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Justifications for U.S. imperialism

By [Walter E. Block](#) October 18, 2014

There are numerous arguments offered in support of U.S. imperialistic policy. It is not for nothing that America has about 1000 military bases in some 160 foreign countries. These justifications, although all of them specious, must have at least some significant power.

Democracy

One case in favor of foreign interventionism is that the North American colossus must "export democracy" to the backward nations of the world. The difficulty with this is that soldiers are stationed in many nations that are fully democratic. Another awkwardness is U.S. policy toward Egypt. The Al Sisi regime overthrew democratically elected Mohamed Morsi. Did the U.S. sever all relations with Egypt; at least stop all foreign aid to it in protest? To ask this is to answer it. Of course not. So, democracy is merely a veneer for U.S. action. And, a good thing too, since Hitler (the real one, not any near eastern pretender) rose to power not through a coup de etat, but via a thoroughly democratic process. Also putting the kibosh on this argument is Hans Hoppe's magnificent book, [Democracy – The God That Failed: The Economics and Politics of Monarchy, Democracy, and Natural Order](#). Read that and weep, all those of you who support the U.S. military prancing all over the globe to bring democracy to the heathen.

Remember the hanging chads in the Florida? How would people in the U.S. like it if battalions from Albania, Argentina or Australia invaded our country in order to repair our pitifully low level of democracy? Not too well, but the powers that be in this country do not cotton to us placing ourselves in the moccasins of others, particularly those of foreigners.



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World's policeman

Another defense of U.S. imperialism is that this country must be the policeman of the world. If it could be a good cop, then, perhaps, just maybe, there might be some reason to support this (at least for non-libertarians who do not oppose such busy-body behavior on principle). But, a tiny peek at the record would show this country instead taking on the role of [Inspector Clouseau](#). Consider: the moderate Arab forces, the ones the U.S. is supporting, based on credible claims sold a person to ISIS for beheading for \$50,000. ISIS is surging in its war with the pesh merga based on *U.S. weapons* it stole, bought, commandeered from, these self same “moderates.” The U.S. is the bitter enemy of Iran and Bashar Assad of Syria, and yet, who is fighting ISIS, the “Hitler du jour?” Yes, Iran and Syria. The U.S. drug policy has also undermined countries from Mexico all the way down to South America. There, drug gangs fight government military forces (ok, ok, also gangs) on almost even terms. And then there is the U.S. “protection” of nations such as Afghanistan, Libya and Iraq that have seen tens of thousands of innocents perish. With “protection” like this, the client states of the U.S. would almost be better off with its enmity.

Self-defense

Does anyone remember 9/11? Or the numerous occasions when the Drug Enforcement Agency invaded the wrong home and killed innocent children? How would people in the U.S. like it if regiments from Brazil, Burundi or Botswana invaded our country in order to protect us from this sort of abuse? Not too well, but the powers that be in this country do not cotton to us placing ourselves in the moccasins of others, particularly those of foreigners.

The U.S. military pokes its snout into hornets' nests all around the planet. And then our chattering classes are shocked, shocked, when some of those insects come here to bite us. Ron Paul spoke truly to Rudy Giuliani when he called this “blowback.” They are here because we were there, spoke Congressman Paul to a befuddled ex Mayor of New York City. No truer words were ever said.

U.S. interests

Then there is the claim that U.S. must place “boots on the ground” all around the world based on American “interests.” What does this mean? If domestic businessmen locate in foreign countries, and are mistreated, then the government of this country must step in to “protect our vital foreign interests” abroad.

Sometimes, this is couched in terms of oil. We need oil do we not? Of course we do. Therefore, when our oil companies go to foreign lands, U.S. armies must follow them, lest they come to any harm.

