

For many years, American citizens have questioned the involvement of the United States of America in efforts to support other countries around the world. Often times the assistance is examined and people point to the many needs of the citizens within the United States itself. The United States has become a world leader in terms of strength, stability, power, and health standards. Given the financial and innovation success of the American story, should citizens and political figures feel responsible for assisting less fortunate foreign countries?

The United States was founded on the idea that everyone is created equal and should be treated fairly. All people, no matter their origin, race, or religious beliefs, have the fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. During the Revolutionary War, the U.S. formed allies with France, Spain, and the Netherlands. Without the support of these countries, the U.S. likely would have lost the battle to gain independence from Great Britain. The lack of assistance would have cost this country our independence. Therefore, in some basic fashion, America should feel obligated to support struggling countries because at an early point for the nation, help was needed.

Since those early days, the United States has grown to be one of the largest superpowers in the world. Further, the country maintains one of the largest economies in the world as well. In 2019, the United States' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 2.2% to 21.43 trillion dollars. That year, former President Trump budgeted \$39.3 billion dollars in assistance of economic support and development programs of foreign countries. This accounted for nearly 23% of the world's total international aid. About a quarter of all international aid was generated by a single country. This increase in GDP can be directly correlated to business transactions with foreign countries. The fact is that international trade and investments in foreign countries actually boost the American economy. Globalization has brought about the interdependence between many foreign nations. A direct benefit can be witnessed from free trade and transactions among nations.

According to Brookings, foreign aid refers to any money, technical assistance, or commodities that the U.S. provides to other countries in support of a common interest. Aid can come in the form of financial assistance and economic development, military support, education, passing along technological innovations, and advances in healthcare.

By supplying relief to countries in need, the United States can spread their ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness around the global community. The current Coronavirus pandemic that impacts the entire world is one such example of the United States supplying care around the globe. Obviously, the nature of the Coronavirus pandemic doesn't only affect the United States. Cases of the disease have occurred in nearly every country in the world.

The U.S. Government has spent \$1.5 billion dollars in emergency health relief since the outbreak of COVID-19. The CDC has worked closely together with USAID and the State Department to provide support to health systems all over the world. Non-profit groups and fundraisers have contributed additional support. The latest COVID-19 bill passed by the House of Representatives will send an additional \$11 billion in foreign aid to struggling countries hit the hardest by the Coronavirus pandemic. The United States is fulfilling it's obligations as a superpower and world leader during this time of extreme need while civilization struggles with this health crisis.

Former President Trump created Operation Warp Speed which was utilized to assist and expedite the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The government's

goal was to create and release a vaccine to the people as soon as possible while freeing the process from any unnecessary constraints. It was an unprecedented task that stood before the administration. Historically, the development and clinical trials of vaccines is an extremely long and arduous process filled with much bureaucratic red tape. Our leaders aimed to expediate the process to the fullest extent in order to deliver a much needed solution to the global health crisis. Trump ordered the production of millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines even before they received final approval from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The thought was that we didn't want to risk waiting on manufacturing the vaccines once we knew that they would be an effective remedy to guard against the COVID-19 outbreak. This allowed the vaccines to immediately become available for distribution upon final validation and sign off by the CDC. Within a couple of days of that final approval, citizens were receiving the shots in their arms.

The rapid response leveraging science and technological advancements, quicken the release of the vaccine not only to American citizens but also the world. While ramping up production capacity, the United States began to ship out the vaccine to other countries in need. Thus, becoming yet another shining example of the United States offering crucial assistance to the global community. Without this support, many of the people of lesser developed and advanced nations would be severely impacted by the ongoing pandemic. Again, American innovation delivers a meaningful response to the world crisis event. The result was much like this country's efforts in World War I and II focused on bringing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness upon the world during a time of extreme threat.

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