

Opening Statement:

“The key to ending the years of conflict in Afghanistan and the threat from terrorist groups is in building true partnerships with Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

The United States should support democracy in Afghanistan through diplomatic solutions instead of military action. We should address and respect the wants and needs of the people and fully commit to the development of democracy and economic stability for the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. By doing so we can eliminate the draw toward the Taliban and other extremist groups.

1. What are the two most important values underlying your option?-MLB

- a. Aid Afghanistan’s growth using humanitarian efforts in place of military action.
- b. The US needs to develop stronger relationships with Pakistan and Afghanistan and remove its military presence.

2. What is your option’s long-term vision for Afghanistan?-MLB

- Use US aid to develop a strong economy and democratic institutions, run by the government of Afghanistan.
- Foster good relationships between Afghanistan and other countries, and Pakistan and other countries.

3. According to the values of your option, what should be the role of the United States in the world? NP

- “We must put an end to U.S. policies that have damaged our reputation with the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Many have come to believe that, despite the U.S. rhetoric about democracy, U.S. leaders are willing to support oppressive dictators or corrupt leaders as long as they support U.S. policies.”
- Work on diplomatic policy instead of relying on unwanted military occupation
- Work with the governments of other countries to help the citizens of those countries and encourage democracy.
- Support Afghanistan’s citizens in better their own country.

4. According to your option, why should these values be the guiding force for U.S. policy toward Afghanistan? NP

- US policies are actually alienating the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan more.
- We should make policies that respect the wishes of the people. Many believe that the US will support any leader as long as that leader supports US policy, even if that leader is a dictator.
- US policies should address the deeper issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan instead of just focusing on the Taliban. By helping the government build a stronger economy and bring back stability and trust to the country, we can eliminate the need for extremist groups.

5. According to your option, what policies and strategies should the United States pursue to achieve this vision? ICS

- Dissolution of drone program in Pakistan in order to get Pakistan to arrest al Qaeda and Taliban members in Pakistan. The Afghan people are strongly against civilian deaths. Drone strikes only bring more mistrust in the US
- Withdraw US troops and involve the Afghan government in decisions about its own country.
- Create policies to better economic and democratic development in Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Mediate improved relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and India.
- support local homegrown democratic institutions
- provide aid for education and economic development
- put our faith in the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, who want nothing more than peace and prosperity

6. How will your option affect people in Afghanistan? The United States? People in other countries?-MLB

- The Afghan people have always resisted occupation, by any foreign power. Once the US there should be less internal struggle once the United States leaves.
- Additionally, US military resources will not continue to be used in Afghanistan.
- Pakistan will also redistribute its resources, hopefully away from military endeavors, and live in a more peaceful environment.
- Also, since Pakistan's citizens despise the drone program, relationships with Pakistan will be less strained and more of a partnership.
-

8. What does this option think about negotiating with the Taliban?/What does this option think about the threat from al Qaeda? NP

- We think that the best way to create a stable democratic government is to work alongside Pakistan in order to defeat the reign of the Taliban and al Qaeda
- Pakistan's support is vital in doing this as they hold power in and over these groups in some areas and together both the Pakistani and Afghan governments can create a solid political platform that allows both countries to further their political and economical gains.
- All negotiations with the Taliban should cease, as they will just manipulate our power and exclude the Afghan government, making a solid economy much more difficult

7. How might your option be challenged or resisted? ICS

- This option does not deal with immediate security threats **(Ending Pakistan's role as a haven for violent extremists will help bring peace and stability to Afghanistan)**
- We have spent 18 years trying to resolve the issue. Why is this time any different? **(Policies that do not address the political and economic reasons behind the violence in Afghanistan and Pakistan will not be successful in the long run. This policy promotes**

values like democracy, conflict resolution, and conflict prevention that the U.S. public will support)

- Pakistan's military plays a very big role in the country. Negotiating peace with India would diminish their role and power.
- There needs to be a small US and NATO military presence in order to avoid a civil war in Afghanistan.