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## Editorial Board

**Brittni Young** is a senior at Texas State University majoring in International Studies with a focus in Asia. Upon graduating Brittni will seek to further her studies of International Relations in the Asian-Pacific Region. She would like to one-day work with the U.S. government in creating better practices and policies between the U.S. and the Asian hemisphere. In her free time she spends her time listening to an obsessive amount of Korean Pop, cooking vegetarian cuisines with international inspiration, and hiking with her sweet dog.

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**Sara Pavey** is a junior at Texas State who is studying International Relations. She hopes one day to attend graduate school and earn the title of Dr. In her spare time, she can be found frequenting local coffee shops with a book, struggling with learning Arabic, or anywhere outdoors with her friends.

**Simon Vazquez**

**Advisor: John Hood, Honors College**
Honoring Dr. Don Olson’s Achievement of the 2014 Klopsteg Memorial Lecture Award

The editorial board of the Texas State Undergraduate Research Journal is excited to announce the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) awarded the 2014 Klopsteg Memorial Lecture Award to Texas State University’s very own physics professor Dr. Donald W. Olson. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding communication of contemporary physics to the general public, as well as, creative contributions to physics education.

Dr. Olson is nationally renowned, not only for his ability to apply physics to solve mysteries in art, history, and literature, but also for his ability to communicate his results to the public in an exciting, and comprehensible way. His work is frequently published in Sky & Telescope magazine and has been previously featured in various renowned newspapers, as well as the Smithsonian Magazine and Scientific American.

Dr. Olson’s most recent publication, Celestial Sleuth, features a collection of his research on the astronomy of night sky paintings, events from military history, and celestial references in literature. Upon publication last year, his work was showcased in the Alkek Library as a “trophy” portion of Margaret Vaverek’s article, “The Thrill of the Hunt,” featured in Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Texas State Undergraduate Research Journal.

Receiving this award recognizes Dr. Olson’s esteemed standing in the national scientific community; winners of the award in recent years include well-known figures such as Neil de Grasse Tyson, Michio Kaku, and James Hansen. The recipient of the award gives the Klopsteg Lecture at the AAPT Summer Meeting on a topic of current significance and receives a monetary award.

We are happy to have you as a part of the Rising Star of Texas State University, Dr. Olson. Congratulations on your amazing achievements and many more to come.
Abstract

Does American involvement in foreign affairs result in a sustained benefit or detriment to the involved parties? In a situation like the current situation in place today, with ISIS extremists violently attempting to spread their view of how a government should function we should base such questions on prior experience. Going back fifty years, to the late 1940s and 1950s the United States provided technical assistance to countries in the Middle East, as set out in the provisions of the Baghdad Pact of 1955, in attempt to prevent the spread of communism in Europe and the Middle East. After evaluating the events in history leading up to the Iraqi Revolution of 1958, and its domino affect on other countries in the Pact caused them all to fall victim to military uprisings. I have come to the conclusion, American influence in foreign affairs ends badly for other countries and leaves the United States with nothing gained.

Keywords: Baghdad Pact, Middle East, International Assistance
Introduction

Individuals can argue the United States considers itself something of a “world police” so to speak, injecting itself into the affairs of foreign countries. Whether it is from a feeling of obligation to those countries less fortunate or any other noble reason, the question is, does American involvement in foreign affairs result in a sustained benefit or detriment to the involved parties? Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to review the historical data surrounding a specific event where the United States intervened in the affairs of another country, such as the promotion of the creation of the Baghdad Pact of 1955.

Events leading to the creation of the Baghdad Pact

World War I ended with the Ottoman Empire in ruins. The League of Nations split its land between Britain and France; the provinces divided and allocated were Britain included Basra, Mosul, and Baghdad (Kaymaz 2014). Before the League of Nations was able to set the mandate into effect, the three provinces broke out in a revolt, which was later known as the Iraqi Revolt of 1920. The members of the revolt consisted of nationalists who were once a part of the former Ottoman military and extremely anti-British. They were upset at their loss of privilege enjoyed under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. These nationalists sought full independence for Iraq.

