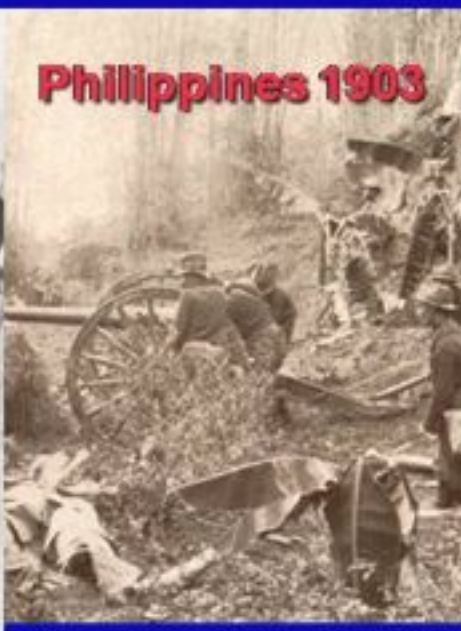


A History of U.S. Military Interventions, 1890-2010

*“There will assuredly become a day, when this country
will have some weight in the scale of Empires...”*

– George Washington



**Dr. Zoltán Grossman, Member of the Faculty, Geography/
Native American Studies, The Evergreen State College, Olympia WA**

<http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz>

Key & Sources

T	Troops	M	Missiles
N	Naval	CO	Command Operation
B	Bombing	NU	Nuclear Use
J	Jets	NT	Nuclear Threat
NJ	Naval Jets		

Among sources used, beside news reports:

Congressional Record (23 June 1969),

180 Landings by the U.S. Marine Corp History Division,

Ege & Makhijani in *Counterspy* (July-Aug, 1982),

"Instances of Use of United States Forces Abroad, 1798-1993" by Ellen C. Collier
of the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service,

Daniel Ellsberg in *Protest & Survive*.

This guide does *not* include:

- Mobilizations of the National Guard
 - Offshore shows of naval strength
 - Reinforcements of embassy personnel
 - The use of non-Defense Dept. personnel (such as the DEA)
 - Non-combat mobilizations (such as replacing postal strikers)
 - The permanent stationing of armed forces
 - Covert actions where the U.S. did not play a command and control role
 - The use of small hostage rescue units
 - Military training and advisory programs not involving direct combat
 - ...and many other military activities.
- Most uses of proxy troops
 - Military exercises
 - Foreign disaster assistance
 - Civic action programs
 - *U.S. piloting of foreign warplanes

Land base conquered 1890-1897



Nicaragua



Wounded Knee massacre



Chicago Pullman rail strike

SO. DAKOTA	1890(-?)	T	Wounded Knee massacre of 300 Lakotas
ARGENTINA	1890	T	Buenos Aires interests protected.
CHILE	1891	T	Marines clash with nationalist rebels.
HAITI	1891	T	Black revolt on Navassa defeated.
IDAHO	1892	T	Army suppresses silver miners' strike.
HAWAII	1893(-?)	T, N	Independent kingdom overthrown, annexed
CHICAGO	1894	T	Breaking of rail strike, 34 killed.
NICARAGUA	1894	T	Month-long occupation of Bluefields.
CHINA	1894-95	T	Marines land in Sino-Japanese War
KOREA	1894-96	T	Marines kept in Seoul during war.
PANAMA	1895	T, N	Marines land in Colombian province.
NICARAGUA	1896	T	Marines land in port of Corinto

Spanish-American War Era 1898-1903



Cuba seized from Spain



**Philippine Insurrection
against Spain, then U.S.**



**Panama
independence,
canal zone
annexation**



Boxer Rebellion in China



Mark Twain on the Philippine-American War

“The completeness of the victory is established by this fact: that of the six hundred Moros not one was left alive. The brilliancy of the victory is established by this other fact, to wit: that of our six hundred heroes only fifteen lost their lives. General Wood was present and looking on. His order had been, ‘Kill or capture those savages.’ Apparently our little army considered that the ‘or’ left them authorized to kill or capture according to taste, and that their taste had remained what it has been for eight years, in our army out there—the taste of Christian butchers. . . . The enemy numbered six hundred—including women and children—and we abolished them utterly, leaving not even a baby alive to cry for its dead mother. This is incomparably the greatest victory that was ever achieved by the Christian soldiers of the United States.”

