

# By the People - Americans' Role in the World

Now that you've had a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of thousands of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

1. Do you agree with the statements below?	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
a. Support of emerging democracies will, in the long run, enhance our own national security.					
b. When developing countries become more prosperous, they are less likely to threaten other countries.					
c. America should not hesitate to use military force to deal with threats to our national security.					
d. The U.S. should take the lead in forging global agreements on the environment.					
e. Free trade benefits U.S. consumers by lowering prices.					
f. The real threats to us are long-term global problems, such as AIDS and pollution that know no national boundaries.					
g. Our reluctance to use force before September 11, 2001, encouraged terrorists to attack.					
h. Working to spread and maintain democracy in other countries will increase stability in the world.					
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
a. We should reduce or eliminate trade barriers wherever possible.					
b. The U.S. should take the lead in global efforts to combat the spread of contagious diseases, such as AIDS.					
c. Our goal as Americans in the twenty-first century should be to help citizens of other countries develop stable democracies.					
d. We should cut ties with foreign dictators who refuse to honor democratic values.					
e. The U.S. should reinstate the draft to ensure military readiness.					
f. We should make it easier for foreigners to invest in businesses in the U.S.					
g. Working with other countries to tackle chronic poverty and similar problems overseas should be a higher priority for the U.S. than it is now.					
h. The U.S. should be willing to strike first against enemies who have weapons of mass destruction and a proven willingness to use them.					

**Post Forum Questionnaire**

3. Do you favor or oppose the statement listed below?	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
a. The U.S. must be willing to use force to deal with threats to our national security, EVEN IF that results in many casualties among U.S. service personnel and civilians in other countries.					
b. We must invest heavily in helping to build democracy in unstable countries like Afghanistan, EVEN IF this sometimes causes American workers to lose their jobs.					
c. We must promote free trade policies, EVEN IF this sometimes causes American workers to lose their jobs.					
d. We must work with other countries to address worldwide problems such as global warming, EVEN IF that means requiring all manufacturers to build higher-priced, more fuel efficient cars.					

4. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum?

- Yes                       No

If Yes, how?

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5. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before?

- Yes                       No

6. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as result of this forum?

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7. How many National Issues Forums have you attended, including this one?

- 1-3                       4-6                       7 or more                       Not sure

8. Are you male or female?     Male             Female

9. How old are you?

- 17 or younger     18-30     31-4     46-64     65 or older

10. Are you:

- African American     Asian American     Hispanic     Native American     White/Caucasian  
 Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Where do you live?

- Rural     Small Town     Large City     Suburban

Please give this form to the forum leader, or mail it to National Issues Forums Research, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, OH 45459-2777

## Post-Forum Questionnaire Results By the People Americans' Role in the World

### Answers for questions 1 to 3

The mean was calculated considering a scale from 1 to 4 (1 being Strongly Disagree and 4 Strongly Agree).

Question		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure	Mean
1	a	29	38	8	2	4	3.22
	b	26	32	8	11	4	2.95
	c	7	16	17	39	3	1.89
	d	46	22	5	5	4	3.40
	e	8	31	17	11	12	2.54
	f	49	19	7	5	2	3.40
	g	5	7	13	54	4	1.53
	h	17	34	12	8	10	2.85
			Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
2	a	12	36	11	8	14	2.78
	b	50	25	2	1	4	3.59
	c	12	30	22	9	8	2.62
	d	13	20	29	16	4	2.38
	e	2	5	16	50	8	1.44
	f	8	32	9	6	27	2.76
	g	59	16	2	2	3	3.67
	h	12	6	15	43	6	1.83
			Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
3	a	9	11	17	30	6	1.99
	b	14	29	17	6	9	2.77
	c	6	29	16	9	15	2.53
	d	48	19	3	2	2	3.57

### Answers for questions 4 to 11

**4. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum?**

Yes – 19

No – 51

**If yes, how?**

- No, I am glad to not feel so alone in my ideas.
- Yes, my perceptions are more clearly formulated.
- No, because read a lot, watch PBS and etc., belong to several national (AAUW, League of Women Voters), international (U.N., Cath. Church, husband in rotary) organizations.

