



THE RONALD REAGAN GREAT COMMUNICATOR DEBATE SERIES

RESOLVED: The national interest of the United States demands that defending freedom from threats of tyranny take precedence over the sovereignty of foreign nations.

Opinion Pieces:

- Coyne, Christopher and Cofman Wittes, Tamara. (2008, January and February). Can We Export Democracy? Cato Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.cato.org/policy-report/januaryfebruary-2008/can-we-export-democracy>

Self-Governance is a habit which America and other democratic nations have learned; trying to export this to other nations causes hardships for those unattuned with democracy's shortcomings.

- Diggins, John Patrick. (2004, June 11). How Reagan Beat the Neocons. The New York Times. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/11/opinion/11DIGG.html>

Reagan's foreign policy was one of communication and openness with the Soviet Union to end the cold war, with the United States only indirectly assisting democratic rebels, rather than the aggressive and combatant relations the Bush administration had with some Middle Eastern nations to spread democracy.

- Doyle, Michael. (2011, February 22). "Promoting Democracy is Not Imposing Democracy." The Huffington Post. Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-doyle/promoting-democracy-is-no_b_826574.html

This article presents previous attempts at spreading democracy and liberating oppressed peoples from dictatorships and corrupt regimes, only for the gains to be little to none after the fighting has concluded.

- Ecuadorean Foreign Minister: The United States is the Real Threat in the Americas, not Venezuela. (2015, March 20). Democracy Now. Retrieved from http://www.democracynow.org/2015/3/20/ecuadorean_foreign_minister_the_united_states

Ecuador's Foreign Minister, in an interview argues that the United State's recent sanctions on Venezuela is "an interventionist threat to sovereignty" and defeats the "principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries", leading to more harm for South America as a whole despite claims of human rights violations in Venezuela.

- Falk, Richard. (2011, July 18). Dilemmas of Sovereignty and Intervention. <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2011/07/18/dilemmas-of-sovereignty-and-intervention/>

The author argues that while internal revolutions in the face of human rights violations is the best solution to spreading or defending democracy, in serious cases the United States or other nations have the right to intervene and stop these violations.

- Fish, Stanley.(2007, October 7). "Why Democracy?". The New York Times. Retrieved from http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/10/07/why-democracy/?_r=0

This article argues ideas both for and against democracy and whether it is necessary for all people on earth.

- Lagon, Mark P. (2011, February). "Promoting Democracy: The Whys and Hows for the United States and the International Community". Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved from <http://www.cfr.org/democratization/promoting-democracy-whys-hows-united-states-international-community/p24090>

This article argues that while democracy can lead to major difficulties in the short term for a transitioning nation, in the long term, the economy and rights of the people will advance far greater than under a dictatorship.

- "Libya Says US Violated Sovereignty with Benghazi Suspect Capture". (2014, June 18). Al Jazeera. Retrieved from <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/6/18/us-violated-libyansovereignty.html>

Libya claims the United States overstepped their power by possibly capturing and extraditing the leader of the attacks on the American Consulate in Benghazi.

- Sussman, Gerald. (2014, April 15). Respect the Sovereignty of Nations. The New York Times. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/04/15/when-is-foreign-aid-meddling/respect-the-sovereignty-of-nations>

This opinion piece examines the giving of foreign aid creating a reliance on America's resources in the United States attempt to protect the world from Communism and how it harms the world in the process.

- Traub, James. (2011, March 11). "Stepping In". Foreign Policy. Retrieved from <http://foreignpolicy.com/2011/03/11/stepping-in/>

This opinion piece argues that even though some interventions (in this case Libya) may not meet many of the reasons for intervention, we should go in anyway.

- Zenko, Micah. (2012, May 22). U.S. Foreign Policy and Contested Sovereignty. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved from <http://blogs.cfr.org/zenko/2012/05/22/u-s-foreign-policy-and-contested-sovereignty/>

This opinion piece discusses America's difficulties with retaining the sovereignty of foreign nations during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Peer Reviewed Articles:

- Brands, H.W., Presidential Doctrines: An Introduction. Presidential Studies Quarterly, Volume 36, Number 1 (March 2006), pp. 1-4. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27552741>
- de Mesquita, Bruce Bueno and Downs, George W. Intervention and Democracy. International Organization. Vol. 60, No. 3 (Summer, 2006), pp. 627-649. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3877822>

Article looks at the outcomes of American/UN interventions and whether the outcome (the promotion of democracy) actually is achieved.

- Helms, Jesse (Winter 2000/01). American Sovereignty and the UN. The National Interest. No. 62. pp. 31-34. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42897299>

This article examines whether America has the right to intervene in the affairs of other nations without United Nations approval under the idea that the "the last right of states cannot must not be the right to enslave, persecute or torture their own citizens" and that these rights are "beyond borders", justifying American intervention.

- Pearson, Frederic S., Stern, Stephanie, and Walker, Scott. (2006, Autumn/Winter). Military Intervention and Prospects for Democratization. International Journal of Peace Studies, Volume 11, Number 2. Retrieved from http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol11_2/11n2PWS.pdf

Even before the Iraq war of 2003, a body of literature was developing concerning the possibility of implanting democracy in developing states. Recent works by Mark Peceny (1999a and 1999b) suggest that those U.S. military interventions that specifically promote "free and fair elections" have frequently resulted in remarkably resilient new democracies. We empirically evaluate the track record of liberalizing interventions, focusing on countries Peceny deems to be cases of successfully imposed democracy. We find that when factors such as human, political, and civil rights, as well as judicial independence are used as measures of democratic success, the "forcing them to be free" strategy does not clearly emerge as an agent for democratic transformation.

Books:

- Axtmann, Roland. (2007). Democracy. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press

Pages 134-194 of this book discuss how the proliferation of popular democracy and democratic ideals throughout the world has led to the downfall of sovereignty for "rogue" states.

- Coyne, Christopher J. (2015). After War: The Political Economy of Exporting Democracy. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2007. pp. 248.

It takes an economic way of thinking to the calculus of the when's, how's and why's of American interventions in the name of democracy.

Discussion Papers:

- Lynn-Jones, Sean M. (1998, March). "Why the United States Should Spread Democracy." Discussion Paper 98-07, Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University. Retrieved from http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/2830/why_the_united_states_should_spread_democracy.html

This discussion paper looks at the positive side of American interventions promoting democracy. The author argues that the democratic institutions put in place do more good than harm and that the US should continue with the policy of supporting democracy abroad through intervention.

Websites and Data:

- American Presidents: Ronald Wilson Reagan: Foreign Affairs. Retrieved from <http://millercenter.org/president/reagan/essays/biography/5>
- From Wounded Knee to Syria: 100 Years of American Interventions. Retrieved from <http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/interventions.html>
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UN. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- Timeline: US Interventions. Retrieved from <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/8/28/timeline-a-recenthistoryofusinterventions.html>
- US Military and Clandestine Operations in Foreign Countries 1798-2004. Retrieved from <https://www.globalpolicy.org/us-military-expansion-and-intervention/26024.html>