On August 23, 1921, Iraq was granted semi-independence, reserving for Britain a dominant role in military, political, and economic decisions. The British chose Faisal to be monarch of the Kingdom of Iraq. The powers shared between the Kingdom of Iraq and Great Britain were laid out in the articles of an Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of 1922 (The National Archives, UK 2006). Articles 1, 7, and 8 were significant to the causes leading up to the Iraqi revolution of 1958. Through article 1 Great Britain and Iraq agreed, “His Britannic Majesty will provide the State of Irak [sic] with such advice and assistance as may be required.” In article 7 it was agreed, “His Britannic Majesty will provide such support and assistance to the armed forces of His Majesty the King of Irak [sic].” Finally in article 8 the states agreed, “no territory in Irak [sic] shall be in any way placed under the control of any foreign powers” (The National Archives, UK 2006).

By the end of World War II, much of Europe was suffering from widespread destruction. Even Great Britain was struggling to meet its financial agreements to provide assistance to various Middle Eastern countries. British foreign secretary, Anthony Eden, in a memorandum to the cabinet titled, British Overseas Obligations, summed up the situation by stating it was, “clear that rigorous maintenance of the presently accepted policies of Her Majesty’s Government at home and abroad is placing a burden on the country’s economy which is beyond the resources of the country to meet” (Ruane 2005). Contrasting with the devastation suffered by many Western European countries, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and the United States emerged from the war as superpowers. Countries in Eastern Europe adopted communist governments allying with the USSR.

As a consequence, the United States expressed an interest in facilitating the protection of European and Middle Eastern countries from the spread of communism. In his 1949 Inaugural Address, President Truman committed to provide assistance to foreign states threatened by external aggression provided they sought American support. According to Truman, the United States would ensure foreign states, which are free from communism would remain able to maintain their freedom. The United States would share its scientific and technological knowledge with these foreign states in order to provide for growth and development.

In 1949, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and the United States along with numerous other countries formed a military alliance. The alliance sought to prevent the spread of communism into central and Eastern Europe after World War II calling itself the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO. The agreement stated if one country is attacked it is considered an attack on them all, in which armed forces from all countries will take defensive action (Haglund 2014).

Then in the 1950’s the United States led the formation of several additional alliances, designed to resist the spread of communism between various countries. One such alliance, known as the
“Baghdad Pact”, commenced in 1955. In a letter from the Foreign Office of Iraq to the British Embassy, the topic of the formation of a pact between Iraq and other Arab countries was discussed. In the letter King Faisal announces the goals of the pact is to achieve, “peace, security, stability, and justice” for Iraq and any other regional country wishing to join (Rush 2001). After this announcement enacting a security pact with other Arab countries, Egypt became hostile towards Iraq claiming the proposed pact intended to break up the Arab League (Rush 2001). Syria on the other hand, communicated with the United States Minister, and expressed the security pact could threaten the freedom of Syria and Lebanon, and instead proposed Iraq and the United States should join forces within the Arab League’s guarantees for individual states sovereignty (Rush 2001).

Turkey, on the other hand, as a non-Arab League member planned a meeting with the King and the Prime Minister of Iraq to further the formation of a pact under the United Nations. After multiple meetings with Iraq, Turkey planned on signing the agreement in Ankara on February 24, 1955. At the ceremony Prime Minister Nuri al Said expressed his regret that Iraq was still bound to the terms of the 1930 Anglo – Iraqi Treaty (Rush 2001). Since the time, the agreements known as the Turco-Iraqi Pact stated, only the two signatory countries should co-operate for security and defense measures, pledging not to interfere with the other member's internal governmental affairs, nor should it interfere with any other preexisting pacts or agreements (Rush 2001). Once the pact was signed, other countries joined. In September 1955 Pakistan joined, Iran joined in October 1955, and later talks followed regarding the possibility of the United States joining as well (Rush 2001).

