

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

Win Without War's Debrief this week will focus on Donald Trump's upcoming State of the Union address

### TOPLINE TAKEAWAY

- *The state of our national security is uncertain and chaotic.*

### TRUMP IS ENDANGERING U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

We should know by now that Trump's SOTU speech will be full of bluster and lies, and nowhere will that be more evident than on national security. We can assume that Trump will claim he's been "the best" at protecting us, but here's the reality:

#### 1. Trump is **determined** to kill the IRAN nuclear deal and **create conflict** with Tehran.

- Killing the deal will eliminate restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and open up pathways for Iran to build a bomb.
- The Iran deal doesn't need to be fixed. It is working and Iran is [complying](#). The International Atomic Energy Agency and our own intelligence agencies say so.
- [Killing the deal](#) will put the U.S. back on a path to war with Iran.

#### 2. Trump is dragging the United States into a war with NORTH KOREA.

- Because of his threatening [tweets](#) and reckless rhetoric, the current crisis with North Korea is largely one of [Trump's own making](#).
- Experts called Trump's plan for a "[limited strike](#)" on North Korea "[insane](#)," and said it would likely lead to full scale war [that could turn nuclear](#).
- War with North Korea -- in Defense Secretary James Mattis's words -- would be "[catastrophic](#)."

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- North Korea [could cause](#) tens of thousands of casualties in South Korea using conventional weapons during the first hours of an armed conflict.
- The Pentagon [concluded](#) recently that in the event of a conflict, North Korea would likely use chemical and biological weapons.
- The Joint Chiefs of Staff stated in an August 2017 [letter](#) that a military option would require “a ground invasion,” which could result in the death of thousands or even millions in the first few days of fighting.
- Recent diplomatic efforts between North and South Korea have shown promise:
  - Both sides will march together during the Winter Olympic opening ceremonies.
  - Both sides agreed to further talks.
- Diplomacy is the only way to rein in and end North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.
- [Polls show](#) Americans overwhelmingly support diplomacy over military action with North Korea.

### 3. THE PENTAGON doesn’t need any more money.

- The Pentagon’s budget is at historic highs; DOD has been an unprecedented spending spree since 2001.
  - Barack Obama spent more at the Pentagon during his two terms than George W. Bush did, and no one felt that George W. Bush spent too little.
  - Pentagon spending is already at historically high levels: Today, the U.S. spends [\\$100 billion more](#) than it spent on average during the Cold War.
  - Take it from Gen. David Petraeus who [said](#): “there is no crisis in military readiness.”
- The Pentagon budget is already bloated with wasteful spending. For example:
  - A [recently exposed](#) internal DOD study found “\$125 billion in administrative waste in its business operations.”

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- The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is estimated [\\$160 billion over-budget](#) and years behind schedule.
- The Pentagon cannot even undergo a full financial audit which means we don't fully understand where the Pentagon spends its money. Increasing the budget would mean throwing good money after bad.
- The State Department and USAID play pivotal roles in U.S. national security yet Trump is slashing their budgets by more than 30 percent.
  - A [letter](#) from 121 retired generals and admirals said Trump's military spending spree at the expense of U.S. diplomacy undermines national security.
  - Trump's own Defense Secretary, James Mattis, [has said](#) that not fully funding State and USAID makes conflict more likely. In 2013, Mattis testified to Congress: "If you cut the State Department's budget, then you need to buy me more bullets."
  - Funding to increase stability and engagement overseas costs just one percent of the overall money spent by Congress each year; at the same time, it provides for global stability, opens new markets, and prevents the need for the United States to be the world's police force.
- Federal spending on education, health care, and clean energy [creates more jobs](#) than Pentagon spending does.
  - The primary beneficiaries of more Pentagon spending are [defense industry executives](#).
  - By contrast, a 2011 University of Massachusetts report finds, "investments in the green economy, health care and education will produce between about 50 to 140 percent more jobs than if the same amount of money were spent by the Pentagon."
- The U.S. spends more on its military than anyone else in the world.
  - The U.S. already [spends more](#) on the military than the next 7 countries combined, many of which are our allies.

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- The U.S. spends [one-third](#) of all global military expenditures, our allies spend another one-third combined.
- The U.S. spends [three times more](#) than China, and ten times more than Russia.

