

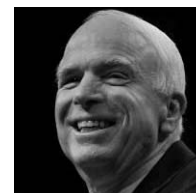


take action!

WAND2008

Candidates on Foreign Policy

Barack Obama



John McCain

Iraq war

The Iraq war has lasted more than five years (longer than WWII); has caused the deaths of over 4,000 American military personnel and over 80,000 Iraqi civilians; and costs U.S. taxpayers at least \$330 million each day.¹

“When I am Commander-in-Chief, I will set a new goal on day one: I will end this war... It is the right thing to do for our national security, and it will ultimately make us safer.”²

Obama opposed invasion from the beginning; opposed troop increase; would withdraw one or two brigades a month to finish within 16 months.³

“Make it a hundred” years in Iraq, McCain said at a Town Hall meeting in NH. “We’ve been in Japan for 60 years. We’ve been in South Korea for 50 years or so. That would be fine with me.”⁴

McCain voted in 2002 to authorize invasion, and is still supportive; voted in favor of troop increase; against a timetable for troop withdrawal, but projected he would have most U.S. forces home by 2013.⁵

Iran

Iran is in the process of building nuclear power plants, which raises concerns about their capabilities to develop nuclear weapons.

“Our willingness to pursue diplomacy will make it easier to mobilize others to join our cause.”

“If Iran fails to change course when presented with this choice by the United States, it will be clear - to the people of Iran, and to the world - that the Iranian regime is the author of its own isolation.”

“I don’t think any of us can be satisfied that America’s recent foreign policy has made Israel more secure.”⁶

“Rather than sitting down unconditionally with the Iranian president or supreme leader in the hope that we can talk sense into them, **we must create the real-world pressures that will peacefully but decisively change the path they are on.**

“Essential to this strategy is the UN Security Council, which should impose progressively tougher political and economic sanctions. Should the Security Council continue to delay in this responsibility, the U.S. must lead like-minded countries in imposing multilateral sanctions outside the UN framework.”⁷

Nuclear weapons

Calls from mainstream policy experts have sparked new momentum for efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons. One concrete step would be to ratify the treaty banning tests of nuclear weapons tests - the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**.⁸ If the U.S. were to try to alter the treaty, it would undermine the treaty and hinder international efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

“As President, I will take the lead to work for a world in which the roles and risks of nuclear weapons can be reduced and ultimately eliminated.”⁹

“We should take advantage of recent technological advances to build bipartisan consensus behind ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.”¹⁰

Obama has pledged to stop the development of new nuclear weapons; work with Russia to take U.S. and Russian ballistic missiles off hair trigger alert; seek reductions in U.S. and Russian stockpiles of nuclear weapons and material; and set a goal to expand the U.S.-Russian ban on intermediate-range missiles.

“A quarter of a century ago, President Reagan declared, ‘our dream is to see the day when nuclear weapons will be banished from the face of the Earth.’ That is my dream, too. It is a distant and difficult goal.”

“As President I will pledge to continue America’s current moratorium on testing, but also begin a dialogue with our allies to identify ways we can move forward to limit testing in a verifiable manner that does not undermine the security or viability of our nuclear deterrent. This would include taking another look at the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty... I opposed that treaty in 1999, but said I would keep an open mind about future developments.”¹¹

1 The figure of \$330 million per day is the amount that Congress has appropriated so far for the war (totaling nearly a trillion dollars). According to projections from some economists the overall final cost of the Iraq war could be as high as \$3 trillion.

2 Obama’s official campaign web site

3 *The New York Times* | 4 CBS News | 5 *The New York Times*

6 Obama speech June 4, 2008 at AIPAC foreign policy forum

7 McCain speech June 2, 2008 AIPAC foreign policy forum

8 The U.S. led efforts to negotiate the treaty and was the initial signer of the completed treaty in 1996; all major US allies and Russia have ratified the treaty. Unfortunately after a hasty debate in 1999, the Senate defeated ratification of the treaty. Ratification requires 67 votes in the Senate.

9 Council for a Livable World questionnaire 2008

10 Renewing American Leadership, Foreign Affairs, 2007

11 McCain Remarks on Nuclear Security May 27, 2008

Please contact Kathy Robinson, WAND public policy field director
202-544-5055 | krobinson@wand.org

WAND’s mission is to empower women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs. **www.wand.org**