CHINA	1898-1900	T	Boxer Rebellion fought by foreign armies.
PHILIPPINES	1898-1910 (-?)	T, N	Seized from Spain, killed 600,000 Filipinos.
CUBA	1898-1902 (-?)	T, N	Seized from Spain, still hold Navy base.
PUERTO RICO	1898 (-?)	T, N	Seized from Spain, occupation continues.
GUAM	1898 (-?)	T, N	Seized from Spain, still use as base.
MINNESOTA	1898 (-?)	T	Army battles Chippewa at Leech Lake.
NICARAGUA	1898	T	Marines land at port of San Juan del Sur.
SAMOA	1899 (-?)	T	Battle over succession to throne.
NICARAGUA	1899	T	Marines land at port of Bluefields.
IDAHO	1899-1901	T	Army occupies Coeur d'Alene mining region
OKLAHOMA	1901	T	Army battles Creek Indian revolt.
PANAMA	1901-14	T, N	Broke off from Colombia 1903, annexed Canal Zone 1914.
HONDURAS	1903	T	Marines intervene in revolution.

“Dollar Diplomacy” 1903-1912

“Gunboat Diplomacy” in Cuba



Nicaragua landings



China interventions begin

DOMINICAN REP.	1903-04	T	U.S. interests protected in Revolution.
KOREA	1904-05	T	Marines land in Russo-Japanese War.
CUBA	1906-09	T	Marines land in democratic election.
NICARAGUA	1907	T	"Dollar Diplomacy" protectorate set up.
HONDURAS	1907	T	Marines land during war with Nicaragua
PANAMA	1908	T	Marines intervene in election contest.
NICARAGUA	1910	T	Marines land in Bluefields and Corinto.
HONDURAS	1911	T	U.S. interests protected in civil war.
CHINA	1911-41	T, N	Continuous occupation with flare-ups.
CUBA	1912	T	U.S. interests protected in civil war.
PANAMA	1912	T	Marines land during heated election.
HONDURAS	1912	T	Marines protect U.S. economic interests.
NICARAGUA	1912-33	T, B	10-year occupation, fought guerillas
MEXICO	1913	N	Americans evacuated during revolution.

First World War Era 1914-1919

World War I in France



Intervention in Mexican Revolution

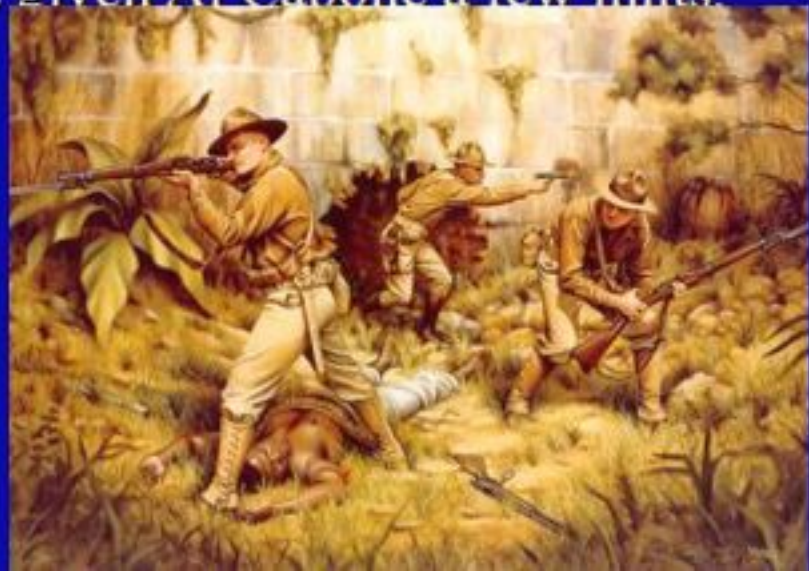


Intervention in Russian Revolution

Marine Major General Smedley Butler

“War is just a racket.... I spent most of my time being a high class muscle- man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangsterI helped make Mexico... safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints.”

