devastation of war isn't us, it's the people of Afghanistan.

Instead of leaving, we should keep our organizations and advisors there. So that there is some form of security for the country, and help the people back up. In reality, this shouldn't have a long war. No one benefits from it. The people of Afghanistan are the ones who got nothing. They still deal with broken homes. We should rebuild them. If a country goes into a place and wrecks havoc, then they should clean it up. That is why America should be doing as one of its policies. It shouldn't be some form of enforcer but a helper.