

- Disproportionate Violence No Surprise: J. Cook
- Neocons Alive and Still Kicking Hard: Ehsan Ahrari
- Stop That Shit, Indeed: Uri Avnery
- Shame of Being an American: Paul Craig Roberts
- Disaster in the Making: Charley Reese

The greatest crime since World War II has been US foreign policy.

– William Ramsey Cl

Home

Who We Are

LAST 7 DAYS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Search

Regional News

Select a country

Free Newsletter

Shop Antiwar.com

Reprint Policy

Submission Guidelines

RSS

ANTIWAR.COM
A Member of the
RANDOLPH BOURNE
INSTITUTE



July 21, 2006

This Will Come Back to Haunt Us

Against House Resolution 921

by Rep. Ron Paul

I rise in opposition to this **resolution**, which I sincerely believe will do more harm than good. I do agree with the resolution's condemnation of violence. But I am convinced that when we get involved in foreign conflicts and send strong messages, such as this resolution will, it ends up expanding the war rather than diminishing the conflict, and that ultimately comes back to haunt us.

Mr. Speaker, I follow a policy in foreign affairs called non-interventionism. I do not believe we are making the United States more secure when we involve ourselves in conflicts overseas. The Constitution really doesn't authorize us to be the policemen of the world, much less to favor one side over another in foreign conflicts. It is very clear, reading this resolution objectively, that all the terrorists are on one side and all the victims and the innocents are on the other side. I find this unfair, particularly considering the significantly higher number of civilian casualties among Lebanese civilians. I would rather advocate neutrality rather than pick sides, which is what this resolution does.

Some would say that there is no room to talk about neutrality, as if neutrality were a crime. I would suggest there should be room for an open mind to consider another type of policy that may save American lives.

I was in Congress in the early 1980s when the U.S. Marines were sent in to Lebanon, and I came to the floor before they went, when they went, and before they were killed, arguing my case against getting

- SAVE THIS
- EMAIL THIS
- PRINT THIS
- MOST POPULAR

Archives

This Will Come Back to Haunt Us
7/21/2006

Avoiding War With Iran
5/23/2006

Foreign Policy, Monetary Policy, and Gas Prices
5/9/2006

True Foreign Aid
5/2/2006

Policy Is More Important Than Personnel
4/25/2006

An Embargo Is Not Peaceful Alternative
4/18/2006

Iran: The Next Neocon Target
4/7/2006

Making the World Safe for Christianity
3/30/2006

A Sense of Déjà Vu
2/20/2006

Peace and Prosperity in 2006?
1/3/2006

Question the PATRIOT Act Now Before It's Too Late
12/27/2005

The Blame Game C

involved in that conflict.

Ronald Reagan, when he sent the troops in, said he would never turn tail and run. Then, after the Marines were killed, he had a reassessment of the policy. When he wrote his autobiography a few years later after leaving the presidency, he wrote this:

"Perhaps we didn't appreciate fully enough the depth of the hatred and the complexity of the problems that made the Middle East such a jungle. Perhaps the idea of a suicide car bomber committing mass murder to gain instant entry to Paradise was so foreign to our own values and consciousness that it did not create in us the concern for the Marines' safety that it should have. In the weeks immediately after the bombing, I believed the last thing that we should do was turn tail and leave. Yet the irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy there. If there would be some rethinking of policy before our men die, we would be a lot better off. If that policy had changed towards more of a neutral position and neutrality, those 241 Marines would be alive today."

It is very easy to criticize the government of Lebanon for not doing more about Hezbollah. I object to terrorism committed by Hezbollah because I am a strong opponent of all violence on all sides. But I also object to the unreasonable accusations that the government of Lebanon has not done enough, when we realize that Israel occupied southern Lebanon for 18 years and was not able to neutralize Hezbollah.

There is nothing wrong with considering the fact that we don't have to be involved in every single fight. That was the conclusion that Ronald Reagan came to, and he was not an enemy of Israel. He was a friend of Israel. But he concluded that that is a mess over there. Let me just repeat those words that he used. He said he came to the conclusion, "The irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy there." I believe these words are probably even more valid now than when they were written.