One problem with this is that there is no earthly reason to send troops abroad merely to ensure imports. Switzerland also imports oil. It does no such thing. Rather, it depends upon the self-interest of the oil exporters. Even apart from developing domestic oil, or importing it from a country such as Canada there is no case whatsoever to meddle in the affairs of other nations just to ensure oil availability. How many free market economists does it take to change a light-bulb? None, they leave it to market forces. How many soldiers does it take to ensure imports? None. This, too, can safely be left to market forces.

Another difficulty is that this argument in behalf of imperialism is impossible to generalize. If it is justified for U.S. troops to follow American businessmen to foreign lands lest they be mistreated, why does not the same apply the other way around? That is, suppose an entrepreneur from Cuba, or China or Chad set up a company in one of our 50 states, and armies from those nations entered our country on the ground that our judicial system might be unfair to them. How would public opinion in this country react to such goings on? Not too well, but the powers that be in this country do not cotton to us placing ourselves in the moccasins of others, particularly those of foreigners.

The problem here is one of overlapping sovereignties. National governments, not to put too fine a point on the matter, are like scorpions. Leave each of them alone on its own patch, and relative peace prevails. But put two of them in a bottle and shake it up, and what do you get? Mayhem, that is what. Similarly, if each scorpion-government tended to its own garden, and contented itself with exploiting its own citizens, then, at least, there would be a vast reduction in international war. But, let one of these scorpion-governments (I'm growing fond of this phrase) claim sovereign power in the territory of the other and the result is pandemonium.



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No, the only sane policy is for each nation, up to and including the “home of the free, land of the brave” to tell its nationals something along the following lines: “Lookit, the world is a dangerous place. We, the government of the U.S. have sovereignty only over our own country. If you go elsewhere, say, to Denmark, or Dubai, or Dominican Republic, whether as a tourist or an investor or a businessman, you go at your own risk. We can only protect you on our own soil. Once you go abroad, you throw yourself at the mercy of whatever rules and regulations they have over there, and however they administer their legal system. Similarly, when people from other nations come over here, they place themselves under our rule, for better or worse.

Would be that every country followed such policies. If so, there would certainly be far less strife in the world.

P.S. Memo to the U.S. government: Suppose a tourist from Ecuador, El Salvador or Ethiopia took a vacation in the U.S. or a businessman set up a grocery here. If they were to follow policy blazed by the U.S., the armies from these countries would follow. How would we like them apples? Not too well, but the powers that be in this country do not cotton to us placing ourselves in the moccasins of others, particularly those of foreigners.

[The Best of Walter E. Block](#)

Dr. Block [\[send him mail\]](#) is a professor of economics at Loyola University New Orleans, and a senior fellow of the Ludwig von Mises Institute. He is the author of [Defending the Undefendable](#), [The Case for Discrimination](#), [Labor Economics From A Free Market Perspective](#), [Building Blocks for Liberty](#), [Differing Worldviews in Higher Education](#), and [The Privatization of Roads and Highways](#). His latest book is [Yes to Ron Paul and Liberty](#).



Clift & Myers being Excluded from Debates!

An Open Letter to The People of Alaska,

It is unconscionable that two legally and fully vetted candidates for Alaska Governor, Libertarian Care Clift via her 16% of the primary vote and Alaska Constitution Party member J.R.Myers via his and Maria Rensel's nearly 9,000 petition signatures, are both being excluded from the three televised debates the week prior to the election. Both candidates expressed shock and dismay. The response of Alaska Public Media has been the most disheartening. Clift and Myers have both been public media supporters in the past. Both campaigns will now urge their supporters to withdraw donations and advertising from those media outlets, including Alaska Public Media, which refuse to give equal airtime and consideration to all the qualified people's candidates. Won't you please join our efforts to call upon All Alaska Media to include All Four Candidates at All the following Debates!

