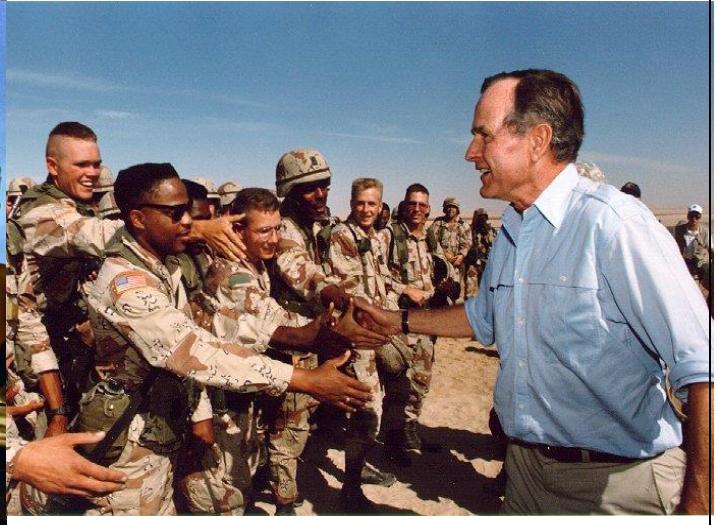


WHEN SHOULD THE US INTERVENE? INVESTIGATING FOREIGN POLICY CRISES OF THE 1990s



ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Under what circumstances was the United States justified in intervening in the affairs of others countries during the 1990s?

FOREIGN POLICY CRISES OF THE 1990s: WHEN SHOULD THE UNITED STATES INTERVENE?

SITUATION A: The Persian Gulf Crisis (1990-91)

BACKGROUND: The Baath-party controlled country of Iraq, led by dictator Saddam Hussein accused its neighboring country of Kuwait in 1990 of stealing Iraqi oil. American diplomats initially stated they had no opinion on the oil-conflict between the two countries. Historically, America benefitted from Kuwait's overproduction of oil that kept prices down; Kuwait did this despite objections from OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), which included Iraq. Other reasons suspected included Iraq's inability to pay back a debt to Kuwait that it had acquired during the Iraq-Iran conflict of the 1980s. Within two days of the initial invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi Republican Guard in 1990, most of the Kuwaiti military had fled into neighboring Bahrain or Saudi Arabia leading Iraq to claim Kuwait as annexed territory. The Emir of Kuwait managed to escape, yet his half-brother in defense of the palace was killed. The UN Security Council passed twelve resolutions demanding Iraqi withdrawal, but it did not occur. If you were president, what would you do in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to aid in upholding international norms that prohibit one country from invading another in territorial aggression?*

SITUATION B: Somalia (1992-1993)

BACKGROUND: Located in the Horn of Africa, Somalia had been controlled by a military dictatorship since 1969. This dictatorship was overthrown in 1990 by various opposition groups, yet no organized government replaced the dictatorship as ethnic clans struggled to take power. These ethnic clans, in efforts to gain leverage with populations, took over food sources and withheld supplies from those not loyal to them. This was coupled with an increasingly severe drought in the region. Private aid and charity groups struggled to establish humanitarian efforts for the hundreds of thousands seeking relief due to the sporadic fighting and threats from the militia groups seeking to establish control of Somalia. Many food supplies were captured and only distributed within ethnic clans represented by these militias. If you were president, what would you do in response to the famine and violence in Somalia?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to contribute either aid or military support on behalf of the international community in helping solve a humanitarian crisis?*

SITUATION C: Haiti (1991-1994)

BACKGROUND: In 1990, Haiti (less than 1000 miles from the United States) elected its first democratically-elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide; however, in 1991, he fled Haiti as a military coup occurred led by General Raoul Cedras. In the past, Cedras and his followers were notorious for permitting the use of Haiti as a refuge and shipping location for drugs being brought into the United States. Following this coup, thousands of Haitians began fleeing Haiti looking for refuge in the United States as various rights were being compromised. The United Nations authorized the use of force to aid in reinstalling Aristide into power. If you were president, what would you do in response to the coup in neighboring Haiti?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to help dictate who governs a specific nation?*

SITUATION D: Rwanda (1994)

