Why They Might Laugh When We Make Our Claims!

Joe Biden has been the latest U.S. President to affirm the values for which the U.S. stands and its deep commitment to those values, and support, economically, politically and militarily for a rules-based international order based on those values. The values are freedom, equality, democracy, and respect for human life. Most Americans agree, as they know little or nothing about U.S. foreign policy, or the history of the United States and its involvement in other countries.

Why might others laugh? Remember, we all say that actions speak louder than words; let us look at U.S. actions, past and present. As one person said, "a few shreds of historical awareness" might help Americans understand why they might laugh or cry.

Hawaii

The U.S. Marines invaded Hawaii in 1893, overthrew the government, and American officials wrote their constitution. Hawaiians call the constitution the Bayonet Constitution. The U.S. held ‘elections’, but used Jim Crow laws to exclude indigenous Hawaiians from voting, so the first president of Hawaii was Sanford Dole. (How do we know this? In 1993 the U.S. Congress passed the Apology Act, apologizing for the above.)

Guatemala

The U.S., using the CIA and mercenaries as its instruments, overthrew the democratically elected government of Guatemala in 1954. From that time until the mid-90s, the U.S. supported a series of dictators (Castillo Armas, Rios Montt) that killed 200,000 Guatemalans. This was confirmed by a special UN-sponsored Commission for Historical Clarification, which also sighted U.S. complicity in the mass murder of Guatemalans. After the release of the report, Bill Clinton, President at the time, accepted the conclusion of the report, apologized for the U.S. and said that we will never do it again. (Under international law the mass murders committed by U.S. surrogates constituted both crimes against humanity and genocide –because a particular ethnic group was the central target, Mayan Indians.).

Nicaragua

The U.S. invaded Nicaragua in the early 1900s, wrote its constitution, which gave the U.S. perpetual right to build a canal through the country. Also the U.S. established and supported the Somoza dictatorship (Anastasio, Sr. and Jr) and the infamous National Guard, used by the Somoza’s to control dissent. The regime was overthrown by the people of Nicaragua in the late 70s. The U.S. supported the reactionary forces tied to the dictatorship it had supported, and created a paramilitary force composed of members of Somoza’s National Guard, called the "Contras.” The strategy of the U.S. was to use the Contras to destabilize the new democracy of Nicaragua. The U.S. ordered the Contras to avoid the Nicaraguan military and attack "soft targets” (agricultural collectives, schools, hospitals)-war crimes. In a related attempt to undermine the new government, the U.S. mined Nicaraguan harbors. Nicaragua sued the U.S in the World Court and the U.S. was found guilty of "unlawful use of force" (fulfills legal definition of terrorism). Also US helped fund the Contras by using the CIA to create a network of cocaine smuggling into the U.S. specifically black urban areas. Congress finally banned help to Contras because of human rights violations, but the Reagan administration secretly sold weapons to “our enemy” (Iran) and used the money to fund the Contras. The resulting scandal was called “Iran/Contra.”

El Salvador

The U.S. supported the Arena Party and Roberto D’Aubuisson and trained, financed, provided weapons for the Salvadoran military and "death squads" that killed over 75,000 Salvadorans (confirmed by UN Truth Commission). U.S. tried to cover up the horrendous massacre of Salvadorans by the military at El Mozote. Salvadoran military captured and killed the men, raped and killed the women, strangled children. Death squads, whose members were trained in the U.S. Army School of the Americas, killed American nuns and Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spoke out against U.S. military aid. The slogan of one death squad, the White Warriors, was "Be patriotic kill a priest."

Honduras

U.S. supported overthrow of Honduran government by United Fruit (nicknamed El Pulpo, the Octopus, because it controlled so much land in Latin America, now Chiquita-convicted of killer workers recently) and supported Roberto Suazo Cordova. U.S. used Honduras as a base for operations against Nicaragua, after the overthrow of the Somoza regime, and El Salvador. Honduras was alternately referred to as “U.S.S. Honduras” and the” Pentagon Republic” because it was so crammed with U.S. bases and weapons. U.S. created infamous death squad Battalion 316, the Cobras, which engaged in torture, kidnapping, and assassination. A mass grave of their victims was discovered at El Aguacate airbase, the training camp for Battalion 316 and the Contras. Recently, during the Obama administration, the U.S. was first country to recognize the government established by the military after the overthrow of the democratically elected president of Honduras. Subsequently, Honduras had highest murder rate in Latin America and became the origin of thousands of children fleeing to the U.S. to escape the violence of the regime. In the first edition of Hilary Clinton’s autobiography, she supported the military coup.