- Yes, We need to conquer (suppress) greed. I once suggested (when the labor force was being cut) that maybe 10 people could continue to be employed by reducing “top management” by one employee, this went over like a lead balloon!
- Yes, I’m more convinced that we need to deal with our own internal issues before we can export our ideas elsewhere. I hadn’t thought about it in quite that way. I’m also more convinced than ever of the need to cooperate and not force our ideas and ways on other people because of our “strength”.
- I think it suggests the complexity and interrelatedness of these issues and the need for courage and compassion that is open to the gifts of wisdom in all.
- Yes, practice what you preach.
- Yes, I try to see through others eye understanding why they feel this---
- Yes, I am more aware.
- We talked about many issues.
- Yes, learned more.
- Yes, broadened my horizons on what people really think – its amazing how many similarities our opinions are.
- Yes.
- Yes, No. Somewhat.
- Yes, need more dateline discussion .
- Yes, No New thoughts. Your questions are not worded to my satisfaction. I want to question every one.
- Yes, a little more aware of the complexity of helping our country to act with more compassion and less arrogance.
- No, but broadened from comments.
- Yes, need for further discussion needed – more forums.
- Yes, More thoughtful people out there than I thought
- No, forum reinforced my views.
- No, I am encouraged that there are some intelligent, thoughtful individuals who care about the issues discussed.
- I am seeing a little more of a conservative viewpoint.
- I am more aware of the beliefs of others and how they coincide and disagree with my own beliefs.

**5. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn’t considered before?**

Yes – 41      No - 30

**6. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?**

- Concentrate more on sharing. Be more aggressive in contacting Representative and making ideas known, plus more pointed questions regarding their actions.
- Register new voters in ave., poor areas.

- Encourage more forums in our own libraries, religious organizations.
- Continue to become more aware of the policies being formulated to control our lives?
- Have more appreciation for the ideas of others and the need for Americans to be more humble about our relative youth and inexperience in world cultures. We can all be less arrogant and more willing to learn from others.
- Make this country a better role model on democracy, dealing with poverty/environment.
- Let their voices hear more often!
- Action within community, grassroots action.
- Track the economics.
- Certainly become more socially involved and knowledgeable.
- Continue in grass roots organizations of participative democracy.
- Get more involved and informed politically.
- Be more conscientious about consumption habits.
- Express themselves and listen to others without the idea change them
- ? Think ?
- This was an airing of many issues and ideas, not a debate on any of them.
- See themselves as empowered and start or keep voting and either volunteer or pray/meditate and keep on discussing and finding common ground and live and let live.
- Read, read, read, think, think, think.
- Start at home.
- Have more forums throughout the year, not only at times of crisis.
- Participate more.
- Walk instead of driving.
- Buy smaller vehicles.
- Somehow need better promotion of this forum for broader community participation.
- Listen more closely.
- Communicate more with each other to educate ourselves about the issues and take action i.e. communication with our leaders (congressmen).
- Think more about the issues.
- Vote and write to our congressmen.
- Write to Congress people and other political leaders.
- Better informed – more eager and willing to listen to others sources.
- Educate self for need of knowledge about all needs of living together – neighborhood, nation, world.
- Respect people’s right to pursue happiness.
- Contact congress people more.
- I would just like for more of them to attend such forums.
- Plan more forums.
- Be optimistic – keep being enthusiastic – believe in change.

- Take heart that there are people who look for different solution to world problems other than brute force.
- Become more informed of global issues and discuss them with friends and acquaintances. Encourage others to participate in these forums. Vote our consciences, not for a particular political party. Question our leaders to learn the real reasons behind their actions.
- I doubt anything would change... Americans are inherently lazy and profit-driven.
- Recycle.
- No clue whatsoever.

**7. How many National issues Forums have you attended, including this one?**

1-3 68    4-6 2    7 or more 3    Not sure 0

**8. Are you male or female?**

Male 30                      Female 44

**9. How old are you?**

17 or younger 0      18-30 15      31-45 11      46-64 27      65 or older 23

**10. Are you:**

African American 9    Asian American 3    Hispanic 1  
 Native American 1    White/Caucasian 62    Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Where do you live?**

Rural 5      Small Town 7      Large City 39      Suburban 25