

**Title: Why the United States can be optimistic about the Middle East**  
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**A. Argument E = Explicit or I = Implicit or E/I = Partially expressed or partially implied**

**a) Claim:**

- E** Obama's optimistic approach to foreign policy is warranted.  
Reader should support the Iran Nuclear deal. (Makes an implied argument because polls show the deal is not popular with the public.)
- I**

**b) Reasons:**

- 1 In fact, **Obama is not naive**, but disposition does matter.  
**Obama is an optimist** — about the world, the United States' place in it and **even the threats it faces in the Middle East**.
- 1 And **history** suggests that it's the **optimists** who **have tended to be right**.  
It (**Iran**) is a middling regional power with some **limited ambitions and capacity**. . . . Being forced to **fight on two fronts** to preserve your security is **not a sign of strength**.
- 5
- 7 It (**US**) **will handle the threat** from a second-tier power such as Iran.
- 7 It (**US**) will **outlast radical Islam**, an ideology that has no answers for the modern age.

**c) Evidence: t = text, f = facts, d = details, q = quotations, i = interviews, s = statistics.**

- q1 "A very, very naive man who does not know how the world works," said Rick Perry of President Obama.
- q1 "Dangerously naive," noted Lindsey Graham.  
Last year, John McCain declared that the world is "in greater turmoil than at any time in my lifetime" (which includes the rise of fascism, Nazism, World War II and the Soviet nuclear threat).
- q2 In an essay in 1989, Harvard scholar Samuel Huntington noted that the United States was experiencing its fifth wave of that kind of pessimism since the 1950s.  
First, he explained, Sputnik shocked the United States, and by the early 1960s, the country was convinced that the Soviet Union was on a path to overtake it economically, technologically and militarily.
- t3 In the late 1960s and early 1970s, as Vietnam sapped the nation's confidence, the Nixon administration urged Americans to get used to a multipolar world with a diminished place for Washington.
- f3
- f3 When the oil shocks of the 1970s hit, people saw the Middle East's petro states as the world's new power brokers. By end of the 1970s, with the Soviet Union modernizing its nuclear arsenal and on the march — from Afghanistan to Central America — scores of commentators prophesied that Moscow was winning the Cold War. And when Huntington wrote his essay, conventional wisdom was that an invincible Japan would soon become the world's No. 1 economic power.
- f3
- f4 Of course, not one of these fears proved to be valid.

The missile gap with the Soviet Union was nonexistent, the oil-rich states proved dysfunctional, the Soviet Union's interventions in Afghanistan marked the beginning of the end for that superpower, and Japan's much-vaunted economic model collapsed just as we were panicking about it.

In his speech at American University this week, President Obama tried to place Iran in context. . . As he pointed out, its Gulf foes outspend it militarily by eight to one. The United States outspends it by 40 to one. Tehran is desperately trying to prop up Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria. This is an expensive strategy . . . . .

Assad's group, the Alawites, represents less than 15 percent of the country.

Iran is also fielding forces in Iraq to fight the Islamic State, which is above all an anti-Shiite

In the 1950s, it (US) helped depose democratic leaders in the Third World, fearful that they would become socialists.

Later, it (US) intervened in Vietnam.

It (US) supported the apartheid regime in South Africa.

It (US) invaded Iraq.

The United States has outlasted monarchy, fascism, revolution and communism.

## B. Writer

- a) Lens/Angle:** **E** Historical, futuristic  
Pessimistic foreign policy (more likely to use militarism), optimistic foreign policy (less likely to use militarism)
- b) Perspectives:** **E** and more likely to rely on diplomacy)

## C. Audience, Context, Situation:

- I** Citizens engaged in the debate over the Iran Nuclear deal. Congress will soon vote on whether to reject this multi-national agreement. Fared is an outspoken supporter of the deal.

## D. Mode:

- a) Narration:** **E** Series of historical waves cited through work of Samuel Huntington.
- b) Persuasion:** **I** Optimism is justified and the Iran Nuclear deal should be supported.
- c) Exposition:** **E/I** Reasons not to be pessimistic about foreign policy and diplomacy should be given a chance to work.
- d) Blended** Yes.