Bolivia

U.S. supported 1970 overthrow of President Juan Jose Torres. The new U.S. supported government shut down schools, 2000 people arrested, tortured and imprisoned without trial. Indigenous people were forced from their land in order to create a "white Bolivia." Despite this, Bolivians created a democracy, but in 1980 the CIA helped overthrow the democratically elected government and install a military junta in power. This was called the "cocaine coup" because of junta's ties to drug dealers. Despite all of this, Bolivia has pursued an independent and democratic path. The people elected an indigenous person president and he nationalized its natural resources. The U.S. response has been to support right wing reactionary political elements, formerly advocates of “white Bolivia,” impose economic sanctions on Bolivia, and employ political means in order to destabilize its government. U.S. actions were successful when the military faction they support overthrew the democratic government. However,

Panama

U.S. organized and supported militarily the creation of Panama, originally part of Colombia, and then established a series of friendly governments that allowed the U.S. to dominate Panama for almost 100 years because of its strategic importance, the Panama Canal.

In 1989 the U.S. invaded Panama in search of drug kingpin and former CIA operative Manuel Noriega who worked for GHW Bush and trained in U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA). During the invasion, the U.S. military turned Panama into a "free fire zone," killing thousands of civilians. The working class community of El Chorillo was burned to the ground. It was given the nickname “Little Hiroshima.” After the invasion, the U.S. placed political control into the hands of a financial elite supportive of America interests. **Official U.S. Army website says that civilian casualties were avoided in the invasion.**

Chile

In 1973 the U.S., CIA, and ITT overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and put in power the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, who after his ouster was sought by other countries for crimes against humanity (torture, murder, and disappearance of 4,000). CIA and U.S. state Department colluded with the dictatorships of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay in Operation Condor- an assassination program that targeted dissidents who had sought safety in other countries. Henry Kissinger is now being sought by countries for questioning regarding his knowledge and complicity in these extralegal assassinations.

**CIA memo**: "It is a firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by coup ... We are to continue to generate maximum pressure towards this end utilizing every appropriate resource. **It is imperative that these actions be implemented clandestinely and securely so that U.S. Government and American hand be well hidden.”**

Colombia

For many years Colombia had the worst record of human rights violations in the hemisphere and the U.S. supported it consistently, making possible a military and paramilitary war against unions, community leaders, and church leaders. The U.S. has given $1.3 billion in military aid to fight the ‘drug trade’-- money has gone to poison crops, kill union organizers, destroy villages, and guard an oil pipeline. Much of the violence is justified under the guise of fighting a left-wing guerilla movement, also known as the poor. In the 1990s U.S. trained death squads forcibly removed the poor and homeless from the large cities, took them into the country side and murdered them. The U.S. (2004) wants to increase the number of military personnel and private military contractors (historically called mercenaries) it has in Colombia. Colombia granted U.S. military access to several military bases on its border with Venezuela. Placing troops on the borders of another country constitutes an act of war according to international law and is a sufficient condition for the threatened country to take steps to defend itself. However . . .

Argentina

U.S. supported the military coup of 1976 and the installation of General Jorge Rafael Videla as its leader. Videla’s military regime initiated Argentina's "dirty war." U.S. trained and supported the "war" - torture and disappearance of 35,000 Argentinians. This regime also trained "contras" for U.S. terrorist supported activity in Nicaragua and was an active participant in Operation Condor.

Brazil

U.S. supported the military overthrow of the democratically elected government in 1964 and supported it for 20 years. The military government banned unions, criticism, and stole land from the indigenous people. Under General Umberto Branco, the government arrested and tortured thousands of its people, including children.

At one time, the U.S. media/government celebrated Brazil as an economic miracle. However, the “celebration” ignored the facts that millions were hungry, arable land was owned by 2% of population, policies increased the destruction of the rainforests, state violence, murder, torture and removal of those who resisted, slave labor, child labor, and fifteen death squads "cleansing" seven million street children from the beaches of Rio.