## 4. Trump is abandoning America's commitments to combat CLIMATE CHANGE.

- Without U.S. participation in the Paris Climate Accord, rising atmospheric temperatures, already causing extreme weather and natural disasters worldwide, will more quickly reach the point of no return.
- Climate changes is already [fueling wars](#) and [terrorist recruitment](#), and causing [refugee crises](#) and [mass migration](#).
- By withdrawing from Paris, Trump [abdicated U.S. leadership](#) on climate change and damaged American credibility on the international stage.
- Climate change is a global problem that requires global cooperative solutions. Trump's "America First" mantra reverses decades of progress.

## 5. Trump is waging UNAUTHORIZED WARS IN SYRIA AND YEMEN.

- Without Congressional authorization, the Trump administration is continuing to fuel the Saudi-led coalition's war in [Yemen](#), which [has](#) killed thousands and caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis.
- Trump wants U.S. troops to be in Syria "indefinitely." His administration says they would be there for two missions, neither of which have Congressional authorization and both of which [are illegal](#): regime change in Syria and confronting Iran.

## TRUMP IS ABANDONING OUR CORE AMERICAN VALUES

### 1. Trump's MUSLIM AND REFUGEE BANS are un-American.

- Refugees and immigrants [help create](#) the backbone of America's economic and cultural engine. Therefore...
- ... we should be welcoming refugees and immigrants of all races, religions and nationalities are fleeing war, persecution, or economic insecurity.

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## 2. Trump's **BAN ON TRANSGENDER TROOPS** in the military disrespects our servicemembers and harms national security.

- Thousands of transgender troops are serving willingly, honorably, and ably in the U.S. military.
- Equality is a [force-multiplier](#).

## 3. Under Trump, the State Department is **ABANDONING HUMAN RIGHTS** promotion as a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

- The United States is at its best when it puts American values and human rights at the forefront of its foreign and national security policy.
- Downgrading human rights promotion [allows abusers](#) around the world to continue jailing, torturing, displacing, and murdering without consequence -- making the United States and the world less safe.
- This year, we [spent](#) \$650 billion on the Pentagon and border security, dwarfing the \$58 billion spent on global aid and diplomacy. Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, even [bragged](#) about reducing American funding to the UN.

## **PROGRESSIVES HAVE BETTER SOLUTIONS TO SOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY PROBLEMS**

- The Iran deal is [keeping us safe](#), [blocking all paths](#) to an Iranian nuclear weapon, and preventing war. We must uphold the Iran nuclear deal and push back against any efforts that will kill it.
- The [only way](#) to rein in North Korea's nuclear program is [through negotiation](#). In the words of Secretary of Defense James Mattis, war would be [catastrophic](#).
- The Pentagon's budget is already bloated and mismanaged; we don't need to continue throwing more money into its coffers.
- Climate change [is a national security threat](#). We must remain in the Paris Accord and continue to lead on solutions.

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- We need to push Congress to debate and vote on unauthorized U.S. military action in the Middle East and beyond.
- Banning anyone from the United States who is seeking refugee or a better life for themselves and their families is simply un-American.
- We must live our values while promoting them. Putting human rights on the back-burner of our foreign policy harms our security.

## **BURIED LEDES**

Oxfam: “The richest 1 percent [bagged 82 percent of wealth](#) created last year -- **poorest half of humanity got nothing.**”

How [Islamophobia is fueling opposition to the Iran nuclear agreement](#).

Europe needs to [step up](#) and **protect the Iran deal with diplomatic and legal threats.**

Sen. Tom Cotton, who’s rumored to be Trump’s next CIA director, has an “[unflinching willingness](#), in pursuit of an agenda, **to say things that aren’t true.**”

**Only 33 percent of Americans support military action [to stop](#) North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. ...**

... And for [good reason](#). A “limited strike” on North Korea “**is like punching a man holding a grenade.**”

Meanwhile, dozens of House [members](#) **have a pretty good plan to rein in North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.**

And finally, Sen. Tammy Duckworth has a [message](#) for “Cadet Bone Spurs”: “If you cared about our military, **you’d stop baiting Kim Jong Un into a war** that could put 85,000 American troops, and millions of innocent civilians, in danger.”