

Points for “The U.S. should withdraw from and cease all military operations in Afghanistan”

1. US troops in Afghanistan are ineffective
 1. **Reasoning:** Judge, having the U.S. reside in Afghanistan is doing no good for anyone involved and it is actually doing more harm than we realize. Though the United States have good intentions when staying in Afghanistan, there is no reason for them to continue to stay there when it isn't helping.
 2. **Evidence:**
 1. According to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, stabilization efforts that have been at the heart of military and foreign policy in Afghanistan have largely failed.
 2. Projects were poorly planned or mismanaged, fostering widespread distrust by Afghan civilians. The report also found that many projects faltered after American troops left an area. In a speech, Inspector General John Sopko declared, “Progress toward stabilization is slow and messy. At best, it results in small gains that require constant reinforcement to avoid reversals.”
 3. According to the report, most efforts by the military have been “stopgap” measures, like building schools to “demonstrate the government is working on behalf of the community.”
 4. Although more than \$4.7 billion was spent on such efforts by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department and the Defense Department from 2002 through 2017, the efforts have suffered from overambitious goals and unrealistic timelines.
 5. “When the promise of improved services raised expectations and failed to materialize, Afghans who saw more of their government through stabilization projects actually developed less favorable impressions of it, perhaps a worse outcome than if the government had not reached into their lives at all,” the report found.
 6. The inspector general also questioned the military's control over providing aid, and why it focused on the most dangerous districts first. The military ignored concerns from USAID, according to the report, leading a worker for the agency to comment that the military “expected us to be bags of cash.” According to Sopko, “Under pressure from the military, USAID built schools in places where they could not be monitored, the government could not maintain and staff them, and students attended only sporadically, if at all, due to insecurity.” The influx of aid workers did not help either, as some had little more qualification than “a pulse and a master's degree.” It

strained USAID, which had more than 20 percent of its worldwide staff deployed to Afghanistan by 2011.

7. Earlier this year, Sopko's team reported that, as of January, the central government controlled about 56 percent of Afghanistan's districts. Insurgent groups, primarily the Taliban or other militants, controlled about 14.5 percent, the highest recorded since the U.S. invasion in 2001.
2. However, stabilization efforts were more effective in areas where the government had control and the projects were more modest and carefully monitored.
3. According to Time, 59% of Americans no longer believe the war in Afghanistan is worth the effort.
4. Additionally, the Taliban is also now believed to control more territory than at any time since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, and more than 1.2 million Afghans are displaced within the country, more than double the amount in 2013.
5. In addition, contrary to what advocates for a continued U.S. military presence may claim, U.S. intervention has not prevented the spread of terrorism around the region. The people of Afghanistan continue to suffer from decades of conflict, and Bandow concludes that "Washington cannot fix Afghanistan. The US cannot afford the human and financial cost of endless war. It's well past time to bring home America's military personnel."
3. **Impact:** Judge, there is no imminent need for troops to be in Afghanistan- it is not helping anyone. As stated earlier, US troops have resided in Afghanistan for more than 19 years, Judge 19 years!! and nothing is fixed, in fact, things are getting worse. This is simply a waste of time, effort, and money, which leads me to my next point.
2. Having US troops remain in Afghanistan is a waste of money
 1. **Reasoning:** Judge, the US should withdraw from and cease all military operations in Afghanistan because it is a waste of money for both Afghanistan and the United states' citizens and government.
 2. **Evidence:**
 1. Afghan officials are corrupt and incompetent, more than \$100 billion in U.S. aid to the country has achieved little, and the Afghan economy is crashing. According to ABC News, the government reviewed \$7.8 billion spent since 2008 on buildings and vehicles. Only \$343.2 million worth of buildings and vehicles "were maintained in good condition," said the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. The report said that just \$1.2 billion of the \$7.8 billion went to pay for buildings and vehicles that were used as intended.
 2. Additionally, according to the Department of Defense, the Afghanistan war has cost taxpayers over 1 trillion dollars. Researcher Ryan Edwards estimates that the U.S. incurred an extra \$453 billion in interest on the debt to pay for the war

efforts.