Security and Defense Assistance
The United States and Great Britain provided military and financial assistance to the “Baghdad Pact” members, thus aligning itself against the spread of communism. Iraq was the first to request assistance. As previously stated, the Anglo-Iraqi treaties of 1922 and 1930 committed Great Britain to supply Iraq with military equipment and training under the provision the Iraqi government would reimburse Great Britain. In December 1955 Great Britain agreed to give Iraq land around Basra containing military buildings and camps worth 2,755,000 pounds, in exchange for Iraq’s agreement to purchase 2,000,000 pounds worth of equipment and weapons from Great Britain, and military training (Rush 2001).

After long consideration, the United States decided to grant military assistance to Iraq outlining the stipulations associated with American assistance. The United States stated any assistance given to Iraq by the United States is for internal security, and not for the purpose of war. As well as if Iraq experienced a surplus of equipment the extra equipment must be returned to the United States. Iraq was responsible for paying customs duties and taxes on all equipment obtained (Military Assistance n.d.). Once the agreement went into force, the first shipment received would consist of equipment to maintain internal security. This equipment consisted of anti-riot gear valued at $152,000.00, small arms valued at $100,350.00, and motor vehicles equivalent to $547,000.00 (Hall 1992).

Middle Eastern developments that weakened the Pact
July 26, 1956, Egypt’s President Nasser, nationalized the Suez Canal (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.), when Britain and the United States withdrew their loans to assist to finance a dam on the Nile River (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). When the United States decided to pull the funds, (Hammond n.d.) Britain and France planned a strategy to regain control over the Suez Canal (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). Britain and France ignored President Eisenhower’s opposition to use of force, secretly planning to employ Israel as a ploy to reoccupy the
Suez Canal (Hammond n.d.). Their plan was for Israel to invade Egypt in order to enact part of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty which, “allowed Great Britain to impose martial law in Egypt in the event of international emergency, and provided for the stationing of up to 10,000 British troops and 400 Royal Air Force pilots in the Suez Canal Zone until Egyptians should be capable of protecting the area” (Encyclopedia Bittanica n.d.).

On October 29, 1956, Israeli military personnel infiltrated the Sinai Peninsula causing Britain and France to intervene, which led to an Anglo-French occupation of the Suez Canal in November. The United States and the Soviet Union called for peace through the United Nations (The Suez Crisis. An Affair to Remember 2006). Once President Eisenhower learned of the alliance of Israel, Britain and France, tensions rose (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.).

In Iraq’s military, Colonel Abd –ul- Karim Qasim structured a group with Egypt’s free officers. Qasim’s goal was a military uprising, partnered with a civilian group, the Iraqi Communist Party with similar views, and with their support, Qasim set the plan into motion. Due to Qasim’s fear the United States, Great Britain, and Turkey would assist the Iraqi government in the event of an uprising he unsuccessfully attempted to secure support of the USSR. After Egypt and Syria formed the United Arab Republic, Jordan and Iraq formed the Hashemite Arab Union and sent troops to the broader between Lebanon and Jordan to prevent the nationalist in Lebanon from joining the UAR. Lebanon was threatened by civil war between the Muslims wanting to join the UAR and Christians supporting an alliance with Western powers. The Lebanese Prime Minister supported Nasser.

This military movement gave Qasim the perfect opportunity to incite a revolution. On the 12th of July 1958, two military attachments sent to Jordan, instead, set off to Baghdad. Once in Baghdad they were ordered to take over all government buildings, and radio and television stations where they announced a revolution was in full swing. Henceafter, detachments were sent to find the President, Crown Prince, and Prime Minister, all of which were found and eventually killed. After overthrowing the government, Qasim took place as the new President of the Iraqi Republic and began to cut ties with Western powers and engage in pro-communist ways (Rush 2001).

