

Options in Brief—Terrorism

Option 1: Direct an Expanded Assault on Terrorism

The United States cannot tolerate acts of terrorism, those who perpetrate them, or those nations who harbor terrorists. As the sole remaining superpower, we have no choice but to take on the job of rooting out terrorism wherever it exists. It is our responsibility and duty to protect ourselves and make the world safe from terrorists. The war on terrorism is a worldwide struggle and we must move forward with a worldwide offensive to combat it until all who threaten peace and security are destroyed. Although it is helpful to have the cooperation of other nations, we must be prepared to fight terrorism—using whatever methods it takes and alone if necessary—wherever and whenever it threatens. Nothing less than our own freedom is at stake.

Option 2: Support UN Leadership to Fight Terrorism

Terrorism is a global, not a national, problem. Today our security and the security of the rest of the civilized world depend upon our ability to work together to address this universal threat. We must recognize the UN as the entity with the legitimacy to develop and maintain a long-term, truly international effort to control and eventually wipe out terrorism worldwide. We must play a leadership role in strengthening the effectiveness of the UN on security matters and offer our military, intelligence, and economic support to a UN-led effort to eradicate terrorist cells wherever they are found. We must stand with the world community against lawless terror.

Option 3: Defend Our Homeland

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 brought a new message to Americans. We have been attacked on our own homeland, and we feel a vulnerability not felt in more than fifty years. Our high-profile foreign policy programs have only bred resentment against us and created enemies intent on doing us harm. The time has come to lower our foreign policy profile, get ourselves out of the sights of terrorists, and build up our national defenses. While civil liberties are important to Americans, we must recognize that we are in a new world. The government must be allowed to take new steps to protect our security.

Option 4: Address the Underlying Causes of Terrorism

Terrorism is inexcusable. Crimes against humanity cannot be tolerated. However, further military action will only perpetuate the cycle of violence. We must abandon any plans for further military action and join with others to address the deeper issues underlying terrorism. Terrorism feeds on the frustrations of some of the world's most disadvantaged peoples. We must join with the developed world to devote our attention and our resources to launching a targeted "Marshall Plan" that addresses the underlying causes of terrorism. We must also examine our own policies in many parts of the world to see that we are not inflaming long-standing local and regional conflicts, fueling discontent, and creating a breeding ground for anti-American sentiment.

Options in Brief—Global Environment

Option 1: Put the Economy First

In the fiercely competitive global market, the health of our nation's economy must assume top priority. We cannot afford to derail our economy in pursuit of environmental goals. The environmentalists and bureaucrats who support layers of international environmental regulations are out of touch with the concerns of our country. Millions of American workers would lose their jobs if these plans were put into effect. The answer to environmental problems does not lie in strengthening the role of international organizations in our lives. The last few decades have shown that Americans will act responsibly to reduce pollution in our country. Other nations should learn to do the same. In the meantime, we should keep our economy humming.

Option 2: Take the Lead In the Green Economy

Cleaning up the environment is an emerging junction between science and industry. The nations of Western Europe, Japan, and Australia have already recognized that new markets are opening up for environmentally friendly products. These countries are moving quickly to develop innovative "green" technologies. The United States cannot afford to lag behind. In the race to develop "green" technology, the United States should act decisively and avoid becoming entangled in the endless debates and disputes of international organizations. We should use our resources to develop and promote technology that will give us a jump-start in the growing market for environmentally sound products. This will allow us to strengthen our economy and reduce environmental degradation.

Option 3: Promote Sustainable Development

Poverty around the globe is worsening, greenhouse gas emissions are rising, and resource consumption in developed nations is at an all-time high. Recognizing the interconnectedness of economic development and environmental integrity is imperative since resource degradation and depletion will ultimately preclude further development. We must join with the other countries of the world—both developed and developing—and work with people at the local level, under the auspices of the UN, to achieve a globally sustainable balance of development and environmental preservation. A cooperative and very deliberate effort is needed to promote growth, reduce poverty, and protect the planet.

Option 4: Protect Mother Earth

With the survival of the planet at stake, global environmental problems outweigh all other national interests and must rank as our top priority. Because environmental issues are ultimately global in scope, we must also pressure the UN to make protection of the earth's environment its top priority. Unless we make major changes in the way people live, we are all headed for catastrophe. We must pass legislation in the United States that will end the use of all fossil fuels and stop greenhouse gas emissions, and we must pressure other nations to do the same. Any initiatives designed to address economic issues must be assessed for their current and potential environmental impacts. Such assessments must place a premium on future environmental value because we have a responsibility to safeguard the world for future generations.

Options in Brief—Nuclear Weapons

Option 1: Eliminate Nuclear Weapons Now
Today, nuclear weapons are the world's greatest threat. Though they have only been used during wartime twice, we have come too close to nuclear war too often. Today, tens of thousands of nuclear weapons stand at the ready, many on hair-trigger alert, threatening the lives of hundreds of millions of people and quite possibly the future of civilization itself. These weapons make us less, not more, secure.

Lack of cooperation among nations worsens the problem of nuclear weapons. As the nation with the world's most powerful nuclear arsenal, we need to take the lead. As a first step, we should unilaterally eliminate all but five hundred of our own nuclear weapons. The resulting increase in trust and cooperation among nations will make it possible to engage in multilateral negotiations focused on the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Option 2: Rely on Arms Control

The world is an unstable and dangerous place. Rogue states are working to build or acquire nuclear weapons. Terrorist networks are looking for opportunities to acquire these and other weapons of mass destruction. The world's huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons, a remnant of the Cold War, increase the risk of theft, proliferation, and even intentional use.

