

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Selling Monster Hunts (20–25 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

Understanding how special interests might benefit from foreign wars while presenting their arguments as being in America's interest, students identify how groups that profit from war might try to overcome the warnings of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, John Adams, and John Quincy Adams (who famously said in an 1821 address, excerpted in the book, that America "goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy").

Instructions

1. Put students in pairs/small groups.
2. Hand each group a scenario card from the last page. (There are three total, and it's fine if more than one group gets the same card; just print as many cards as there are groups and spread them out.)
3. Allow 10–12 minutes for groups to complete the activity..
4. Let each group present its public argument and "rebuttal" of a founding father's quote. (Begin with having someone from each group read the scenario aloud for the class to hear.)

Debrief/Wrap-Up Questions

- Which group's public argument sounded most convincing?
- Did any group's public argument reveal its real motive?
- Which Founder warning was hardest to answer?
- Why might Americans be cautious when wealthy industries advocate foreign intervention?
- How do the warnings of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, John Adams, and John Quincy Adams apply to these scenarios?

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You are part of an organization that seeks to stir up support for the U.S. to enter a war that two nations about 7,000 miles away are fighting. (This war does not threaten the U.S. at all, and it's a war these nations have fought off and on for roughly 40 years.) Your organization, however, would greatly benefit if the U.S. entered this war. For your scenario (given to your group by your instructor), your group must complete two tasks:

1. **The Public Argument** – Write a short statement (2–4 sentences) explaining why it's *so* important for the U.S. to get involved in the foreign conflict. (Of course, you will certainly *not* want to mention profits, money, contracts, or financial gain your organization stands to gain!)
2. **Answer the Founder** – Choose one or two warnings below and write a response that attempts to overcome it/them. (Of course, you may be sneaky and/or deceitful about this, the same as you may be for Task #1.)

Founder Warnings Against Foreign Intervention:

George Washington: “Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground?”

Thomas Jefferson: “Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none.”

James Madison: “Of all the enemies to public liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded.”

John Adams: “The system of neutrality...was founded in wisdom and justice.”

John Quincy Adams: America “goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy.”

Your Group's Public Argument:

Your Group's Answer to the Founder(s):

Scenario A: The Bank

A foreign nation fighting a civil war wants to borrow billions of dollars from American banks to purchase supplies and weapons. Your bank would earn enormous interest payments if Congress supports the foreign government and helps it win the war.

Scenario B: The Weapons Manufacturer

A foreign conflict has created demand for tanks, missiles, aircraft, and ammunition. Your company could receive huge government contracts if the United States sends military aid or enters the war directly.

Scenario C: The Shipping Company

A foreign war would require moving troops, equipment, fuel, food, and supplies across the world. Your company would receive lucrative transportation contracts if America becomes involved.