**Butler
in Haiti
in 1915**



DOMINICAN REP.	1914	N	Fight with rebels over Santo Domingo.
COLORADO	1914	T	Breaking of miners' strike by Army.
MEXICO	1914-18	T, N	Series of interventions against nationalists.
HAITI	1914-34	T, B	19-year occupation after revolts.
DOMINICAN REP.	1916-24	T	8-year Marine occupation.
CUBA	1917-33	T	Military occupation, economic protectorate.
WORLD WAR I	1917-18	T, N	Ships sunk, fought Germany for 1 1/2 years.
RUSSIA	1918-22	T, N	Five landings to fight Bolsheviks
PANAMA	1918-20	T	"Police duty" during unrest after elections.
HONDURAS	1919	T	Marines land during election campaign.
YUGOSLAVIA	1919	T	Marines intervene for Italy against Serbs in Dalmatia.

Interwar Years & WWII

1920-1945



**WWI veterans'
protest camp
burned in DC**



Detroit uprising



World War II



GUATEMALA	1920	T	2-week intervention against unionists.
WEST VIRGINIA	1920-21	T, B	Army intervenes against mineworkers.
TURKEY	1922	T	Fought nationalists in Smyrna.
CHINA	1922-27	T, N	Deployment during nationalist revolt.
HONDURAS	1924-25	T	Landed twice during election strife.
PANAMA	1925	T	Marines suppress general strike.
CHINA	1927-34	T	Marines stationed throughout the country.
EL SALVADOR	1932	N	Warships send during Farabundo Marti revolt.
WASHINGTON DC	1932	T	Army stops WWI vet bonus protest.
WORLD WAR II	1941-45	T, N, B, NU	Hawaii bombed, fought Japan, Germany and Italy for 3 years; First nuclear war.
DETROIT	1943	T	Army put down Black rebellion.

Truman's Early Cold War 1946-1953



**Korean
War**



**Greek
Civil
War**



IRAN	1946	NT	Soviet troops told to leave north.
YUGOSLAVIA	1946	N, NT	Response to shoot-down of US plane.
URUGUAY	1947	NT	Bombers deployed as show of strength.
GREECE	1947-49	CO	U.S. directs extreme-right in civil war.
GERMANY	1948	NT	Atomic-capable bombers guard Berlin Airlift.
CHINA	1948-49	T	Marines evacuate Americans before Communist victory.
PHILIPPINES	1948-54	CO	CIA directs war against Huk Rebellion.
PUERTO RICO	1950	CO	Independence rebellion crushed in Ponce.
KOREA	1951-53 (-?)	T, N, B, NT	U.S./So. Korea fights China/No. Korea to stalemate; A-bomb threat in 1950, and against China in 1953. Still have bases.

Eisenhower Cold War 1953-1960



Marines in Beirut, Lebanon

**Democratic gov't
ousted in Guatemala**



**Democratic gov't
ousted for Shah of Iran**



IRAN	1953	CO	CIA overthrows democracy, installs Shah.
VIETNAM	1954	NT	French offered bombs to use against seige.
GUATEMALA	1954	B, CO	CIA directs exile invasion after new gov't nationalized U.S. company lands; bombers based in Nicaragua.
EGYPT	1956	T, NT	Soviets told to keep out of Suez crisis; Marines evacuate foreigners.
LEBANON	1958	T, N	Marine occupation against rebels.
IRAQ	1958	NT	Iraq warned against invading Kuwait.
CHINA	1958	NT	China told not to move on Taiwan isles.
PANAMA	1958	T	Flag protests erupt into confrontation

Kennedy/LBJ Vietnam Era

Vietnam War

1961-1968

Cuban
Missile
Crisis



Berlin
Crisis



Dominican invasion



African American
uprisings in U.S.

