

## Pete Buttigieg



***“War itself represents a kind of failure, and true success lies in preventing conflict.” — Mayor Peter Buttigieg***

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### **At a Glance**

Mayor of South Bend, Indiana since 2012, Pete Buttigieg spent his early career as a consultant in Washington D.C., briefly working with the Kerry and Obama campaigns. He enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 2009, and served [six months in Afghanistan](#) as an intelligence officer focused on blocking terrorist finance networks in 2014.

Though his political record does not provide concrete actions in relation to foreign policy, an early glimpse of Buttigieg’s vision is on display in his academic record: his [Harvard thesis](#) highlights the connection between religious texts and the notion of American exceptionalism to critique U.S. militarism in Vietnam and Iraq.

Since announcing his presidential run, Mayor Pete has [called for](#) the urgent “need to fundamentally rethink our foreign policy to help America lead and shape a better world for our future.” You can find his thoughts, comments, and plans on issues of war and peace below.

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### **Ending Endless Wars**

- Buttigieg has [consistently stated](#) that “we must put an end to endless war and refocus on future threats,” and that “correcting this is not only a matter of presidential restraint but of renewed Congressional oversight.”
- He believes Congress has shirked its constitutional authority and is long overdue to repeal the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force and debate our overseas entanglements.

- At the second Democratic debate, he vowed to [withdraw troops](#) from Afghanistan within his first year if elected. “We have to,” he declared.
  - He would end [U.S. military support](#) for the Saudi-led coalition’s assault on Yemen, and “would suspend all arms sales to Saudi Arabia that could be used in the Yemen war, but also cut off the spare parts and maintenance for equipment needed to prolong that war.”
  - He stresses that military force should only be used as a last resort in the face of an attack or imminent threat to the U.S., its citizens, or allies bound by treaty or as part of a UN-organized international coalition to prevent genocide.
  - Buttigieg has opposed Trump’s [“saber-rattling” in Venezuela](#), and has offered one of the most articulate critiques of the use broad based [coercive sanctions saying](#): “broad economic sanctions, such as those pursued by the Trump administration, run the risk of hurting innocent Venezuelans already face crippling food and medicine shortages and enabling the Maduro regime to promote the false narrative that the U.S. is responsible for the country’s misery.”
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## **Nuclear Weapons**

- Buttigieg [has said](#), “Among the threats to American and human security, nuclear destruction remains paramount. This is why preventing the spread of nuclear weapons should remain a core tenet of our global leadership.” He accordingly supports nuclear nonproliferation agreements and negotiations.
  - However, when pressed about his [stance on no first use](#) at a July event, Buttigieg professed that the U.S. needs to maintain deterrence, expressing worry that “depending on how it’s phrased, no first use could actually lead to more proliferation” while not further elaborating how.
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## Iran

- Buttigieg opposes taking military action against Iran, and is “[extremely concerned](#)” that the Trump administration’s escalations could “[start] a chain reaction that even the White House can’t stop.”
  - He believes the Iran Nuclear Deal served in our national security interest, and has vowed to reenter the agreement if elected.
  - Additionally, he supports negotiating a separate deal with Iran in regards to its support for groups like Hezbollah and its human rights record.
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## Pentagon Spending & Diplomatic Funding

- While Buttigieg has not made statements on the top-line of the military budget, he has discussed the need to [prioritize investment](#) in cyber defenses, artificial intelligence, and machine learning over weapons of conventional wars such as submarines and warships.
  - He views diplomatic, development, and security assistance as vital to deploy alongside troops.
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## Korean Peninsula

- [Buttigieg believes](#) that advancing diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula cannot occur through a “zero-sum insistence on full and complete denuclearization before any peace is possible.”
  - He recognizes that both sides need to take concrete steps toward securing peace, and welcomes approaches that would incorporate North Korea into the international community and focus on taking small steps toward bigger gains.
  - Simultaneously, [he believes](#) sanctions should remain and be lifted in a targeted manner in exchange for substantive and verifiable reversals in North Korea’s nuclear program.
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## Israel/Palestine

- While supporting a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, Buttigieg has previously implied that much of the misery in Gaza is the [fault of Hamas](#), and has said that U.S. support for Israel's security will continue to be a [fundamental tenet](#) of U.S. foreign policy if elected.
- However, he also disagrees with the policies and human rights record of the current Israeli administration, and [declared that](#) "if Prime Minister Netanyahu makes good on his promise to annex West Bank settlements, he should know that a President Buttigieg would take steps to ensure that American taxpayers won't help foot the bill.