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.
   c. 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)
      3. Declaration of Independence: Right to liberty given by God, Gov’ts are only valid if they have the consent of the governed.
      4. Seeking to increase human freedom and democracy in other nations promotes US self-interest, and promotes world peace.
      5. Voice of America, its budget cuts, curtailed broadcasts, and the implication for the leadership of America (embarrassed about advocating freedom and democracy).
      6. Freedom and democracy should be promoted through diplomatic channels – the UN, and via our Foreign Aid.
   d. 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.
      5. Colombia - 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)
      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)
      3. 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
      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.
      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.”

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).

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


17. Debt forgiveness forced contributions are ultimately paid by stock holders, such as retirement pensioners, and tax payers.

18. Restrictions on Foreign Aid – the US should not give aid to advance agendas that are morally wrong (ex. pop. control, oppressive regimes etc.)

19. The United States gives far more aid to other countries than any other nation.

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<th>Post-Completion-Point Countries (26)</th>
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<td>Benin</td>
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<th>Interim Countries (Between Decision and Completion Point) (9)</th>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
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<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
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<td>Republic of Congo</td>
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- 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.

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