

## May National Debate of the Month

**Resolved, that the United States should immediately suspend all foreign aid .**

**Background:** The United States' history of providing foreign aid originated with the implementation of the Marshall Plan after World War II with the intention of rebuilding decimated European economies. Shortly thereafter, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was established by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. Ever since, USAID has acted as the primary arm of US foreign aid. During the height of the Cold War, food production, rural development and nutrition, population planning, health, and education were prioritized in the delivery of aid. These aid packages were often intertwined with the political intention to curb communism. Following the terrorist attack of 9/11, foreign aid was primarily directed towards Middle Eastern countries. Now, some of the money is military aid, some is economic, and some addresses health issues like eradicating disease and providing food and clean water. Foreign assistance currently makes up less than 1% of the federal budget, with the current administration proposing to make additional cuts, aligning itself with more isolationist policies. However, the question remains: Should the United States suspend all foreign aid?

### **Pro:**

- Cutting all foreign aid expresses an isolationist attitude, consequently significantly diminishing potential foreign entanglements.
- There are often “strings attached” with foreign aid. If the US provides it once, it may be obligated through political or economic pressures to continue providing it.
- The supply of foreign aid has exposed a pattern of crisis response. Thus, continuing this course of action may cause the world to be excessively reliant on the U.S. to solve its problems, placing an undue burden on the nation.

### **Articles:**

- <https://www.fff.org/explore-freedom/article/time-to-end-all-foreign-aid/>

### **Con:**

- A sudden suspension of all foreign aid will strain and decimate long standing diplomatic relationships, most likely producing more problems as opposed to lasting solutions.
- The US provides roughly 20% of the UN's budget through its foreign aid programs. Significant cuts to foreign aid would cripple global humanitarian aid operations.
- Foreign aid stops wars before they happen. By providing the support many countries need to establish infrastructure, the United States has a direct hand in preventing the creation of terrorist groups and political unrest. In essence, it is an investment in global welfare.

**Articles:**

- <https://www.concernusa.org/story/cutting-foreign-aid-spending-wont-make-america-great/>