The current U.S. supported president of Brazil has said the problem with the military coup was that it didn’t kill enough people. It has been revealed in newly released public documents that the FBI and CIA were engaged in Brazil’s election. Quote: the election was “a gift from the CIA.”

Paraguay

U.S. provided $146 million in aid to the "neo-Nazi" government of Alfredo Stroessner between 1962-75, as that government hunted down, placed on reservations, killed, and sold into slavery Ache Indians. Joining the hunt and heading the "reservations" were Christian fundamentalist missionaries. Documents found in Paraguay connect U.S. directly with Operation Condor (see Chile, Argentina).

Haiti

U.S. invaded in 1915 and occupied for 20 years, killing thousands of Haitians, one Marine memo referred to the killings as like “hunting pigs.” The U.S. created the dictatorship of Papa Doc Duvalier and his son, Baby Doc. During their 30 year rule, they killed 60,000 of their own people and tortured countless more. They became wealthy by personally appropriating continued U.S. aid. Haitians overthrew the U.S. supported government and created a democracy. In the elections, the Haitian people elected as president, Jean Bertrand Aristide, a person committed to helping the poor of Haiti. The U.S., in 2004, forced him out, literally, of the country. U.S. help is on the way the Global Fragility Act!

Dominican Republic

The U.S. invaded the Dominican Republic in 1916 and established the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo, a convicted rapist, who governed for thirty years. He governed with U.S. support and ruled through violence, especially against workers, and farmers whose land he confiscated. He used slave labor from Haiti to work the sugar plantations of which he controlled over 80% (after confiscation). In 1937 he directed the massacre of 20,000 Haitian workers. The CIA ended up assassinating him, not because of what he did to his own people, but because he had a destabilizing effect on U.S. control of Latin America, he tried to assassinate some of our other “friendly dictators.”

Cuba

After defeating the Spanish in the Spanish-American War, the U.S. ignored the Cuban democratic resistance that had fought the Spanish for years and set up a U.S. satellite state which turned Cuba into a resource for U.S. corporations. It installed a former Cuban Army Sergeant as President, Fulgencio Batista. His regime allowed U.S. corporations and organized crime to control and exploit the Cuban economy, creating the economic and social conditions for the Cuban revolution. Since the revolution the U.S. has tried to assassinate Castro, overthrow the Cuban government, and now imposes sanctions on Cuba which has only had the effect of increasing the suffering of the Cuban people. The sanctions have been condemned by UN General Assembly resolution for 20 years in a row as a violation of international law.

The U.S. continues to harbor anti-Castro Cuban terrorists, one, who is living comfortably in Miami, was found guilty of blowing up a passenger airliner.

South Africa

U.S. supported the racist white apartheid regime of P.W. Botha which killed over 1.5 million people in South Africa, Namibia, and Angola. While the U.S. supported the racist regimes of Botha and F.W. De Klerk, it labeled Nelson Mandela a terrorist, and placed his organization, the African National Congress, on the U.S. State Department list as a terrorist organization.

Rwanda

The Clinton administration refused to call the genocide in Rwanda genocide. They called it genocidal-like acts, thereby allowing the U.S. to avoid fulfilling its obligation under international law. The U.S. also worked through the UN to delay international intervention. Clinton acknowledged this on his visit and apologized. As of 2001 the U.S. continued to harbor one of the perpetrators of the genocide.

Mozambique and Angola

U.S. continued to support Portugal's fascist government, its Prime Minister, Antonio Salazar, and its colonial interests, Mozambique and Angola until 1978. Then the U.S. supported the terrorist Jonas Savimbi in Angola who shot down a civilian airliner and killed and tortured thousands. The U.S. called him a freedom fighter and defender of democracy, and Congress demanded that we support him.