VIETNAM	1960-75	T, N, B, NT	Fought South Vietnam revolt & North Vietnam; 1-2 million killed in longest U.S. war; atomic bomb threats in 1968 and 1969.
LAOS	1962	CO	Military buildup during guerrilla war.
CUBA	1961	CO	CIA-directed exile invasion fails.
GERMANY	1961	NT	Alert during Berlin Wall crisis.
CUBA	1962	N, NT	Blockade during missile crisis; near-war with USSR.
PANAMA	1964	T	Panamanians shot for urging canal's return.
INDONESIA	1965	CO	Million killed in CIA-assisted army coup.
DOMINICAN REP.	1965-66	T, B	Marines land during election campaign.
GUATEMALA	1966-67	CO	Green Berets intervene against rebels.
DETROIT	1967	T	Army battles African Americans, 43 killed.
UNITED STATES	1968	T	After King is shot; over 21,000 soldiers in cities.

Nixon/Ford/Carter interventions 1969-1980

Invasions
of neutral
Cambodia
and Laos



Chile's elected
president killed in coup



Wounded Knee siege



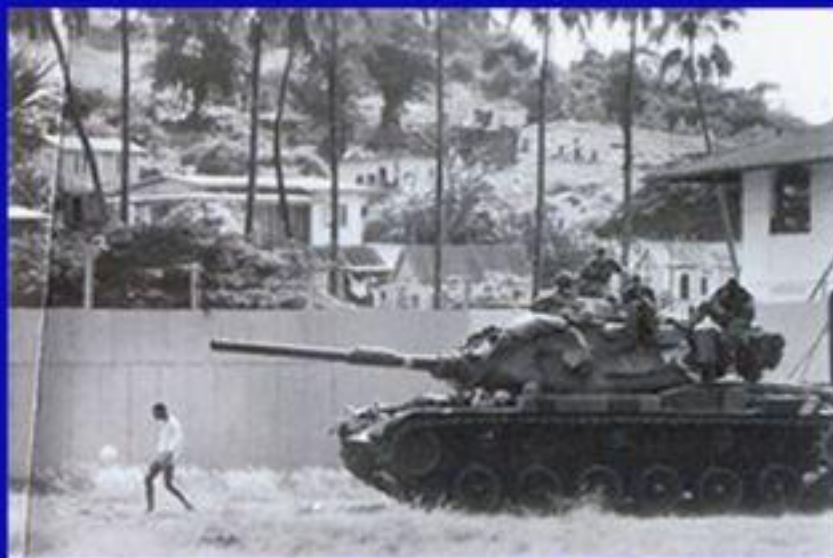
Iran raid fails

CAMBODIA	1969-75	T, N, B	Up to 2 million killed in decade of bombing, starvation, and political chaos.
OMAN	1970	CO	U.S. directs Iranian marine invasion.
LAOS	1971-73	B, CO	U.S. directs South Vietnamese invasion; "carpet-bombs" countryside, aids Hmong.
SOUTH DAKOTA	1973	CO	Army directs Wounded Knee siege of Lakotas.
MIDEAST1973	NT		World-wide alert during Mideast War.
CHILE	1973	CO	CIA-backed coup ousts elected marxist president.
CAMBODIA	1975	T, B	Gas captured ship, 28 die in copter crash.
ANGOLA	1976-92	CO	CIA assists South African-backed rebels.
IRAN	1980	T, NT	Raid to rescue Embassy hostages (aborted bombing); fails as 8 troops die in helicopter-plane crash. Soviets warned not to get involved in revolution.

