

LD Affirmative Case

The father of modern linguistics Noam Chomsky, in his book, states that "[T]he United States did not want to control Nicaragua or other nations in the region, but it also didn't want to allow developments to get out of control. It wanted Nicaraguans to act independently, except when doing so would affect US interests ... In short, Nicaragua and other countries should be free: free to do what we want them to do, and should choose their course independently, as long as their choice conforms to our interests. If they use the freedom we accord them unwisely, we are entitled to respond with violence, in self-defense." ([Goodreads](#)) It is clear that what happened in Nicaragua is now happening in West Asia and North Africa, which is why I stand here and affirm the following resolution: **Resolved: The United States ought to substantially reduce its military presence in the West Asia-North Africa region.**

I would now like to present definitions to provide context for the following round:

Ought - "used to express duty or moral obligation" (Dictionary.com)

Substantially - "to a great or significant extent" (Oxford Languages)

Reduce - "make smaller or less in amount, degree, or size" (Oxford Languages)

Military presence - "access to and use of military facilities (... a military ... base), or the actual presence of organized units of military personnel in foreign countries, or the deployment and permanent activity of fleets outside their own territorial waters." (Encyclopedia of World Problems)

West Asia - "West Asia includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, [the] United Arab Emirates, and Yemen." (Asia Society)

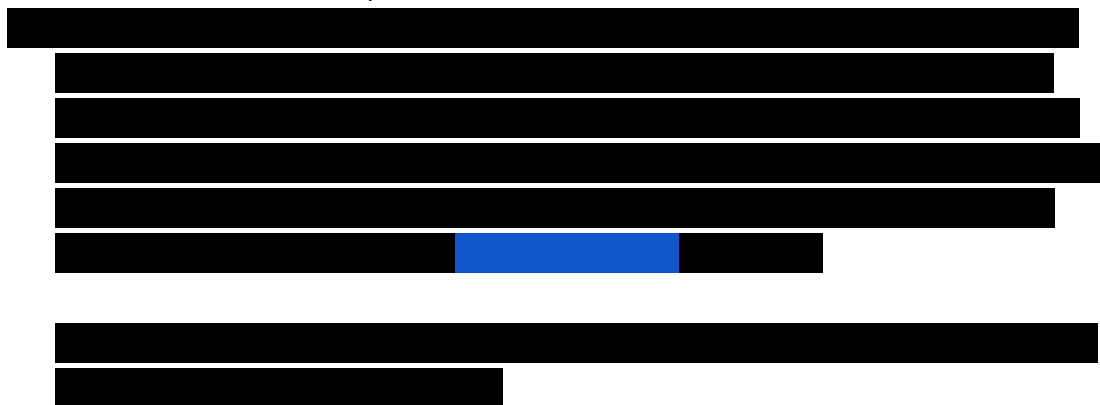
North Africa - "usually considered to include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya and sometimes also Egypt and Sudan" (Dictionary.com)

Note that if I say "Middle East" I'm talking about countries both in North Africa and West Asia combined into one term

My core value is **Justice**, defined as "the quality of being fair and reasonable" ([Oxford Languages](#)). My value criterion is **National Sovereignty**, defined as "the legal authority and responsibility of an independent state to govern and regulate its political affairs without foreign interference" ([Ballotpedia](#)).

Foreign Interference is defined by the United States Homeland Security as "Malign actions taken by ... foreign actors designed to sow discord, manipulate public discourse, discredit the electoral system, bias the development of policy, or disrupt markets for the purpose of undermining the interests of the United States and its allies."