- **Final roll-call vote**

[SAVE THIS](#) [EMAIL THIS](#) [PRINT THIS](#) [MOST POPULAR](#)

Wait
12/20/2005

**Deficits at Home,
Welfare Abroad**
11/8/2005

**Big Lies and Little
Lies**
11/5/2005

**Rethinking Failed
Policies**
10/28/2005

Staying or Leaving
10/8/2005

**Empowering the U
Destroying US
Sovereignty**
10/4/2005

**Why We Fight, and
Why We Shouldn't**
9/10/2005

**Gas Subsidies for
Iraqis, Gas Taxes f
Americans**
9/7/2005

**Our Rights
Suspended for 10
More Years**
7/26/2005

**PATRIOT Act is a
Threat to Liberty**
7/23/2005

**Tax-and-Spend GO
Sends Billions
Overseas**
7/22/2005

**Ending Suicide
Terrorism**
7/21/2005

**The Hidden Costs o
War**
6/16/2005

**UN Bill Not What I
Appears to Be**
6/14/2005

**Last Chance to Sto
National ID**
5/10/2005

**PATRIOT Act Shou
Ride Into the Suns**
5/3/2005

Who's Better Off?
4/7/2005

**More Empty Rhetor
for Veterans**
4/5/2005

Where Is Your



comments on this article?

send them to backtalk!
[visit backtalk!]

[Back to the Antiwar.com Home Page](#)

[Money Going?](#)
3/22/2005

[HR 418: A National ID Bill Masquerading as Immigration Reform](#)
2/12/2005

[What's the Meaning of 'Freedom'?](#)
2/7/2005

[What if It Was All a Big Mistake?](#)
1/27/2005

[It Can Happen Here](#)
12/21/2004

[Nation-Building Is Not Conservative](#)
12/14/2004

[US Hypocrisy on Ukraine](#)
12/9/2004

[Bullies at the Airports](#)
11/30/2004

[Stay Out of Sudan's Civil War](#)
11/25/2004

[Raising the Debt Limit: A Disgrace](#)
11/20/2004

[Quit Meddling in the Middle East](#)
11/16/2004

[Debt, the Greatest Threat to Our Security](#)
10/26/2004

[The Worst Way to Fight Terror](#)
10/9/2004

[Reject Draft Slavery](#)
10/7/2004

[National ID Threatens Liberty](#)
9/7/2004

[The Government Says We Need More Government](#)
8/24/2004

[Police State USA](#)
8/10/2004

[US Must Stay Out of Sudan](#)
7/24/2004

['Saving the World' With Your Money](#)
7/20/2004

**Torture, War, and
Presidential Power**
6/15/2004

**Superpower or
Superdebtor?**
6/8/2004

**Fresh Failures in
Iraq**
6/5/2004

**The House of
Representatives
Must Be Elected!**
6/4/2004

**Freedom vs.
Security: A False
Choice**
6/2/2004

**New Millennium,
Same Old Foreign
Aid**
5/21/2004

**Don't Start a War
With Iran**
5/15/2004

**Against the Phony
Resolution on Iraq
Abuse**
5/12/2004

**Passing the Buck in
Iraq**
5/11/2004

**The Real Lessons of
9/11**
4/24/2004

Don't Expand NATO
4/6/2004

Iraq One Year Later
3/23/2004

**Praise the Troops,
Not the War**
3/19/2004

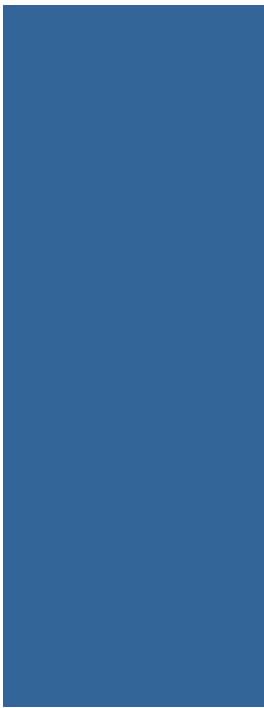
**Congress Abandon
Its Duty on War**
2/7/2004

**Congress Cannot Be
Appointed**
1/27/2004

**Elusive Peace in the
Middle East**
12/16/2003

Whose Peace?
12/11/2003

More Archives



Ron Paul is a Republican Congressman from Texas. He was the 1988 Libertarian Party candidate for President.

Reproduction of material from any original Antiwar.com pages without written permission is strictly prohibited.
Copyright 2003 Antiwar.com