Reagan's Cold War Revival 1981-1988



Libya bombing



**Grenada unilateral
invasion**



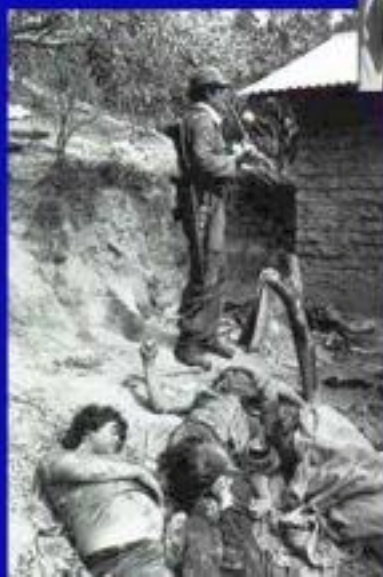
**Marines, Navy
back in Beirut**



**Civil war
in El
Salvador**



Contras in Nicaragua



**Naval skirmishes
with Iran**

LIBYA	1981	NJ	Two Libyan jets shot down in maneuvers.
EL SALVADOR	1981-92	T, CO	Advisors, overflights aid anti-rebel war, soldiers briefly involved in 1992 hostage clash.
NICARAGUA	1981-90	N, CO	CIA directs exile (Contra) invasions, plants harbor mines vs Sandinista revolution.
LEBANON	1982-84	T, N, B	Marines expel PLO and back Phalangists, Navy bombs and shells Muslim & Syrian positions.
GRENADA	1983-84	T, B	Invasion four years after revolution ousts regime.
HONDURAS	1983-89	T	Maneuvers help build bases near borders.
IRAN	1984	J	Two Iranian jets shot down over Persian Gulf.
LIBYA	1986	N, B	Air strikes to topple nationalist gov't.
BOLIVIA	1986	T	Army assists raids on cocaine region.
IRAN	1987-88	N, M	U.S. intervenes to protect Iraqi tankers in Iran war.

Bush I interventions 1989-1992

**Gulf War
over Kuwait**



**Panama invasion
ousts former ally**



**Los Angeles
rebellion**



Somalia landing



LIBYA	1989	NJ	Two Libyan jets shot down.
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1989	T	St. Croix Black unrest after storm.
PHILIPPINES	1989	J	Air cover provided for government against coup.
PANAMA	1989 (-?)	T, B	Nationalist government ousted by 27,000 soldiers, leaders arrested, 2000+ civilians killed.
LIBERIA	1990	T	Foreigners evacuated during civil war.
SAUDI ARABIA	1990-91	T, J	Iraq countered after invading Kuwait. 540,000 troops also stationed in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Israel.
IRAQ	1990-?	T, N, B	Blockade of Iraqi and Jordanian ports, air strikes; 200,000+ killed in invasion of Iraq and Kuwait; no-fly zone over Kurdish north, Shiite south, large-scale destruction of Iraqi military.
KUWAIT	1991	T, N, B	Kuwait royal family returned to throne.
LOS ANGELES	1992	T	Army, Marines deployed against anti-police uprising.
SOMALIA	1992-94	T, N, B	U.S.-led United Nations occupation during civil war; raids against one Mogadishu faction.