1. My first contention declares that **granting a nation the right to national sovereignty should be the greatest priority.**
 - a. My first subpoint states that **the international community has already agreed National Sovereignty is important.** According to the Government of Turkey, “The formation and protection of sustainable freedom, equality and justice in society depends totally on the exact sense of establishment of national sovereignty. Therefore, the basis of freedom, equality and justice is national sovereignty” ([Gov of Turkey](#)) (.gov). According to the United Nations, “International peace and security are gravely threatened when national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity — principles on which the United Nations was founded — are undermined and violated, world leaders told the General Assembly today as it continued its annual general debate.” ([United Nations](#), Sep 2015) According to Donald Trump in a speech to the general assembly of the United Nations, “Sovereign and independent nations are the only vehicle where freedom has ever survived, democracy has ever endured, or peace has ever prospered.” ([Donald Trump](#), September 2018) (.gov).
 - b. My second subpoint states that **history shows that violating national sovereignty leads to unequal, unstable, and impoverished nations.** According to CS Canada, “the present primary role of African states in the international world economy as the dominant sources of raw materials ... [is] the result of long years of colonial dominance, exploitation and imperialism.” ([CS Canada](#), June 14, 2012). Without European violations of national sovereignty one hundred years ago Africa would be far better off today, and we can say the exact same thing about the Middle East today. One hundred years in the future we’ll be looking back at military bases and wars in the Middle East and come to the exact same conclusions that if we hadn’t attacked Middle Eastern national sovereignty they would be in a far better position.



2. My second contention states that **American military presence infringes on Middle Eastern national sovereignty.**

- a. My first subpoint states that **the purpose of the American Military presence is to influence the politics of other nations.** National Sovereignty is defined, in summary, as the authority of a sovereign state to handle its political affairs free from foreign influence, with that in mind, according to Major Bud Jones of the United States Air Force, “The objective of military presence is not simply to be present as events occur, the objective is to influence those events” ([Major Bud Jones](#)). Military exists for a purpose, and that purpose is, fundamentally, to force other countries to do things you want them to do. Forcing other countries to do things you want them to do is violating that country’s national sovereignty, which I’ve already shown in my first contention prevents justice, equality, democracy, and peace.
 - b. My second subpoint states that **history has shown that the United States can and will use military presence to influence politics.** The United States has had a long history of attempting to influence political situations, from invasions in Iraq, Kuwait, Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan to the coup of democratically elected leaders. According to Thought Co, “In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the CIA to depose Mohammed Mossadegh, the popular, elected leader of the Iranian parliament and an ardent nationalist who opposed British and American influence in Iran.” ([Thought Co](#), July 30, 2019). This shows how the United States has influenced political affairs, in this case drastically so, using military presence.
3. My third contention proves that **removing military presence will benefit the Middle East without infringing on National Sovereignty**
 - a. My first subpoint states that **money currently spent on the military could instead provide foreign aid.** According to the [Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs](#), estimated increases to the Department of Defense Base Budget Due to Post-9/11 Wars was 800 billion dollars (Evidence in Table 1, pg 3) (Nov 2019). Let’s compare that to the amount of Humanitarian Assistance sent to the Middle East in the same time period. According to [ForeignAssistance.gov](#), that number was 32 billion dollars, 4 percent of the amount we spent on, not military, but JUST the physical bases in the Middle East. If the amount we spent on destroying the Middle East had instead been used to build it up we would be able to tackle hunger, poverty, and a lack of infrastructure. The best part? If the government of the recipient country doesn’t want this help, they can refuse. Foreign Aid does not violate
 - b. My second subpoint states that **the United States military presence is associated with an increase in civil war, government oppression, and domestic instability.** Research sponsored by the Deputy Chief of Staff and military intelligence in the United States Army, conducted by the Rand Corporation, has concluded that “In

the Middle East, U.S. military assistance may increase the likelihood of repression and domestic instability in the recipient states ... provoke more militarized activities ... [and] is positively associated with an increased risk of anti-regime activities and greater levels of state repression". ([Rand Corporation](#), 2018)

4. In conclusion, vote affirmative to ensure the liberty that created the United States is upheld for other nations, allowing nations in West Asia and North Africa to decide for themselves how they will shape their countries for the better.

