

## Chapter 12a – Foreign Policy

How should the government of a nation relate to the other nations of the world?

### A. Biblical Teaching

- a. *The foreign policy of a nation should serve to protect the sovereignty and independence of that nation and to protect and defend the interests of its citizens in their relationships with other countries* (Rom 13:4, 1 Pet 2:14).
- b. *Governments should seek to do good for other nations as they are able to do so* (Matt 22:39).
  1. Positive influences on other nations can be achieved w/o jeopardizing the security and good of a nation's own citizens.
  2. Ex. The US protects the sea lanes of the world for the world.
  3. The maintenance of the Internet system by the US for the benefit of the entire world
  4. NASA's Earth Science Enterprise
  5. The linking of telecommunication lines from various nations of the world (by the US).
  6. Allows the UN to be headquartered in the US & provides its security, though the UN often acts against our national interests
  7. The US gives massive amounts of aid (both public and private) to many other nations and groups within.
- b. *The United States should seek to promote freedom and respect for human rights in other nations.*
  1. *Influence vs. Impose*
  2. Bible's moral standards, oppression neg. / Freedom positive (Ex 20:2; Lev 25:10; Deut 28:28–29, 33; Jdg 2:16–23; Isa 61:1).
    - Bible supports gov'ts being chosen by the people (indirectly, yet significantly) – covered in ch.3
    - Gov't is for the benefit of the people rather than the rulers (Rom 13:4; 1 Pet 2:13–14)
    - Declaration of Independence: Right to liberty given by God, Gov'ts are only valid if they have the *consent of the governed*.
  3. Seeking to increase human freedom and democracy in other nations promotes US self-interest, and promotes world peace.
  4. Voice of America, its budget cuts, curtailed broadcasts, and the implication for the leadership of America (embarrassed about advocating freedom and democracy).
  5. Freedom and democracy should be promoted through diplomatic channels – the UN, and via our Foreign Aid.
- c. *A mistaken policy of encouraging enemies and hindering friends*
  1. Iran- President Ahmadinejad, stolen election – June 12, 2009
  2. Latin America–Castro/Cuba, Chavez/Venezuela: endorsed legitimacy, no support for democratic oppostn., restrictions lifted
  3. See Daniel Henninger editorial, deputy director of the Wall Street Journal, - pg. 444, PABT.
  4. China – Bush vs. Obama: house church mov't, Dalai Lama. Also, Secretary of State Clinton: human rights cannot interfere w/economic crisis, climate change crisis, security.
  5. Columbia - Free trade with a pro-American Columbia
  6. Honduras - President Manuel Zelaya's lawful removal by the Honduran Supreme Court, Obama Administration's response.
  7. Difference in treatment between Iran and Honduras: Iran – no support of pro-democracy demonstrators, Honduras – apparent strong support for anti-democratic Zelaya (in partnership with Chavez).
  8. Why? Sympathy toward Socialism in liberal elements of the Democratic Party?

B. The United Nations – the only currently viable forum where reps from all nations can gather and negotiate. Yet, due to a majority vote composed of many smaller nations, the UN tends to be hostile to freedom and biblical standards of conduct.

- a. *See writings of Former State Dept. official Stefan Halper on domination in the General Assembly and misuse of funds.*
  1. Bloated tax-free salaries, subsidized rent, and educational grants for UN employees
  2. UN Children's fund lost 10 Million in cash in Kenya, 4 million outright stolen from UN headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia.
- b. *Fox News correspondent Eric Shawn - "400,000 in a Desk Drawer."*
- c. Some benefits of the UN: Cultural exchange, some areas of Education and Science, A few peace keeping missions (50's-70's)
- d. *Former US Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton on the now-defunct Commission on Human Rights.*
  1. Inclusion of Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Sudan on the Commission on Human Rights
  2. Inaugural Council influence (elected to the Inaugural Council: Algeria, China, Cuba, Pakistan, Russia, and Saudi Arabia)
- e. The US should more aggressively promote an alternative association composed of freedom and peace-loving nations.