Sunday 10/26 - KTUU Channel 2 Anchorage

Tuesday 10/28/14 - KTVA Channel 11 Anchorage

Wednesday 10/29/14 - KTOO 104.3 Juneau & KAKM Alaska Public Media Anchorage

J.R.Myers for Alaska Governor 2014





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Adventist Mission Doctor Speaks Out on the Ebola Crisis and Foreign Aid

Posted on [September 19, 2014](http://www.adventistmission.org/2014/09/19/adventist-mission-doctor-speaks-ebola-crisis-foreign-aid.html) by [Webeditor](#) <http://atoday.org/adventist-mission-doctor-speaks-ebola-crisis-foreign-aid.html>

“EVERYONE IS EXCITED ABOUT THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS” — Adventist Mission Doctor Speaks Out on the Ebola Crisis and Foreign Aid—Monrovia, Liberia, September 15, 2014.

Dr. Gillian Seton, a young surgeon trained at Loma Linda University, has been at the SDA Cooper Memorial Hospital in Liberia in the midst of the Ebola virus plague ravaging that country since February, 2014.

Dr. James Appel has been asked by Adventist Health International to join her in the overwhelming job of providing care for non-Ebola cases that have been neglected due to other hospital closures by Ebola quarantine. Dr. Appel is a very experienced mission doctor and has written extensively about providing Seventh-day Adventist health care in the Muslim country of Chad since 2004. His blogs about their daily experience caring for patients during the Ebola Crisis are available at www.ahiglobal.org. After one month in Liberia, working with Dr. Seton and her dedicated Liberian nurses and doctors, Dr. Appel daily triages Ebola patients. The problems of preventing spread of this deadly disease in an impoverished community are a daily reality to this small team of Seventh-day Adventist health care workers. As a massive and expensive foreign aid campaign slowly begins to respond to this crisis, Dr. Appel offers a very insightful analysis of what is wrong and what could be right from the donors and governments belatedly rushing in to “help.” These deeply insightful comments were written by Dr. Appel from Monrovia, Liberia Monday, September 15, 2014. Adventist Today feel his opinions deserve to be considered by all donor organizations, and his article is reproduced here with Dr. Appel’s permission:

I don’t mean to be critical—

by Dr. James Appel

I don’t mean to be critical. I can’t really know what’s going on. I’m just a simple family doctor working in a hospital. I’m not really even taking care of Ebola patients. How could I know why Liberia is losing the fight against Ebola? I haven’t sat on any NGO (non-governmental organization) committees or listened to the WHO (World Health Organization) discussions or to what the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has to say. I’m just ignorant. But I’m going to give my opinion anyway.

Losing a fight

Liberia is losing the fight against Ebola because they are depending on NGOs and an influx of Western money instead of traditional ways of dealing with epidemics. The first few Ebola epidemics were in remote villages where the villages touched by Ebola were self-quarantined according to ancient traditions of dealing with plagues. No one went in and out, and the surrounding communities brought them food. The caregivers washed themselves and their clothes rapidly and frequently after each contact with the patient, just using simple soap and water. Very few ever got sick, and the disease was controlled in a few months.

Excited

Here in Liberia, everyone is excited about the millions of US dollars being poured in to “fight Ebola,” and everyone wants a piece of the pie. A certain NGO out in rural Liberia quarantined a village, claiming they’d tested and found three cases. They applied for and received US\$ 250,000 to fight Ebola in this village. They brought in a few sacks of rice and some .



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chlorine. The villagers mobbed the trucks and carried off the plunder. And, miracle of miracles, not a single person died in the village.

Great effort at treating and controlling Ebola? Or pretending there's Ebola in order to pocket some easy cash? I've never heard of a 0% fatality rate for Ebola, but you make the call.

Dozens of Land Cruisers

NGO's spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to level earth with heavy equipment over a month in order to build tent cities capable of isolating and treating Ebola, but then not even giving them IV fluids or food, so that the Ebola patients sneak out of the tents and cross the street looking for food.

Dozens if not hundreds of US\$70,000 Land Cruisers are taking foreigners around town to hotels, bars, clubs, and fancy guest houses so they can feel comfortable while they fight Ebola, and yet they can't even collect the dead bodies that could expose so many more!

