

# 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 #2 – The Democratic Project: Ensuring People's Rights**

Democracy and human rights are the core values for which this nation stands. We must do all we can to promote worldwide expansion of democracy as the most practical and promising way to secure peace and stability. In the long run, it is our best hope for keeping America safe. We must support actions that reward democratic nations while refusing to deal with those that will not move toward democracy.

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

Increase foreign economic assistance.

Cut ties for foreign dictators who refuse to honor human rights or democratic values.

Use American military force to intervene when democratic regimes anywhere in the world are threatened.

Push for, and take part in, greatly expanded programs of educational and foreign exchanges.

#### **Tradeoffs**

Helping people establish a democratic way of life, especially those in developing countries, will be very costly. The effort may well curtail military or domestic programs.

In many cases, as in Granada and Panama, the U.S. may have to use force to restore or install democratic regimes.

#### **What critics say**

We need to understand what democracy can realistically achieve. In many countries, it has delivered considerably less than the people expected.

Pushing our values and political system amounts to cultural imperialism.

This approach, which would involve us in every region of the world, is unrealistic and overly ambitious