Three Paragraphs on a Theme: "If We Could Increase Foreign Aid for Vaccines, Should We?"

#1

Foreign aid isn't just good for the people who receive it—it's good for the U.S. as well. Imagine if you had a country where there was the possibility of extremism growing and causing problems in the region or in the rest of the world. Providing aid to the country in order to support groups that are committed to fighting that extremism wouldn't just benefit the country that receives it, but would help the U.S. as well, since we would avoid things like the possibility of attacks in our own country or having to become engaged in (yet another) costly war. That's why it's actually a good thing to provide foreign aid, and why we should consider doing so when it comes to vaccines: In the end, it benefits not just the recipient, but the U.S. as well.

#2

Many U.S. taxpayers, concerned about things like crumbling bridges, rising prescription costs, and underfunded schools, may balk at the idea of sending U.S. dollars overseas to fight problems—such as insufficient access to vaccines—in other countries. One thing we have to consider, however, is that helping other countries can help us here in the U.S. as well. In an article published in the Washington Post, Charles Krauthammer (2013) explains that the aid we were, at the time, providing to the government of Egypt allowed the U.S. to have a legitimate voice regarding extremism in that country. Such extremism, while not immediately impacting the U.S., could eventually have led to a further destabilization of the region, support for extremist groups, and, quite possibly, the need for the U.S. to become involved in (yet another) costly and deadly war. While foreign aid may directly benefit the countries that receive it, it also allows the U.S. to "remain engaged" (Krauthammer, 2013) in situations like these, which effect the U.S. in less direct ways. In the end, then, providing such aid benefits not just the aid recipient, but the U.S. as well.

#3

In his Washington Post article "Why We Give Foreign Aid," Charles Krauthammer (2013) describes why we spend money on foreign aid for countries when we could be spending that money in the U.S. Krauthammer gives the example of Egypt, whose government received significant foreign aid from the U.S., despite the fact that the country's government was not perfect. Krauthammer argues that giving such aid allowed the U.S. to "remain engaged" in the country, which meant it could legitimately comment on that country's politics and specifically support political parties that it believed were committed to curbing extremism. Krauthammer argues this is a benefit not just for countries like Egypt, but for the U.S. as well, since the growth of violent extremist groups in other countries may lead to violence elsewhere, including in the United States.

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