

Dear Senator Lugar,

Our envisioned future of American foreign policy aims to promote America as a member of a cooperative global community. The most important problems facing the U. S. today have arisen from a lack of trust and an underlying animosity towards Americans. These problems include terrorism, the financial crisis, and contrasting ideologies leading to a lack of cooperation where it is desperately needed.

The United States should help strengthen other nations in order to garner allies. This would be most successfully accomplished if the government worked to understand the priorities and ideologies of cultures and communities around the world. Even efforts that are well-meant on our part could be seen in a negative light by these cultures, so if we understand their needs and values, we would be better able to strengthen these relationships.

Certain issues reach beyond national borders, and our ability to cooperate should as well. The financial crisis, AIDS epidemics, refugee camps, and human rights issues cannot be solved by nationalist ideals and isolationism. We must be willing to work with other countries, even those that we do not agree with in other aspects. These and other similar issues influence people as people, not as political citizens.

Isolationism hinders America's ability to advance itself. We must learn to work with other nations if we are to bring ourselves out of these difficult financial times. If we are to share in the resources of other nations, we must be willing to respect their governments and values.

Taking part in and supporting an open, positive global community would create a more secure, healthy nation. Though critics might argue that more focus should be placed on protecting the American homeland, and that the just ideals of democracy should be shared with the world, forcing other nations to adhere to our values can only breed hatred and animosity. We must agree to disagree with other countries, and work to find a common ground on which to compromise about global issues.

Future Five 2009 – 3rd Period