

Restore America's Moral Leadership

Century International's *Blueprint for a Progressive U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East*

What's at stake:

The United States wants to advance peace and security in the Middle East, for the good of the region, American interests, and shared values. Ending the forever wars and runaway militarism is only the first step. America must recommit to its core values and embrace moral leadership adapted to the realities of the twenty-first century.

The opportunity:

America maximizes its influence in the world when governments and people choose to emulate America's approach—not when they're coerced. America can continue to build lasting power and influence in our increasingly interconnected world as an honest and cooperative champion of rights, rules, and global progress.

Executive actions:

- Dismantle the machinery of the forever war.
- No more detainees in permanent limbo.
- Review and reform sanctions policies to make them more narrow and effective.
- Promote MENA dialogue with other international powers: China, Russia, the EU.
- Support universal jurisdiction trials for war crimes and torture in the Middle East.
- Join the ICC and support its indictments.
- Use the UN Security Council veto sparingly—and in support of human rights.

Congressional actions:

- Review and reform sanction policies to make them more narrow and effective.
- Fix the confirmation process: no more long vacancies in key foreign policy jobs.
- Join the ICC.
- Recommit to opposing torture.
- Fund diplomacy.
- Budget for reconstruction and civilian harm in wars.
- Fund soft-power cultural exchanges.

Read the full recommendations in Century International's ["A Blueprint for a Progressive U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East."](#)