Foreign aid

For the past six decades, after the Foreign Assistance Act was passed on September 4, 1961, the United States has been constantly providing other countries in need with money to help them get through hard time, cure disease, provide an education system, and much more. This is done by donating only less than one percent of the national budget, about 50 billion a year, saving millions of lives in over two hundred countries. Over half of the money in foreign aid given by the US goes to the middle eastern area of Asia to help recover from war, famine and military supplies and support, and all over Africa so that they can develop their communities more, and to provide food, improved shelters, and more. Over all, about two thirds of the foreign aid are for economics, and only less than a third is spent on military supplies and support for other countries. I believe that doing so will have positive outcomes, such as the countries who were funded giving back to us and many retired military leaders being happy, since nearly 200 of them support the idea of continuing foreign aid and not cutting the expenses down, not even a bit. The three main reasons that I think the United States should not cut down on its foreign aid policy is that it does not require much money yet still saves millions of lives, helps maintain and improve our country’s reputation and bonds with other countries, and helps countries recover from war, natural disasters, and other aspects.

My first reason that the US should continue providing foreign aid is because it doesn’t take up even one percent out of the overall national budget every year, yet saves millions of lives. In our daily lives, we don’t really have to worry much about poverty in our country currently, as most of us have jobs, the employment rate is pretty steady, and we can live our lives peacefully. But on the other hand, there do exist countries such as in middle eastern region, and Africa, who suffer greatly from drought, food shortage, or violet wars waging on and on without end nearly every day. You might think that this situation is very bad, but there is a solution to this, and that solution would be foreign aid. And it's not like the US is giving up an enormous amount of money just to help these countries in need. In fact, the amount of money our country gives up for foreign aid is only 50.1 billion dollars a year! Now, if that might seem a lot to you, you must realize that the national budget for the US each year is nearly 4 trillion dollars, so in all, that means the US only gives up only 0.6% of its national budget each year for foreign aid. Just think about it- millions of people can be saved if we give up just 0.6% of our money help them. Some people think that the US should spend its money wisely and help its own people first, as 12.3% of its entire population is in poverty, or 40 million people out of 326 million in the US are currently in poverty. Even though the US does have such a high number of people in poverty, there are over 5 million homeless shelters and hundreds of organizations dedicated to helping the poor scattered across our country to help with our country's lower, less fortunate class, and I am pretty sure that each shelter can hold more than eight people, covering all homeless people in our country.

Secondly, providing foreign aid to other countries in need improves the reputation of the US and creates and maintains healthy bonds with other countries. On September 4th of 1961, the United States Congress passed the Foreign Assistance Act. Ever since the act was passed, the US had been giving aid to other countries in need. This improved the connections between the country being aided and the US. Some of the other benefits of giving foreign aid is that it will improve the economy of some of the undeveloped countries in the world, especially in Africa. In these cases, the intended result is that after the countries become more developed, they will give back to the US or at least agree to trade with us. We would want to improve trade with Africa, especially South Africa, because they have some of the most valuable resources in the world, including massive amounts of oil and gas, which the US desperately needs, since by next year, 2020, the oil demand in just the US alone will rise to over 30%. Another resource that Africa has is gold, as it ranks among the top ten most valuable resources in the world, and Africa has over 20% or one fifth of the world’s gold. Africa also has diamonds. A LOT of diamonds, as in almost half (46%) of the world’s diamonds. The last resource that Africa has in plenty, (although there are many more than just these,) is platinum, the material in very expensive jewelry, but also used in modern cars. Africa has hold of the most platinum in the world, almost all of it: over 75% of all platinum in the world lies in just South Africa. Now that you have seen why later trading with the developed countries in Africa has its many benefits, there are also ways how the foreign aid provided by the US could also affect the country's reputation and social status. The United States has been widely known for and respected for providing the most foreign aid, by far, to over 200 countries around the world, but if we stop giving foreign aid to other countries, not only will our reputation take a lot of damage, but some countries might even have some minor conflicts with our country, as most developed countries provide foreign aid to many countries as well, and if we don’t do our part, there will be a problem.

The third and final reason that I believe that the US should continue to provide foreign aid to other suffering countries is adding onto what has been said before, about how foreign aid can save a great number of lives, in many ways. Some of these ways include education systems, paying in the form of food in times of famine, helping citizens adapt to climate change, recovering from natural disasters, and more. One of these ways to help other countries is an education system. As we all know, a proper education system is not something cheap, in fact, the average education system for a high school student is around $7,750 per year. That amount is probably very expensive for an education system being sent from one country to another, since there are no school buildings to learn at, but when you add it all together, with so many students of a different language than you, it is very expensive. Another way foreign aid can save lives is adapting to climate change. This might seem like a problem that does not matter as much as aspects such as food crisis's and natural disasters, but it is, in fact, just as important. One example of such a case is in Ethiopia. In this country, the citizens are experiencing the worst drought in over 50 years, but the US government is trying their very best to help the situation by funding a project called REAAP, managed by the US government, and created to help Ethiopia’s drought problem.

There are countries out there who are in desperate need of money and support, and the United States is one of the main contributor. We should try our best to maintain our support in their needs, which will not only sustain our pursuit of humanity, but also gain us international friendship and future collaboration opportunities.