Clinton interventions

1993-2000

Bosnia
intervention
backs Croatia



Continuous
Iraq bombings



Yugoslavia bombing,
Kosovo occupation

Sudan
bombing



Reversal of coup against
elected leader in Haiti

YUGOSLAVIA	1992-94	N	NATO blockade of Serbia and Montenegro.
BOSNIA	1993-?	B, J	No-fly zone in civil war; downed jets, bombed Serbs.
HAITI	1994	T, N	Troops restore Aristide to office 3 years after coup.
ZAIRE (CONGO)	1996-97	T	Marines at Rwandan Hutu refugee camps, in area where Congo revolution begins.
LIBERIA	1997	T	Soldiers under fire during evacuation of foreigners.
ALBANIA 1997	T		Soldiers under fire during evacuation of foreigners.
SUDAN	1998	M	Attack on pharmaceutical plant alleged to be "terrorist" nerve gas plant.
AFGHANISTAN	1998	M	Attack on former CIA training camps used by al-Qaeda after attack on Africa embassies.
IRAQ	1998-?	B, M	Four days of intensive air strikes after weapons inspectors allege Iraqi obstructions.
YUGOSLAVIA	1999	B, M	Heavy NATO air strikes after Serbia declines to withdraw from Kosovo, followed by NATO occupation
EAST TIMOR	2000	T	Logistical team aids Australian-led UN peacekeepers
MACEDONIA	2001	T	NATO forces deployed to move Albanian rebels.

Bush II unilateralism 2001-2008



**Afghan
invasion
after 9/11**

*“They’ll never
shake the world of
the United States.”*
- **GWB, 3-16-04**



**Iraq
invasion,
occupation**



**Permits coup
against elected
leader of Haiti**

UNITED STATES	2001	N, J	Reaction to hijacker attacks on New York, DC
AFGHANISTAN	2001-?	T, B, M	Massive U.S. mobilization to overthrow Taliban, hunt Al Qaeda fighters, install Karzai regime.
YEMEN	2002	M	Predator drone missile attack on Al Qaeda fighters (including US citizen) 2 years after USS Cole bombed
PHILIPPINES	2002-?	T, N	Training mission for Philippine military fighting Muslim Abu Sayyaf rebels evolves into US combat missions in Sulu Archipelago next to Mindanao.
COLOMBIA	2003-?	T	US special forces sent to rebel zone to back up Colombian military protecting oil pipeline.
LIBERIA	2003	T	Brief involvement in peacekeeping force as rebels drove out leader.
IRAQ	2003-?	T, N, B, M	Saddam regime toppled in Baghdad. US and UK attack and occupy country, fight insurgencies.
HAITI	2004-05	T, N	Marines land after rebels oust elected Pres. Aristide.
SYRIA	2008	T	Special Forces in helicopter raid 5 miles from Iraq kill 8 Syrian civilians

Obama escalation, 2009-2010

Predator drone with
Hellfire missile



Yemen



Pakistan



AC-130 Gunship

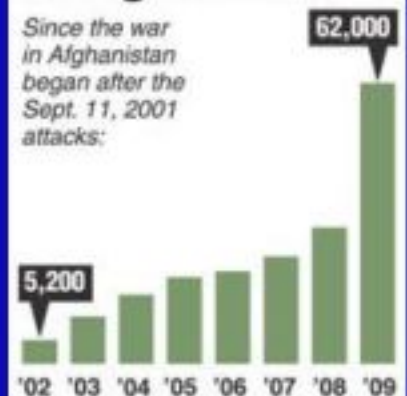
QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Somalia



U.S. troops
in Afghanistan

Since the war
in Afghanistan
began after the
Sept. 11, 2001
attacks:



Source: Center for Arms Control and
Non-Proliferation
Graphic: Judy Treible

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PAKISTAN	2005-?	M, B, CO	CIA missile and air strikes and Special Forces raids on alleged Al Qaeda & Taliban refuge villages kill multiple civilians. Drone attacks on Pakistani Taliban network.
SOMALIA	2006-?	M, N, CO	Special Forces advise Ethiopian invasion that topples Islamist government; AC-130 strikes , helicopter raids, Cruise missile attacks vs. Islamist rebels; naval blockade against "pirates" & insurgents
YEMEN	2009	M, CO	Cruise missile attack on Al Qaeda kills 49 civilians; proxy army raids on southern rebels

New U.S. military base clusters



1. Gulf War, 1991

2. Yugoslav wars, 1990s

3. Afghan War, 2001

4. Iraq War, 2003

Bases built to wage wars, or wars waged to build bases?

