

## David Boaz on so-called “isolationists” in the GOP

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David Boaz, executive vice president of the [Cato Institute](#), is firing back at Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and other neo-conservatives that are criticizing some Republicans presidential candidates for what they call “isolationist” views:

*[T]here are two basic problems with all this hand-wringing. First, there aren't isolationists in the contemporary American debate. The Britannica defines **isolationism** as “National policy of avoiding political or economic entanglements with other countries.” Who's calling for isolationism, with its historical connotation of protectionism and cultural isolation? Surely not businessman [Mitt Romney](#), who ran the Olympics, and whom [McCain singled out](#). Surely not former deputy trade representative and ambassador to Singapore and China [Jon Huntsman](#), whom [\[Danielle\] Pletka indicts](#). And certainly not the free-trading, immigration-friendly Cato Institute, a center of **noninterventionist** thinking. Now McCain did say, “There's an always been an isolationist strain in the Republican Party, the Pat Buchanan wing of the party,” and Buchanan might be more plausibly tarred with the label, as he has indeed since the end of the **Cold War** joined noninterventionism with **protectionism**. But nobody in last week's GOP debate flirted with such ideas.*

Boaz also notes that the non-interventionism, which neo-cons are falsely calling “isolationism,” isn't really as they are cracking it up to be; they are simply saying we should eventually get out of Afghanistan, not that the country should turn away from its interventionist foreign policy. Additionally, Boaz points to [recent data released by Pew Research/Gallup](#) that shows that Americans are becoming increasingly war-weary (I saw this several times on Twitter yesterday) compared to times in the past.