

America's global role: pros and cons

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For all its deficiencies, the US is one of the best models for democracy. They spread universal values like human rights, freedom, equality. ○ Germany is a good example of America's positive influence. Democratic countries are less likely to wage war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maybe other political models should be respected, because they suit their respective countries best. Interfering in other countries' internal affairs is never justified. ○ The US did not abide by its own rules, moral and democratic values (Guantánamo).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The US is the sole remaining super power and the only democratic one that has enough military and economic power to intervene and help when things go awry in other countries and their people suffer. ○ Current developments and multiple wars in the Middle East and also Africa (e.g. Sudan) show that there is the need for a leading humanitarian and political role of the US. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The US has not achieved its goals in Iraq and Afghanistan. The invasion was founded on wrong data and triggered by economic rather than political or humanitarian interests, even less so by the will to promote democracy. ○ The many wars in the 21st century are a result of US interventions. ○ Intervention against the will of the people in these countries can lead to terrorism and unrest. ○ Democracy cannot be exported, but has to be chosen and supported by the people themselves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The US has to intervene if its own interests are at stake, even if they have to cooperate with tyrannical regimes to achieve their goals. ○ The US needs to secure their access to raw materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation with dictatorships to ensure economic benefits is ethically not tolerable. ○ The US has to defend their values inside AND outside their home country. Human rights are inalienable rights for everybody, not just Westerners.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The US can promote peaceful relationships among most countries in a globalized world. They have the economic, financial and military means as well as the moral values to initiate and advance nation building and democracy. ○ They can lead the nations in a good way, as there are too many problems in the world that have to be solved multilaterally (pollution, refugees, financial crisis, global warming, nuclear threat...). ○ The US should take an active role in international politics. ○ They support international cooperation and diplomacy. (UN) ○ They are the only super power that can stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The US should not be the world policeman because other countries want to remain independent and sovereign countries. There is already too much interference. ○ The current nationalist tendency towards smaller entities, independence movements in GB, Spain, the Balkans etc. shows that a global and united world is an illusion. ○ Other countries might reject the US definition of democracy and human rights. ○ Each country's history and culture need to be accepted. ○ The US should take an isolationist stance. ○ The US cannot assume a leading role in the world, because there are other regional and global powers like China and Russia. ○ They might want to use/abuse their nuclear weapons in their own best interest.