Bases as political tripwires

U.S. sphere of influence growing between economic competitors in EU & Asia

Z article available

1. Defending civilian lives?

- **Military tactics often left behind massive civilian "collateral damage."**
- **Little distinction between rebels and the civilians who in rebel zones.**
- **Little distinction between military assets and civilian infrastructure (*train lines, water plants, agricultural factories, medicine supplies, etc.*)**
- **New technologies in each war said to prevent civilian casualties,**
- **Inevitable civilian deaths explained away as "accidental," "unavoidable."**



Iraq
1991, 2003



2. Defending “Freedom”/“Democracy”?

- Nearly all interventions defended or installed pro-U.S. dictators.
- Ideological agenda (defending capitalism) (*Vietnam, Central America*)
- Economic agenda (defending oil or investments) (*Persian Gulf, Chile*)
- A few interventions toppled dictatorships that had been backed by U.S. Intervened to prevent the people from overthrowing their own dictator first, and installing their own democratic government (*Panama, Iraq*).
- Reinstalled democratically elected leader to office, but undercut his power and later encouraged his ouster (*Haiti*)



Vietnam
1968



Chile
1973

Kuwait
1991



3. Stopping atrocities/terrorism and ethnic cleansing?

- **Minimized or defended the same actions by the U.S. or its allies**
- **Double standards: U.S. ally's action by definition "defensive," but an enemy's retaliation is by definition "offensive."**
- **Opposed ethnic cleansing by Serbs, not by Croats or Albanians.**
- **Opposed Iraqi atrocities against Kurds, not Turkish atrocities, etc etc.**
- **U.S. trained exile "terrorists" against Cuba & Nicaragua; could they bomb Florida in self-defense?**



*El Mozote
Massacre in
El Salvador
1981*

*Serbs expelled
from Croatia
1995*



4. “Peacekeeping” to keep sides apart?

- U.S. portrayed as “neutral” peacekeeper with humanitarian motives.
- Yet often divides the country or region into “friends” and “foes,” sides with one faction and arms it against another
- Outside interference enflames rather than dampens a war or civil conflict (*Somalia, Bosnia*)
- “Preventing civil war” argument can deepen resentment of U.S. role, serve as self-fulfilling prophecy (*Afghanistan, Iraq*)



Somalia
1992, 1993



5. Creating “stability”?

- Intervention often counterproductive even if one accepts U.S. goals/rationales
- Rather than solving the root political or economic roots of the conflict, intervention polarizes factions and further destabilize the country
- Culture of mistrust of U.S. intentions solidifies over time.
- The same countries tend to reappear often on the interventions list.
(Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, Philippines, Liberia, Panama, Iran, etc.)
- A U.S. intervention is the best way of guaranteeing a future intervention.



Haiti 1919, 1994, 2004



6. Weakening brutal dictators?

- Demonization of an enemy leader, or military action against him, tends to strengthen rather than weaken his hold on power.
- Dictator portrays himself as David standing up to the American Goliath.
- Diverts internal dissent by (accurately) blaming many of economic problems on U.S. sanctions, & portraying dissidents as U.S. puppets.
- Regimes most demonized:
Qaddafi, Castro, Saddam, Kim, Iranian *ayatollahs*
- Regimes in power the longest:
Qaddafi, Castro, Saddam, Kim, Iranian *ayatollahs*



7. “We don’t commit atrocities”

- One of the most dangerous ideas of the 20th century :
“people like us” could not commit atrocities against civilians.
- Believed by British & French, Germans & Japanese,
Israelis & Arabs, Russians & Americans
- Every country, every ethnicity, every religion,
contains the capability for extreme violence
- All groups have a faction that is intolerant of
other groups, and actively seeks to exclude
or even kill them (encouraged by war fever)
- The intolerant faction only succeeds in its
goals if the rest of the group acquiesces
or remains silent.

