

Students For Liberty: Doug Bandow on American Foreign Policy

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Doug Bandow a senior fellow at the Cato Institute gave a seminar on America's foreign policy. He starts with how the U.S. foreign policy has not changed. America used to have big enemies (Nazis and communists), we needed to spend to keep them in check and occupy countries to avoid the spread of communism. However, we no longer have these enemies but our foreign policy has not changed. Keeping the same policy does not make sense, we now have soldiers around the world as tripwires for the purposes of war.

The expansive and interventionist foreign policy of the U.S. according to Bandow has increased tensions toward the U.S. Our unrestrained international influence brings us into conflicts with other nations, where we do not need to be. The U.S. financial aid given to Egypt is an example. We gave large financial support to Mubarak the dictator of Egypt for trade purposes. Mubarak was oppressive and intolerant. The U.S. giving support to this kind of a leader does not increase our standing abroad. When the U.S. occupies a country to install democracy in one place and supports dictatorship in others, it does not help our foreign relations. Bandow goes on that the Middle East does support American values and products, but not government policy.

Bandow believes that the more expansive your military and foreign policy the more likelihood to come into conflict. We no longer need to give financial and military support to our allies or try to nation build failing states. The outcomes of these kinds of foreign policy risk our soldiers lives and interfere with our liberties at home.

He concluded that we need to use our resources at home. This speech enlightened me to the overarching affects of our foreign policy. The more we try to influence abroad the more tension is built. If we reduced our foreign policy agenda to trade agreements our conflicts would be greatly reduced. We need to start using our resources at home so no longer are we dependent on others for resources and do not need to support regions of the world for their goods.