We've had bodies left for up to three days. Others have stayed in the open for up to five days before being collected. Patients are often turned away from the Ebola centers, and some have even refused to take anyone who doesn't come in an ambulance. How many of the poor in West Point slum can afford an ambulance, even if there were enough available to take them?

Low-Tech Solutions

I propose the following solution. I got the idea from a seasoned MSF doctor named Cameron. (MSF is *Médecins Sans Frontières*, or Doctors Without Borders.)

There are two reasons people call the Ebola hotline: they have a dead body they suspect of Ebola, or they have a live patient they suspect of Ebola.

If there's a dead body, the hotline should alert some local drivers with old beat-up pickup trucks, and the first one to the site gets the body. Of course, they will be given full protective gear. If they bring the body in within 3 hours of the call they get US\$50; if they bring it in within 6 hours of the call they get US\$40; if within 12 hours, US\$30; if within 24 hours, US\$20; if after 24 hours, US\$10. If after 48 hours, US\$5. This will motivate people to quickly get the bodies and bring them in to be tested and buried appropriately, with minimal chance for contact and spread.

If it's a live patient suspected of Ebola, a taxi can be called and for a few dollars take a nurse or lab tech out to the site in full protective gear. They will draw blood for Ebola testing, take the address and contact info, give the family a box filled with gowns, gloves, masks, rubber boots, bottles of chlorine, antibiotics, anti-malarials, oral rehydration salts and anti-vomiting medications. They will contact the community leaders, who will ensure that the family is not only quarantined in their compound, but also provided with food and water.

Local economy

All this could be done for a fraction of the current funds being used, and would be more effective, because the patients would all get the individual care that only a family member can give, including adequate food. It would also be more

effective because you'd be using local methods and using the money to invest in the local economy instead of paying the high costs of plane tickets, salaries, living expenses, transportation costs, etc., of foreign aid workers.

Working alongside

I'm not saying that there shouldn't be foreigners involved. I'm just saying that the foreigners should be working *alongside* the Liberians, helping them to find a solution to the Ebola problem, not trying to impose Western ideas that obviously aren't working. Foreigners should not be bringing in a lot of money that is spent on things that will just make the Liberians envious and want to share in the spoils of aid money.

Sorry for speaking my mind so frankly, but sometimes I just can't seem to hold it all in, whether people like it or not.

(Please like or share this article, especially if you have contacts in the donor community responding to the Ebola crisis.

Donations to Adventist Health International to support Dr. Seton and her staff can be made at

<http://www.ahiglobal.org/main/donate-now.>)



After Cops Cross “Thin Blue Line,” City Shuts Down Entire Corrupt Police Department

Carey Wedler October 3, 2014

(TheAntiMedia) WALDO, FL- The city council of Waldo, Florida [voted 4-1 this week to disband its corrupt police department](#). While police in Waldo have been recognized for [mistreatment of civilians](#), the department came under fire over illegal ticket quotas, deceptive court appearances, and unethical storage techniques. Waldo, a town of 1,000 residents and one stop light, was home to one of the most notorious speed traps in the country until aggravated cops reported their superiors.

Original story: [Florida Cops Blow the Whistle on Traffic Ticket Quotas, Police Chief gets Fired](#)

The city's seven police officers wrote nearly [12,000 speeding tickets in 2013, earning \\$400,000 and making up a third of the town's revenue](#). These actions were in violation of state law as the police chief ordered officers to write [12 tickets per 12 hour shift](#) or face repercussions.

Resident Pat Burgess [told CBS](#) last month: *“They're just waiting to catch people because they have to write so many tickets in order to meet the budget, and that's wrong.”*

In August, five Waldo officers [rebelled against their superiors](#) and made a presentation to the city council about the malpractices. Followed by their testimony, then-chief Mike Szabo was suspended (with pay) pending a Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation. Corporal Kenneth Smith was later suspended by Waldo City Manager Kim Worley when a second investigation was launched.