C. Foreign Aid - a specific area in which the US can promote its own interests and do good for other nations.

- a. *Military Aid* (gifts, weapons sales, airplanes, training, etc.), in accordance with *just war* principles.
- b. *Humanitarian Aid*
- c. *Economic Development Aid*
  1. \$1 Trillion given from the US and other nations (given especially to African nations)
  2. Many now argue that giving such aid is harmful as it entrenches corrupt gov'ts who keep the money for personal gain
  3. Creates a culture of dependency, inhibits countries from becoming self-sustaining.
  4. Ineffective.
- d. *Debt Forgiveness*
  1. Jim Wallis, *God's Politics*, Jubilee 2000/Jubilee Network.- supporters call on the World Bank & IMF to cancel 100% of debt.
  2. Diff. between today's debts and debts in ancient Israel: People making the loans knew the rules in advance (Lev 25:16).
  3. Call for debt forgiveness is a call for charity from lenders, NOT a biblical principle from the OT taken to its conclusion.
  4. Such calls have an implicit accusation of guilt. Helping by providing a loan and expecting repayment is viewed as wrong.
  5. Campaign for debt forgiveness not a cancelation of debt, but payment by others.
  6. G8 Conference votes to cancel 40 Billion in debt (owed to IMF, WB, African Development Fund). Paid by the US/others.
  7. Critics of debt relief say: -It perpetuates corrupt regimes and -Promotes reckless borrowing
  8. Debt forgiveness does not change the causes of poverty: gov't corruption, oppression, & destructive economic policies
  9. Like Economic Development Aid, it also entrenches corrupt gov't by freeing up gov't funds for personal gain

10. Debt forgiveness has the potential to do much more harm than good.
11. Who Receives Debt Forgiveness? According to IMF: 35 countries qualify for reduction, 26 received the full measure of debt forgiveness offered – reached “completion point”, 9 others are in between and received partial debt forgiveness – between “decision point” and “completion point.” SEE figure 12.1.

Figure 12.1

LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE QUALIFIED FOR ... HIPC [HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES] INITIATIVE ASSISTANCE (AS OF JULY 1, 2009)

Post-Completion-Point Countries (26)		
Benin	Guyana	Niger
Bolivia	Haiti	Rwanda
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Rwanda
Burundi	Madagascar	Senegal
Cameroon	Malawi	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Mali	Tanzania
Ethiopia	Mauritania	Uganda
The Gambia	Mozambique	Zambia
Ghana	Nicaragua	

Interim Countries (Between Decision and Completion Point) (9)		
Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of Congo	Guinea Bissau
Chad	Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia
Republic of Congo	Guinea	Togo <sup>46</sup>

12. The countries listed on Fig. 12.1 are among the most unfree and oppressed in the world.
13. Compare 2010 Index of Economic Freedom (ranks in 10 categories of economic freedom including property rights, freedom from corruption, business freedom, investment freedom, and trade freedom, among others). SEE figure 12.2

Figure 12.2

Post-Completion-Point Countries (26)		
Benin 115	Guyana 153	Niger 129
Bolivia 146	Haiti 141	Rwanda 93
Burkina Faso 90	Honduras 99	São Tomé & Príncipe 149
Burundi 160	Madagascar 69	Senegal 119
Cameroon 132	Malawi 122	Sierra Leone 157
Central African Republic 152	Mali 112	Tanzania 97
Ethiopia 136	Mauritania 133	Uganda 76
The Gambia 118	Mozambique 111	Zambia 100
Ghana 87	Nicaragua 98	

Interim Countries (Between Decision and Completion Point) (9)		
Afghanistan N/A	Democratic Republic of Congo 172	Guinea Bissau 167
Chad 159	Côte d'Ivoire 123	Liberia 163
Republic of Congo 169	Guinea 134	Togo 161

- 31 of 34 countries rank as “unfree” or “repressed” (higher than 89=unfree, higher than 144=repressed, worst category).
  - 91% of countries receiving debt forgiveness are still governed by corrupt, oppressive gov'ts.
14. Moral fervor over debt misdirected, should be focused on the corrupt and oppressive gov'ts.
15. No evidence of long term economic good from debt forgiveness
16. 2005 ONE campaign and “make poverty history.” – Ineffective. Poor countries in no better circumstances.
17. Debt forgiveness forced contributions are ultimately paid by stock holders, such as retirement pensioners, and tax payers.
- e. *Restrictions on Foreign Aid* – the US should not give aid to advance agendas that are morally wrong (ex. pop. control, oppressive regimes etc.)
- f. *The United States gives far more aid to other countries than any other nation.*