3. \$1.5 trillion has been spent on the war. The NY Times states eighteen years later, the Taliban are steadily getting stronger. They kill Afghan security force members — sometimes hundreds in a week — and defeat government forces in almost every engagement.
 4. \$10 billion spent on counternarcotics, but the Inspector General for Afghanistan described these efforts as a “failure.” Afghanistan is still the source of 80 percent of global opium production.
 5. \$87 billion on training Afghan military and police forces yet the Afghan forces can’t support themselves. Nobody in Afghanistan — not the American military, and not even the Afghanistan president — thinks Afghan military forces could support themselves, so it is pointless.
 6. \$24 billion on economic development yet most Afghans still live in poverty and a quarter or more of Afghans are unemployed.
 7. \$30 billion on other reconstruction programs yet much of that money was lost to corruption and failed projects.
 8. The United States also provides Afghanistan with a critical \$4.8 billion in assistance per year, which funds 80 percent of the Afghan government’s security expenditures, but currently isn’t helping so \$ should be used towards other stuff, according to the council of foreign relations
 9. The US spent \$500 billion on interest and borrowed heavily which means that they will pay more than \$600 billion back through 2023.
3. **Impact:** Judge, the money we are wasting on Afghanistan can be used to fund so many other projects and other outside organizations. Climate-change, ocean conservation, poverty can all be funded more if we withdraw. Judge this is not something you should even have to decide. There are SO MANY other important matters that the US should be focusing on. Judge to save money and for the American troops who don’t want to be in Afghanistan anymore, I urge a strong vote for the proposition side of this debate.
3. Having troops in Afghanistan harms Afghan citizens and U.S. troops
1. **Reasoning:** People are dying not because of the Taliban but because of this war between them, and it is harming Afghanistan citizens.
 2. **Evidence:**
 1. According to Statista, the amount of deaths in Afghanistan from terrorism has skyrocket in 2018 to 2019, being 8,000-9,000 while in the previous 6 years, there were less than 6,000 deaths.
 2. Civilians killed in the U.S. and Taliban air strikes in Afghanistan soars by more than 330%, according to the Guardian.
 3. According to Doug Bandow, former special assistant to Ronald Reagan, “Washington cannot fix Afghanistan. The US cannot

afford the human and financial cost of endless war. It's well past time to bring home America's military personnel."

4. As of October 2019, more than 43,000 civilians are estimated to have died violent deaths as a result of the war.
 5. There have been more than 2,400 U.S. military deaths in Afghanistan since 2001, and over 20,000 U.S. service members have been wounded.
 6. According to Brown University's Watson Institute, many Afghans dealing with ill health and war wounds find it difficult to get to hospitals and clinics because violence makes roads unsafe. The war has aggravated the effects of poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of access to health care, and environmental degradation on Afghans' health.
 7. According to the Economist, 28,000 people died because of the war in 2018 alone. The Economist claims that the war against Afghanistan is "America's unwinnable war."
 8. According to CFR, "The agreement is only the first step to ending the more than eighteen-year war that has killed more than 157,000 people and is estimated to have cost the United States \$2 trillion."
 9. The National Institute of Health states a few harmful effects this war has had on Afghan citizens. The women and children of Afghanistan, both among refugees and resident populations, have paid a disproportionate price for this conflict. They are the ones that have suffered the most, not because of the Taliban, but because of the war. The rates of malnutrition, disease, and death among Afghan children rank among the highest in the world. In addition to the many injuries due to landmines and artillery, over 80% of Afghan children interviewed reveal some psychological scars of war.
3. **Impact:** Judge, the whole reason we are having this war is to both protect US citizens and troops as well as Afghani citizens. But Judge, if this war is harming these Afghani citizens and US troops, then don't you think it's time we end this war? What is happening now is the opposite of what we want. We cannot blame this harm on the Taliban. The Taliban has had their faults, but these deaths and these effects we are talking about – those are because of this never-ending war. And so because having US troops in Afghanistan harms both Afghans and US troops, the US troops must withdraw.
 4. Presence has led to better women's rights
 1. Reasoning:
 2. **Evidence:**
 1. Brookings states that in areas of Afghanistan that HAVE already been conquered by the Taliban, 80% of Afghan women are experiencing domestic violence. In these areas, 50% of women and 95% of girls have been jailed for trying to defend their rights.
 2. Since US-Taliban negotiations began in early 2019, women's

rights activists and other Afghans have raised concerns about Taliban restrictions on women's rights. Amina Mohammed from the United Nations expressed that "Under the Taliban, women and girls were denied schooling, health care and protection from extreme violence, but the past 18 years have seen significant progress."