



## **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**

- 1) How should power and wealth be distributed among nations?
- 2) Do you, as a US citizen &/or resident, have an ethical obligation to work for the Common Good among nations and within other nations?
- 3) Should the US lean towards passive isolationism or active interventionism?
- 4) Should the US lean towards an opportunistic foreign policy based on power or towards a principled foreign policy? Or:
- 5) What should be the primary determinant (motivator) of US foreign policy goals: Our national self-interest or the “interests” of the entire world?
- 6) Under what circumstances should the US feel justified attacking and waging war on other nations? (Consider just war theory.)
- 7) What philosophical standards should be used to determine “right” and “wrong” in American foreign policy?
- 8) How should the US government balance its duty to serve the economic interests of its citizens with its moral responsibility to act decently in the world?
- 9) Is the United Nations good or bad for US interests?
- 10) Does the US have an ethical responsibility to stay in the UN?
- 11) How much dissent should the US allow in times of war?
- 12) How should we balance the need for security (from terrorists, etc.) and stability at home with the need to protect constitutional civil liberties?
- 13) What are the dangers of appeasement, of letting other nations off the hook when they violate international law?
- 14) Who produces propaganda in America and how can the public avoid being manipulated by it?