We must cooperate with the current nuclear powers to reduce the world's nuclear arsenals to minimal levels. This will require using the mechanisms already in place—inter-

national arms control agreements—to reduce the number of weapons incrementally. Arms control treaties should focus on reducing the risks associated with the leftover Cold War arsenals and on stopping proliferation to unfriendly states and non-state actors. Only a small number of nuclear weapons should remain and they should be designed only to deter others from breaking out of arms agreements.

Option 3: Keep Nuclear Weapons as an Essential Part of U.S. Security

Nuclear weapons are critical to the security of the United States. Our nuclear weapons stockpile prevented the Soviet Union from overrunning Europe after the Second World War and protected us from the Soviet goal of worldwide domination. Today, our weapons remind aspiring powers like China and older nuclear weapons powers like Russia that the United States is the world's leading military power and serve as a check on other nations' ambitions. No rational leader of a country would dare to threaten the United States.

But deterrence is no longer enough. The threat of nuclear terrorism—whether carried out by rogue states or terrorist groups—is very real. We must preserve our right and our ability to attack before we are attacked. This might even include developing small nuclear weapons that could strike at hidden terrorist bases or rogue states producing illicit weapons that could be used against us.

Options in Brief—International Trade

Option 1: Keep the U.S. Economy on Top

Since the end of World War II, the United States and many of its chief trading partners have enjoyed unprecedented prosperity and economic growth. More open trade has provided American consumers with better products at lower prices. Moreover, the growth of trade has cemented our country's alliances with Western Europe and Japan, and built bridges across the lines of politics and culture. More than ever, the United States is in a position today to reap the benefits of international trade. Our technological expertise has given us the lead in many promising industries of the future, including biotechnology, space technology, and computer software. To back away now from our top position in the global economy would leave the playing field open to our rivals and remove a key pillar of international stability.

Option 2: Protect American Workers

For too long, our country's trade policy has served the interests of a small, selfish elite while the rest of us have watched from the sidelines. Our country is producing multimillionaires at a record rate while millions of hard-working Americans are struggling to support their families on shrinking paychecks. U.S. trade negotiators have opened our doors to imported goods while our competitors have shielded their industries behind high tariffs and impenetrable regulations. The time has come to fight back. U.S. trade policy must put the needs of American workers above the heartless laws of free trade. We must focus on stemming the flow of jobs overseas and protecting our industries from unfair foreign competition. The forces of economic globalization must not be allowed to trample over the lives of the men and women who built this country.

Option 3: Put U.S. Values First

The United States should put its values before its wallet. We must recognize that there are issues that are more important to our society than the benefits of free trade or the protection of American workers. In today's world, trade policy is one of the most effective handles we have for addressing a range of global concerns such as human rights violations, environmental degradation, and the exploitation of child labor. Addressing these international concerns is not just idealistic; it makes good economic and political sense. With our economic strength, we can promote human rights, safe working conditions, and a clean environment as conditions of trade. Nations that do not accept these values will not have the benefits that come with an economic relationship with the United States. Our trade policy should reflect the values of our foreign policy.

Option 4: Work for Free and Fair Trade

So-called "free trade" is highly unfair. If the United States is to promote truly free trade, we must practice what we preach. The current trade system serves the interests of large companies and hurts local workers around the world. Some sectors like agriculture receive large subsidies from the U.S. government. In other sectors like manufacturing the United States enforces unfair tariffs on imports, promoting its own goods. The United States plays a leading role in the WTO but does not fully follow the organization's principles. Free and fair trade means providing fair wages for workers around the world and fair prices for goods without trade interference. We must make the WTO more democratic and put the United States on an equal playing field with other countries. In the long term this will promote growth in the United States and in the short term it will improve the international opinion of the United States.

Options in Brief—Immigration

Option 1: Open Ourselves to the World

As we enter the twenty-first century, the forces of globalization are rapidly creating a new world. International trade is steadily expanding, while national borders are losing their significance. People, ideas, and goods traverse the globe at an ever-accelerating pace. Americans can take pride in a heritage that promotes openness, tolerance, and diversity. Immigration puts our country in touch with the tastes and preferences of consumers worldwide, and gives U.S. companies an edge in opening export markets. Keeping our doors open lets the world know that the United States remains a country that looks forward to tomorrow.

Option 2: Make Emigration Unnecessary

As the new century unfolds, the world is on the move. The population explosion in poor countries, the spread of war and terror, and the age-old curses of hunger and disease are driving increasing numbers to our shores. Opening our doors to large-scale immigration resolves no one's problems. It only overburdens our schools and health care system and drains poor countries of many of their most educated, highly skilled workers. We cannot continue to absorb new immigrants into this country at this breakneck pace without compromising our own economy and social structure. Nonetheless, both for practical and for humanitarian reasons we should join with the international community to provide the development assistance necessary to stabilize the migration of the world's poor.

Option 3: Admit the Talent We Need

Economic competition among nations in the twenty-first century is set to reach new levels of intensity. In today's world, the United States must be prepared to compete in an increasingly demanding global marketplace. Immigration policy should be designed first to serve our country's economic needs, not to solve the world's problems. To spur American high-tech industries forward, our doors should be open to scientists and engineers from abroad. To help American factories, farms, and service industries hold down costs, we should allow a limited number of foreigners to work temporarily in low-wage jobs.

Option 4: Restrict Immigration

The world is changing at a breakneck pace. The population explosion, war, terror, hunger, and disease plague an ever-growing portion of humanity. We must recognize that Americans can do little to end the misery that haunts much of the world. Simply maintaining our way of life amounts to a major challenge. Although the United States is a nation of immigrants, the arguments supporting massive immigration have long since passed into history. Now it is time to say enough. We should drastically reduce the number of immigrants we accept and commit the resources necessary to take control of our borders.