Ethiopia

U.S. supported post-WWII rule of the dictator Haile Selassie and during his rule gave Ethiopia more aid than any other African country and bought him a $2 million yacht. U.S. sent advisers and weapons to help him put down revolt in Eritrea. He took 50% of peasants’ crops and fed beef to pet Great Danes while 200,000 of his people starved in 1973. When he was overthrown, U.S. shifted support to neighboring Somalia and its warlord, dictator Barre.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

King Leopold of Belgium took Belgium as his own property, naming it the Congo Free State. During his control of the country, his policies were responsible for killing as many as five million Congolese. His actions and policies were so horrendous, the Congo was taken from him and given to the country of Belgium as a colony. After WWII there was a movement of national liberation and unification behind a true democratic leader, Patrice Lumumba. The U.S., Belgium and some reactionary Congolese assassinated Lumumba. Eventually, the U.S. placed Mobutu Sese Seko in power. The Congo, at that time called Zaire, is very rich in resources. Mobutu appropriated much of the wealth and the aid his country received for himself. When he was finally forced out, he was worth five billion dollars. He found a home with another of the U.S. allies Saudi Arabia

Egypt

The U.S. supported the dictatorship of Hosni Mubarak for thirty years. Support included economic aid, military aid, including weapons and training, and intelligence, to identify, arrest and torture dissidents. Mubarak was forced out, U.S. supported him until impossible to do so, during Arab Spring. However the U.S. has continued to support the right wing, authoritarian political government of . . ., and repression of democratic dissidents, including journalists ending the Spring early (sarcasm). The U.S. now supports an even more violent dictator al Sisi, who has killed and imprisoned thousands.

Iraq

U.S. supported the military dictatorship of Saddam Hussein during the 80s, even knowing at the time that he was using chemical weapons against the Kurdish minority of Iraq and was also using chemical weapons in the war against Iran (war crime/genocide). At the end of Gulf War I, the U.S. told the Shiites to rise up and overthrow Saddam, and then U.S. commanders were ordered to do nothing as Saddam massacred the Shiites. The U.S. invasion of Iraq has led to the death of more than one million Iraqis, the displacement of five million, starvation among the children, ethnic cleansing, a broken political and economic system, the rise of ISIS, literally the destruction of a nation.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. supports the continuing rule of the Saudi regime which commits major human rights violations against its dissident citizens and women (as reactionary as the Taliban), and harbored Idi Amin who murdered hundreds of thousands of Ugandans. Saudi Arabia is the major source of funding for Islamic fundamentalists. U.S. kept up to 35,000 soldiers there until recently when it was forced out. In 2015 President Obama and every major political leader in the U.S. went to Saudi Arabia for the funeral of “moderate” King Faud (evidently executing women for witchcraft, beheading “criminals” and sentencing dissidents to one thousand lashes is moderate when you are a “friendly dictator). Jo Biden recently visited the dark age monarchy of MBM and gave him a friendly fist bump. And continues to support the war in Yemen.

Turkey

U.S. supported the dictatorship and terrorist regime which killed its Kurdish minorities. In 90s this regime killed 35,000 Kurds and destroyed 3,000 villages. One of top five recipients of U.S. aid. According to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, Turkey has tortured one million prisoners since 1980. They are our allies in war against terror. U.S. used air base at Incirlik to bomb Iraq in Gulf war I. The U.S. is less supportive of Turkey since the new government sided with its people in Gulf War II (90% against) and refused the U.S. the use of Incirlik base to bomb Iraq. And now of all things the Turkish government has mediated between the Ukraine and Russia concerning grain and is refusing to adhere to U.S. sanctions.

Iran

The U.S., using the CIA and reactionary Iranians, overthrew the democratically elected government of Iran in 1953 and set up the dictatorship of Mohammed Rez Pahvevi and his infamous secret police, the Savak. CIA trained the Savak and supervised the torture of thousands of Iranians. In one election the Shah received 100% of the vote which totaled more ballots than people.

After the Iranian revolution overthrew the Shah, the U.S. began supporting Iraq. However, the Reagan administration sold weapons to the Islamic fundamentalist government of Iran, who were holding U.S. hostages at the time, to finance the illegal Contra war in Nicaragua.

Pakistan

During 1980s Pakistan was fifth largest recipient of U.S. aid (1/2 military aid) despite the fact that it was a military dictatorship that had executed its democratically elected leader and was the source of 70% of the world's high grade heroin. Henry Kissinger called Pakistan a "frontline state" defending "free people everywhere." Subsequently it acquired and tested nuclear weapons in violation of international treaties. It also has been implicated in selling both hi-tech knowledge and weapons grade nuclear material to other countries, including North Korea.

