

# AMERICANS' ROLE IN THE WORLD: The Situation In Iraq

**Points to think about from the National Issues Forum video that you will view at the salon:**

## **Approach #1 -International Order: Using Our Power to Secure the Peace**

America is the only nation in the world with sufficient military power to keep destructive forces in check, and thus maintain stability around the world. Because hostile forces may present threats against the U.S., we must be prepared to act preemptively—and unilaterally when necessary—to maintain our own security and world order. We must be willing to cut domestic programs and even institute a draft to keep our military position strong.

### **What should be done?**

Be prepared to act preemptively and unilaterally if necessary.

Press our allies to join us in coordinated international efforts to fight terrorism and the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

Reinstate the draft to ensure that there will be enough trained personnel to carry our multifaceted operations.

Accept higher taxes and reduce domestic spending to pay for building up the defense budget.

### **Tradeoffs**

The human costs of fighting a war are likely to result in substantial casualties to both U.S. troops and civilians in the combat zone.

In wartime, U.S. interests will require maintaining close, friendly relationships with undemocratic regimes such as those in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

### **What critics say**

Pursuing this course may well lead us into an endless spiral of violent reprisals.

The U.S. is not invulnerable. In the long run, we would be better off building alliances rather than going it alone.

Preemptive strikes set a dangerous precedent for other nations.