25 Seconds over!

LD Negative Case

Douglas MacArthur once observed, "Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons." ([Douglas MacArthur](#)). In the modern age we are past the time when we can keep troops in our territory, trade with our allies, and expect to stay safe, which is why I stand here and negate the following resolution: **Resolved: The United States ought to substantially reduce its military presence in the West Asia-North Africa region.**

I would now like to present definitions to provide context for the following round:

Ought - "used to express duty or moral obligation" (Dictionary.com)

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North Africa - "usually considered to include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya and sometimes also Egypt and Sudan" (Dictionary.com)

As a side note, if I say "Middle East" over the course of this debate, understand that I am talking about countries both in North Africa and West Asia combined into one term.

My core value is **National Security**, defined as "the security and defense of a nation state, including its citizens, economy, and institutions, which is regarded as a duty of government." ([Environmental Protection Agency](#)) My voting criterion is **Utilitarianism**, defined as "the view that the morally right action is the action that produces the most good" ([Stanford](#))

1. My first contention declares that **military presence prevents war**.
 - a. My first supoint states that **Military presence reduces the possibility of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon**. According to the Department of Defense, "The preferred method to ensure Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon ... is the diplomatic course. But that has to be backed up with a willingness and a capability to use force, if necessary." ([Department of Defense](#), June 5, 2023) Economic sanctions and international pressure will only take us so far, we must have the ability to militarily prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, or the United States and it's allies will never be safe. According to the FDD, "The regime in Iran has amassed enough enriched uranium to make weapons-grade uranium

for a nuclear device within just 12 days, according to the latest data reported by the United Nations' (UN's) nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)." That means that without the military bases we currently have in the Middle East we would need to immediately hear about Iran enriching weapons-grade uranium, transport the estimated 1.6 million troops required to invade Iran ([The Hill](#), Dec 3 2023) thousands of miles over the Atlantic Ocean, along with all their ammunition, missiles, vehicles, weapons, water, and food, then create the infrastructure needed to support that amount of troops, including the required barracks, missile launch areas, and communication networks. Only then could we even begin to attack, all of that within 12 days, before Iran had access to a nuclear weapon and the mission failed.

- b. My second subpoint states that **military presence in general stabilizes the region and prevents international war**. According to the RAND corporation, with data sponsored by the United States Army "On average, nearby U.S. troop presence is associated with a lower likelihood of interstate war ... [and] is associated with allies initiating fewer militarized disputes." ([Rand Corporation](#), 2018) Prevention of war in a notoriously war-torn region will preserve human rights and maintain national security of the United States through protecting the global economy.
- 2. My second contention states that **Military presence improves the global economy**
 - a. My first subpoint states that **Military presence prevents American allies from economic hardship because of a lack of oil**. "A major reduction in the U.S. presence would also weaken the United States' ability to protect key economic chokepoints in the region and the free flow of oil and gas to global markets. The United States is largely energy independent. But allies and partners could be severely impacted by a fuel and broader supply chain crisis, particularly those—such as Japan, India, South Korea, and some European Union countries—which rely on oil and natural gas imports from the Gulf" ([Center for Strategic and International Studies](#), May 2022) Regional international wars caused by the lack of US military presence will lead to a tighter restriction on one of the only resources that are available, oil and natural gas. The world is completely dependent on oil, with container ships, cars, and militaries requiring it to function.
 - b. My second subpoint states that **Al Qaeda will be operative before the end of this year, and we need counterterrorism measures**. According to the National Intelligence Council, "In a recently declassified report, the U.S. intelligence community assessed that al-Qaeda lacks the capability to pose a threat to the United States through 2024." ([National Intelligence Council](#), Aug 15, 2023). If we leave the Middle East now we will only allow Al Qaeda to grow further, creating additional threats which will in turn harm the global economy. According to

Investopedia, "Terrorist acts can cause ripple effects through the economy that have negative impacts. The most obvious is the direct economic destruction of property and lives. Terrorism indirectly affects the economy by creating market uncertainty, xenophobia, loss of tourism, and increased insurance claims."

([Investopedia](#), June 24, 2022)