Pakistan has been our “ally” in the war on terror. U.S. administrations and corporate media referred to former leader of Pakistan, General Musharraf, as “president” even though he took power by means of a military coup. At one point, he held "elections" where everyone voted for him, and then he has revised the constitution giving him power to disband the legislature and extend his presidency. His secret service, the ISA, has trained and funded both the Taliban and Al Qaeda. He died recently, his death receiving "mixed" reviews.

Israel

Receives more U.S. aid than any other country, much of it military aid. Of the over 1000 people that have been killed recently most are Palestinian civilians in their own land. The rest of the world condemns the Israelis, who have continued to occupy illegally, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, since 1967. See UN Resolutions, Geneva Convention, international law.

In 1982 Israel saturation bombed West Beirut. Then Ariel Sharon allowed mercenary Phalangist to enter the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps and kill 2000 Palestinians. **He was found guilty by an independent Israeli Commission.**

U.S. provides $3 billion in aid to Israel every year, without the aid Israel could not continue building its illegal settlements in the West Bank. And Israel passed legislation officially declaring it a Jewish nation. Israel now has a far right wing government waging an increasingly violent war against the Palestinian people.

Philippines

After the U.S. “liberated” the Philippines from the Spanish, U.S. forces killed thousands of Filipinos who had resisted Spanish colonialism and then tried to resist U.S. imperialism. In two cases the U.S. engaged in search and destroy missions where U.S. soldiers were ordered to kill everyone in villages over the age of ten.

After WWII, U.S. supported the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, Nazi sympathizer and convicted murderer, economically and militarily. Despite the fact that 60,000 people had been arrested and tortured under Marcos, George H. W. Bush praised him for "adherence to democratic principles. We have subsequently supported. His son is now President.

Indonesia

U.S. supported overthrow of President Sukarno by General Suharto and the CIA directed the subsequent 1965 post-overthrow slaughter of one million Indonesians. U.S. media applauded, "a positive achievement." U.S. continued to support Suharto through aid and the JCET continued to train Kopassus, Indonesian version of the SS. The Indonesian military is now committing atrocities against the indigenous people of Papua New Guinea, who are fighting to stop the destruction of their environment by the U.S. mining company Freeport-McMoRan.

Indonesia in East Timor

U.S. military training, weapons, and political support (through UN) made possible the Indonesian invasion and slaughter of 200,000 people in East Timor in 1976. After the Timorese overwhelmingly voted for independence in 1999, the Indonesian backed paramilitaries began slaughtering them again. This time the U.S. did nothing, other countries, Australia, intervened to save the people. U.S. is now seeking to reestablish friendly relations with Indonesian military, disregarding both their war crimes and human rights violations.

Vietnam

U.S. supported the French reentry into Vietnam after WWII, provided weapons and financing. U.S. in violation of the Paris Accords, sent military, stopped the reunification elections, and supported a series of dictators starting with Ngo Dinh Diem who imprisoned and killed 50,000 of his own people. U.S. killed approximately 3-4 million people in Vietnam War, majority women and children, poisoned the land and water. Right now, it is estimated 500,000 Vietnamese children suffer birth defects caused by war related chemicals. Millions of land mines left and the largest dioxin contamination in the world. According to the Pentagon Papers, the real reason for the U.S. invasion was to send a message to other countries of the world not to step out of line.

Cambodia

U.S. secret and illegal bombing of Cambodia, an extension of the Vietnam War, killed 600,000 and created 1.5 million refugees. The bombing destroyed the entire fabric of Cambodian society, creating the social conditions for the Khmer Rouge to take over and begin its genocide. After the Khmer Rouge were forced out of Cambodia by the Vietnamese military, the U.S. trained, funded, armed and fed the Khmer Rouge with the goal of them taking over Cambodia again. U.S. supported the representative of the Khmer Rouge seeking to be seated at the UN. Millions of land mines are left. The U.S. has been trying to limit scope of possible Tribunal which would try leaders of Khmer Rouge in order to exclude from public testimony U.S. cooperation with the Khmer Rouge.