## E. Purpose:

- a) Process:** None.
- b) Comparison/Contrast:** **E** Show optimistic foreign policy is more warranted by contrasting it with pessimistic foreign policy.
- c) Definition:** **E** Obama is not naïve, but rather is an optimist.
- d) Causation:** **E** Pessimism is a reaction to difficult times, but is not accurate in predicting future events.
- e) Blended:** Yes

## F. Unity:

- a) Tone (Non-fiction):** 7 Optimistic foreign policy is supported in long run. "It is not as satisfying as the imagined thrill of military victory, but it has been a much surer path to stability and success."
- b) Theme (Fiction):** Not applicable.

## G. Logic

- a) **Deductive:** None.  
Pattern exists of pessimistic views of foreign policy not proving to be warranted in the long run. Leads to conclusion that optimistic view should be embraced. ". . . And history suggests that it's the optimists who have tended to be right." . . . "The United States has outlasted monarchy, fascism, revolution and communism. It will handle the threat from a second-tier power such as Iran."
- b) **Inductive:** E

## H. Appeals:

- a) **Logos (Logic):** No true deductive appeals.  
Think of the mistakes the United States has made when it has acted out of fear, convinced that its enemies were 10 feet tall and about to triumph.
- b) **Pathos (Emotion):** 6  
Appeals to values that are likely shared by the audience. "On the other hand, when we have kept threats in perspective and understood that time was on our side, we have patiently organized our allies, negotiated agreements with our adversaries, built our internal strength and, in the end, prevailed. It is not as satisfying as the imagined thrill of military victory, but it has been a much surer path to stability and success."
- c) **Ethos (Duty):** 7
- d) **Blended:** Yes.

## I. Arrangement of Ideas:

- a) **Chronological:** Pessimistic historical waves reported in chronological order. Pattern established to show pessimism was unwarranted and predict an optimistic future in foreign policy.
- b) **Importance:** No
- c) **Spatial:** No

## J. Thesis:

- a) **Topic:** Influence view (optimistic vs. pessimistic) on foreign policy  
The United States has **outlasted** monarchy, fascism, revolution and communism. It will handle the threat from a second-tier power such as Iran. It **will outlast** radical Islam, an ideology that has no answers for the modern age.
- b) **Verb:**
- c) **Universal Idea:** 6 Think of the mistakes the United States has made when it has acted out of fear . . .
- d) **Reasons:** **SEE REASONS LISTED EARLIER.**
- e) **Subordinator or qualifier:**

## K. Counterarguments: R = refutation, C = concession, L = rebuttal

- R1 Many critics of the nuclear deal with Iran believe that the problem lies in the disposition of the president. "A very, very naive man who does not know how the world works," said Rick Perry of President Obama.  
Today we are awash in pessimism, with people who see the world as a dark and dangerous place, where
- R2 threats are growing and enemies are gaining strength.  
There was a kernel of truth in each of them — an event or trend that deserved to be countered or responded to. But the dark view almost always led to a vast overestimation of our adversaries' power and strategic
- L4 capabilities.

## L. Introduction:

- a) Hook/Engagement:** 1 Many critics of the nuclear deal with Iran believe that the problem lies in the disposition of the president. "A very, very naive man who does not know how the world works," said Rick Perry of President Obama.
- b) Contextualization:** 1 "Dangerously naive," noted Lindsey Graham.

## M. Conclusion:

- a) Synthesis Answers ??:** 7 The United States has outlasted monarchy, fascism, revolution and communism. It will handle the threat from a second-tier power such as Iran. It will outlast radical Islam, an ideology that has no answers for the modern age.
- b) Final Message:** 7 To recognize this is not naivete but confidence, a confidence in the United States that is confirmed by history.

## N. Citations:

- I** Not cited as academic literature. Relies heavily on common knowledge of reader.
- E** Last year, John McCain declared . . .
- E** In an essay in 1989, Harvard scholar Samuel Huntington noted . . .
- E** In his speech at American University this week, President Obama . . .