

Statement of Congressman Ron Paul

United States House of Representatives

What If?

February 12, 2009

What if we wake up one day and realize that the terrorist threat is a predictable consequence of our meddling in the Middle East?

What if propping up repressive regimes in the Middle East endangers both the United States and Israel?

What if occupying countries like Iraq and Afghanistan – and bombing Pakistan – is directly related to the terrorist threat?

What if someday it dawns on us that losing over 5,000 American military personnel in the Middle East is a predictable consequence of our meddling?

What if we finally decide that torture, even if called “enhanced interrogation techniques,” is self-destructive?

What if it is finally realized that war and military spending is always destructive to the economy?

What if all wartime spending is paid for through the deceitful and evil process of inflating and borrowing?

What if we finally see that wartime conditions always undermine personal liberty?

## What If?

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What if conservatives, who preach small government, wake up and realize that our interventionist foreign

What if conservatives understood once again that their only logical position is to reject military intervention

What if the American people woke up and understood that the official reasons for going to war are almost

What if we as a nation came to realize that the quest for empire eventually destroys all great nations?

What if Obama has no intention of leaving Iraq?

What if a military draft is being planned for the wars that will spread if our foreign policy is not changed?

What if the American people learn the truth: that our foreign policy has nothing to do with national security?

What if war and preparation for war is a racket serving the special interests?

What if President Obama is completely wrong about Afghanistan and it turns out worse than Iraq and Vietnam?

What if Christianity actually teaches peace and not preventive wars of aggression?

What if diplomacy is found to be superior to bombs and bribes in protecting America?

What happens if my concerns are completely unfounded – nothing!

What happens if my concerns are justified and ignored – nothing good!