Laos

U.S. secret and illegal bombing destroyed the Plain of Jars and obliterated every standing building on it. This bombing killed tens of thousands. The people of the area lived underground or in caves for years. The CIA tried to organize a mercenary army to undermine the Pathet Lao government of Laos and its villages. Millions of land mines planted by U.S. backed military are still in the ground.

Afghanistan

U.S. supported the mujahideen against the Soviets in 1980s, which became Al Qaeda and included Osama bin Laden, a Saudi. U.S. support included economic aid, military training and weapons, including Stinger missiles that can shoot down planes. In early 90s U.S. and Saudi Arabia financed the terrorist government of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who shelled his own people (killing 50,000), cut off water and power of civilians, and stole their food.

A former U.S. national security advisor is taking credit for drawing the Soviet Union into Afghanistan, and indirectly for their Vietnam-like defeat. He says U.S. support of "freedom fighters" brought Soviets in. The 10 million land mines left, the Taliban and Al Qaeda armed with sophisticated U.S. weapons, the 5 million starving, the 1 in 4 children dying before age five was all provoked by the U.S. desire to see the Soviet Union humiliated.

The U.S. war in Afghanistan completed the process of sending the people back into the dark ages. No Afghanis were involved in 9/11. And now the U.S. keeps Afghan money as the people starve.

South Korea

U.S. supported a series of dictators after WWII and has been an occupying force since WWII. In 1948 the U.S. put in power Syngman Rhee who killed 100,000 of his own people. When U.S. military command was still there and Rhee president, South Korean forces killed 30,000 people on the island of Cheju, then institutionalized forced marriage to steal the land of the islanders. In 1961 the U.S. supported the dictatorship of Park Chung Hee who used torture (waterboarding) and murder to control the population. The CIA created the “security force” that carried out the tortures and murders, the KCIA.

If there is a war, a U.S. general takes command of ROK/US forces.

Japan

After WWII the U.S. asked the Japanese to rewrite their Constitution. The U.S. found the revisions insufficient, so the U.S. rewrote the Japanese Constitution, Article 9 limited Japan’s ability to defend itself, thereby justifying the U.S.’s continuing military occupation of Japan (largest popular protest in Japanese history against continued U.S. occupation). The U.S. also made the process of revision of the constitution through amendment virtually impossible.

As early as 1947, the U.S. had conspired with former fascists to eliminate groups and individuals who had opposed the Japanese war machine and would, the U.S. rightly assumed, oppose a U.S. installed conservative party which ruled for 40 years. At one time, the government was run by U.S. backed war criminal Nobusuke Kishi.

The above purges were also directed at the labor unions who were considered to sympathetic to communism and socialism. **George Kennan: “U.S. had moral right to intervene … in order to put the former industrial and commercial leaders of Japan” in the positions of power.**

Chalmers Johnson in his book Blowback says that the Japanese form of government is “soft authoritarian”: The will of the people (now known as public opinion) does not shape foreign or domestic policy but can have some effect on modifying its most (un) democratic effects.

Okinawa

Under occupation from Japan since 17th century, U.S. since WWII. There are now 39 U.S. bases (still growing) on 20% of prime agricultural land. Ruled by U.S. military between 1945 and 1972. Japanese U.S. Security Treaty: leave Japan you can have Okinawa, however U.S. bases still in Japan proper.

a. U.S. forcibly seized Okinawa land, and sent several thousand to Bolivia

b. U.S. military and crime 1972-95 4716 "extraterritoriality,"

not subject to domestic justice.

c. One thousand auto accidents by U.S. military a year tied to alcohol

d. Noise pollution 52,000 take-offs and landings per year in

residential areas near homes and schools

e. Environmental damage: MT Onna firing range, jet fuel runoff

toxic chemicals, 1520 depleted uranium

f. Economically negative, accounts for only 5% of GNP

Germany, Italy and Greece

Immediately after WWII, the U.S. intervened directly and/or covertly in the internal affairs of these three countries. In all three it worked to put fascists, former members and/or supporters of Nazi Germany, in positions of power in order to eliminate socialists and communists.

What values are affirmed by this history of state sponsored terrorism? Pundits keep saying the world changed on Sep 11, 2001. But really the only thing that changed was that the innocent people killed were U.S. citizens.