BACKGROUND: Beginning in 1990, a slowly escalating civil war grew in Rwanda between the two major ethnic groups, the Hutus (group in power) and the Tutsis. The US government had previously provided Paul Kagame, leader of the Tutsi rebel group, with military training and advisory support. A cease-fire was called in 1993 that included a UN supervisory force meant to oversee its implementation; yet, this cease-fire was interpreted by the Hutu elite as giving into the demands of the enemy. When the plane of the Hutu president of Rwanda was shot down in April 1994 (blame is still disputed today), Hutu extremists in the government and population began a large scale killing of the Tutsi population. Within hours of the announcing of the president's death, Hutu military leaders and their locally-supported militias began mass killings as they had slowly prepared for such over previous months. Road blocks were quickly assembled requiring residents to show their national ethnicity cards and lists of resident Tutsis were distributed to killing squads. While the

United Nations was present, it did not have authority to utilize military force. If you were the president, what would you do in regards to the emerging genocide in Rwanda?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to help prevent the mass killing of humans in a country's civil war?*

SITUATION E: Arab-Israeli Conflict (1947-1993)

BACKGROUND: Since the creation of Israel in 1947, the presence of a Jewish state had caused great conflict in the Middle East. One of the reasons for conflict was the manner in which Israel occupied surrounding lands won in various wars as well as treated the Muslim Palestinian population, which resided in these occupied territories. In 1978, the Camp David Accords, agreed to by Israel and Egypt to create peace between the two, established a future plan for the Palestinians. Beginning in 1987, Palestinians in these territories, still controlled by Israel, began rising up in what became known as the First Intifada. In response, Israel deployed soldiers throughout traditional Palestinian neighborhoods. During this conflict, 160 Israelis were killed and 2,162 Palestinians were killed. Israel, considered a close ally by the US, was heavily condemned for its treatment of the Palestinians. Yet, as the crisis drew on, the crisis threatened to disrupt any potential further peace in the greater Middle East region towards Israel. As the Intifada continues, America's strongest ally in the Middle East is seen increasingly in a negative light by its surrounding majority-Muslim countries. If you were president, what would you do in regards to the continued hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to help lead two warring factions towards a responsible solution for the maintenance of peace?*

SITUATION F: Kosovo and Dissolving of Yugoslavia (1998-1999)

BACKGROUND: With the fall of communist Yugoslavia in the late 1980s, various ethnic groups in the region sought to break away and form their own autonomous regions or states. The more powerful ethnic group, the Serbians, sought to retain power over the region. In the early 1990s, a bloody war was fought in the region over Bosnia and Herzegovina, which killed over 100,000 individuals. The US entered that conflict in 1994 as part of a UN and NATO peacekeeping mission, but to many this was seen as a late response allowing excessive bloodshed. Yet, this effort to bring peace did not last long. The province of Kosovo, primarily Albanians, became a target of the Serbian powers in the late 1990s. The Serbian forces began a policy of "ethnic cleansing" in an effort to rid the region of Albanians. This led to an approximate 10,000 Kosovo Albanian deaths and another estimated 850,000 refugees. If you were president, what would you do in regards to the events in Kosovo?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to ensure peace in a region that has proven to be conflict-driven despite previous intervention?*

SITUATION G: The Rise of Al-Qaeda (1993-2000)

BACKGROUND: Following the Afghan-Soviet War, remnants of the mujahedeen began to form a fundamentalist Islamic terrorist group known as Al-Qaeda. Terrorism was not new to the world as the late 1960s and 1970s saw the emergence of a variety of terrorist groups and causes, including the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) and the IRA (Irish Republican Army). However, Al-Qaeda took a hostile approach to the "West" as they saw such countries as the US as threatening Islamic culture and religion. In 1993, an Al-Qaeda cell in New York detonated a bomb in the parking garage of the World Trade Center, which killed 6 individuals (their names are listed on the 9/11 memorial). In 1995, a terrorist group (originally thought to be Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah, but later believed to be Al-Qaeda) drove a car bomb into the Kohbar Towers apartment complex in Saudi Arabia housing US Air Force personnel; 19 Americans were killed. In 1998, Al-Qaeda terrorists attacked the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania with car bombs; this resulted in 224 individuals dead, including 23 Americans. In October 2000, while docked in Yemen, the USS COLE naval ship was attacked by a suicide boat; 17 American sailors were killed. If you were president, what would you do following the attack on the USS COLE?

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION: *Is it the responsibility of the United States to ensure its citizens are safe from non-governmental threats worldwide?*