

United States Military Intervention and the Promotion of Peace



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US Foreign Policy Interests

- Security is paramount interest
- US also promotes other goals that advance the cause of peace
 - Humanitarian & Human Rights interventions, such as in Bosnia 1995 and Libya 2010, but see also Rwanda 1994 and Syria 2011-2012
 - Peacekeeping operations by the UN have a fairly good track record at halting civil war recidivism



US Promotion of Democracy

- The record is very mixed in advancing democracy
 - Where the US has made it an explicit, foreign policy goal, it has worked in some cases (Grenada 1983; Panama 1989) as well as German & Japan after WW2
 - Since democracies do not wage war against each other, this helps indirectly promote peace



Under What conditions does the US Military Advance Peace

- Necessary, but not sufficient conditions
 - When there is a strong and visible likelihood that many lives will be lost
 - In the context of widespread and/or systematic violations of human rights
 - Where US military intervention is feasible
 - Where US military intervention can exercise a substantial effect
 - The target state does not have a patron



The Sweet Spot for Peace

