

### A Selectively Cooperative U.S. Presence

The United States cannot focus solely on its own interests in today's highly globalized society. By alienating those who are of no immediate benefit to our nation, we successfully make a pariah out of America in the international community, while nullifying the effectiveness of international organizations such as the United Nations and NATO. Conversely, the United States cannot relinquish most of its military, economic, and political prowess to these IGOs at the expense of our own well-being. If the U.S. loses its *ability* to act unilaterally, the safety and security of the American people is effectively neutralized. What if the rest of the world was to turn its back on America during a time of crisis? Instead, the future of America lies in a combination of both ideologies. The U.S. needs to develop into a nation willing to aid and learn from other nations, while at the same time put a much greater emphasis on its ability to sustain itself independently of other countries.

In order to implement this new U.S. foreign policy, a few key foreign policy changes would be required. First, U.S. foreign ambassadors to the United Nations should join with other leaders in the international community in forming a truly global coalition trained to combat injustice worldwide. While it may seem as if the U.S. would be exhausting its military in conflicts in which it has no direct interest, the number of American troops abroad will actually decrease, due to the fact that U.S. troops will be cooperating as part of international force rather than unilaterally. Surplus money from this reduced U.S. military presence can be used to fund the National Guard, the Coast Guard, the FBI, and other groups/programs focusing on national security on the home front. Second, the U.S. and the United Nations need to work towards strengthening the power of the International Atomic Energy Agency in order to significantly reduce the threat of nuclear warfare. Third, by cooperating with other nations to put alternative energy at the forefront of the global environmental agenda, America would be able to cut off their petroleum ties to countries considered dangerous or hostile towards Americans, as well as strengthen our own economy by producing our own energy.

Even with these changes to its direct foreign policy, the United States would also need to change two prominent domestic policies to maintain its new selectively cooperative ideology. In terms of our economy, in order to promote the growth of domestic growth, the American government would best benefit its citizens by giving incentives to companies who manufacture, sell, and are based in the U.S. Rather than punishing industries who outsource, the federal government could instead make it feasible for companies to plant jobs back into the U.S. Secondly, the issue of immigration would need to be resolved in a way that would please the international community without compromising our homeland security. A method of doing so would be to place strict border and illegal immigration laws upon those wishing to enter the country illegally. However, the solution to the backlash would be to make it much easier for immigrants to enter the country legally. By doing so, we embrace the "melting pot" culture on which this country was founded, while protecting our citizens from undocumented threats to our national security.