

It is nowhere written that the American empire goes on forever.



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# WHY WE FIGHT

A FILM BY EUGENE JARECKI

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS PRESENTS A CHARLOTTE STREET FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH BBC STORYVILLE / ARTE / CBC

A FILM BY EUGENE JARECKI "WHY WE FIGHT" EDITED BY NANCY KENNEDY MUSIC BY ROBERT MILLER

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1. Before Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt was accused of having maneuvered Americans into a war they were reluctant to enter. Today, critics accuse the U.S. of having sought war with Iraq prior to September 11. Since World War II is widely seen as a “good war” and Iraq thus far is seen as a “bad war,” consider the following questions: Is it ever okay for a president to mislead the country into war? What if he or she knows something the American public does not know about the necessity of going to war? Should this information be shared with the public or are there times when this is not necessary?
2. What is multilateralism? How did the formation of both the United Nations and NATO reflect America’s commitment to multilateralism after World War II? What are the pros and cons of multilateralism? Do you think it is an effective way for countries to work with other states?
3. In his legendary farewell speech, Eisenhower warns that the U.S. must ‘guard against the military industrial complex’. What did he mean by this?
4. Eisenhower, who was a five-star general before becoming president, said “God help this country when someone sits at this desk who doesn’t know as much about the military as I do.” Do you think it is important for the President of the United States to have military experience before taking office? What are the pros and cons of this?
5. Consider the future effects of America’s current activities in Iraq and Afghanistan. Where do you think this might lead in the future, from both a Canadian and global perspective?
6. In what part of the world do you think future engagements may occur? Why?
7. What does Pax Americana mean and what is its relevance within the context of international relations theory?
8. Should the US engage in “nation-building”? Can it reject this role and still be an effective world power?
9. Bush Administration lawyer John Yoo said, “We are used to a peacetime system in which Congress enacts the laws, the President enforces them, and the courts interpret them. In wartime, the gravity shifts to the executive branch (President and his/her cabinet).” Do you agree with this statement?