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Hum Div 3

Evaluating the Costs of War

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I believe that the US should continue to promote democratic practices in Afghanistan. This may include a leader that does not agree with us completely, but that is what democracy is. We should also work with the Afghan government to figure out what they want us to do with our troops. If the government feels that they still need our support then we will not withdraw. Working with the Afghan government rather than the Taliban is crucial because it puts the Taliban in their place and reassures the people that their government is still in power. The people of Afghanistan and Pakistan have really borne the cost of this war. US drone strikes and counterproductive policies leave many people embarrassed and untrusting. In the summary of option two it reads, "Many have come to believe that, despite the U.S. rhetoric about democracy, U.S. leaders are willing to support repressive dictators or corrupt leaders as long as they support U.S. policies. Our military policies are also counterproductive. Our drone program infuriates Pakistanis, who are horrified by civilian casualties." This description does not indicate that the presence of US troops has brought anyone comfort.

It's hard to say who actually benefits from the war. I think that the US has done some good but we have also done a lot of damage. Everyone would benefit more from this war if the US had gone about it differently. A more diplomatic and democratic approach

would have ended the war much sooner and probably would have saved many lives. The US did kill Bin Laden and try to dismantle the Taliban but we managed to completely isolate the people and the government from the process. The US should be working with the government of the countries we want to help. This is supported in Option 2 when it states, "We must end our reliance on military force, which creates more problems than it solves. We should demonstrate our commitment to helping Afghanistan and Pakistan develop economically and democratically by showing our respect for their security concerns and sovereignty." Our role should be to set a good example of democracy and support the country in forming their own democratic institutions.