In July 1958, one day after the revolution of 1958 took place in Iraq, the pro-Nasser population of Lebanon took to the streets of Beirut to revolt. According to the United States the infiltration of Lebanon is one of the primary steps in Nasser’s plan to make it to the top of the Arab empire therefore military intervention from the United States is key to put a stop to his plan (McAlexander 2011). Through a telegram from the Embassy in Lebanon to the Department of State, Robert Murphy discusses the President of Lebanon Camille Chamoun is requesting military aid from the United States to help curb the revolt in Beirut (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). With the former use of public opinion and its success, President Eisenhower implemented a plan to deliver a public relations campaign to explain intervention tactics in Lebanon which is also successful, providing a 73% approval rate from the United States population (McAlexander 2011).

Although the Iraqi revolution took place in July of 1958, Iraq did not formally withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact until the following March in 1959 (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). One of the main reasons for their withdrawal from the pact was Iraq wanting to dissolve all relations with the West and improve relations with the Soviet Union (Goktepe 1999). Upon withdrawal, Secretary of State Dillon suggested the possibility of changing the name of the Pact (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). With Iraq gone from the Pact, Pakistan depending on SEATO for assistance, and Turkey on assistance from NATO, the only country left to assist through the Pact was Iran (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Policy Planning suggested America finally join as a member of the Pact in attempt to gain more members, and raise prestige (Foreign Relations of the United States n.d.). Since the Pact consisted of regional and non-regional members they wanted to avoid a name with geographical restrictions and therefore was named the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) (Goktepe 1999). After a few years the regional members of the Pact disagreed with some of the
action of the non-regional members, and therefore formed their own group, the Regional Co-operation for Development, which further weakened the Pact (Goktepe 1999).

There is a common belief on how the Iraq coup paved the way for other countries to participate, willingly or unwillingly in government uprisings. The other countries included Pakistan in 1958, Turkey in 1960, and Iran in 1979 (Goktepe 1999). President Iskander Mirza, who removed constitution of 1956 and declared martial law, led the Pakistani coup d'état occurring in 1958. The Pakistani Army’s commander in Chief, Ayub Khan over threw the President and made himself President and Prime Minister. This military uprising was supported by Western powers, namely the United States (Coups and Courts n.d.). On May 27, 1960, Colonel Alparsian Turkes initiated a plot to over throw the government of Turkey and replace it with a democratically elected government. Colonel Turkes claimed that President Bayar and Prime Minister Menderes were guilty of treason and destruction of the constitution of Turkey. Throughout the coup Colonel Turkes made it clear he fully supported the Western powers and organizations such as CENTO and NATO (Harris n.d.).

Finally, the Iranian Revolution of 1979 began in late 1977. Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi was favored supportively by the United States. During this time the U.S. was supplying them with state-of-the-art military equipment. The offset of the Iranian Revolution could have ended with several results from the decline of the economy, to the creation of a one party state on behalf of Pahlavi, to a religious incident, but ultimately it resulted to the weakened state of the military. Once the demonstrations started in 1978, the royal monarchy collapsed, and was replaced with a leftist anti Western republic. The new Prime Minister cut ties with the West including CENTO, and therefore ended the CENTO agreement (Hashim 2012).

Conclusion

Although the United States’ intention was to prevent the spread of communism and promote growth and redevelopment post-World War II Eastern Europe, its involvement was viewed as threatening by some countries and created a chain reaction of events. These chains events began with Egypt claiming the Baghdad Pact intended to disassemble the Arab League, and also Syria fearing the Baghdad Pact could threaten its freedom and the freedom of Lebanon. As a result, Egypt and Syria formed the UAR, and began receiving arms from the Soviet Union. The United States, in protest for Egypt’s association with the Soviet Union withheld promised financing of the construction of a dam on the Nile River. Egypt decided to nationalize the Suez Canal to raise money for the dam construction, which, in Great Britain’s opinion, violated the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty and incited the Suez Canal Crisis. In addition, many Middle Easterners felt Western influence was too dominating and they wanted change. This all resulted in revolutions in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, all of which previously joined the Baghdad Pact. ★
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