Before the conclusions of these reports, both suspended officers resigned. In early September, Worley arranged a temporary contract with the Alachua County sheriff to employ a lieutenant, but when that month-long deal expired, Worley was left with few choices.

An audit of the department found it [needed to upgrade](#) its computer systems and storage facilities to be up to standards for criminal investigation, which the city was too underfunded to do. After State Attorney Bill Cervone advised that he would bring a case before the Alachua Grand Jury that would be “humiliating,” the city council voted to disband the notoriously corrupt police department.

City Councilwoman Carolyn Wade, who voted reluctantly to shut down the force, [said](#): “Too much has gone too far and I don't think we can recover.”

It remains to be seen what will happen in Waldo, but for now, the Alachua County Sheriff's office will provide law enforcement services.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and State Attorney Cervone are still investigating and pursuing the criminal cops who extorted drivers in Waldo.

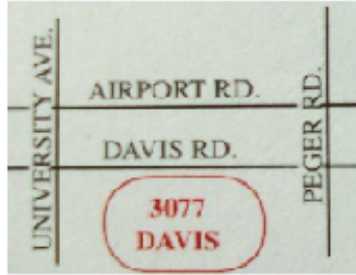
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Though some residents are upset with the decision, Brandon Roberts, leader of the cops who spoke out, expressed no remorse—even considering he had lost his job. He [said](#): “It’s what was right. A lot of people complain about cops not stepping across the blue line, and this is a prime example, because you have to worry about this kind of stuff.” He continued: “If I took down two bad ones, it was worth it.”

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Free People Claim Their Rights

by Michael Boldin October 17, 2014 <http://tenthamentcenter.com/>

Did you know, Your rights have absolutely nothing to do with the Constitution, or even the Bill of Rights? Today, we’re talking about the source of your rights – and how you defend them.

People often refer to their rights by Amendment. Doing so is not only a constitutional error, it’s dangerous. Some examples:

“Creating a free speech zone is a violation of my First Amendment Rights!”

“I will never let Bloomberg and his type take away my Second Amendment Rights!”

The phrases “First Amendment Rights” and “Second Amendment Rights” imply that you get your rights as a grant from government, or a document. People who hear these phrases learn that you get these rights because they’re spelled out in the Bill of Rights. Some might even believe that they didn’t exist until they were written down on paper.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Your rights are yours by the very nature of your birth. You have them whether a document or a government says so or not. And while governments at every level will always work to limit or destroy your rights, it’s up to you – and others – to defend them.

How to do that? Thomas Jefferson had what I believe to be the most important advice:

“A free people claim their rights, as derived from the laws of nature, and not as the gift of their chief magistrate.”

In other words, we the people need to learn how to exercise our rights whether the government wants us to or not.



Government “help” to business is just as disastrous as government persecution... the only way a government can be of service to national prosperity is by keeping its hands off. **Ayn Rand.**

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Logical Fallacies

- 1 Argumentum as vericundiam = appeal to reverence/authority
- 2 Argumentum ad Baculum = appeal to the walking stick "might makes right"
- 3 Argumentum ad hominem (abusive) = appeal to the man
- 4 Argumentum ad hominem (circumstantial) = appeal to the beliefs of someone else
- 5 Appeal to one's own emotion
- 6 Argumentum ad populum = appeal to the people
- 7 Argumentum Misericordiam = appeal to pity (fundamental to altruist ethics)
- 8 Argumentum ad Ignorantium - impossible to disprove an arbitrary assertion that something exists - onus of proof is on him that asserts the positive - possibility/probability/certainty continuum based on evidence
- 9 Petitio Principii - begging the question - using or assuming the point trying to prove as part of your proof
 - A. Restatement - restating thesis
 - B. Arbitrary Definition - assuming thing to be proved
 - C. Circular Reasoning - A > B > C > D > A
 - D. Question Begging Epithet
- 10 Complex Question (loaded question) - asking a compound question and demanding a single answer - used to trap people into confession - Have you stopped beating your wife?

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