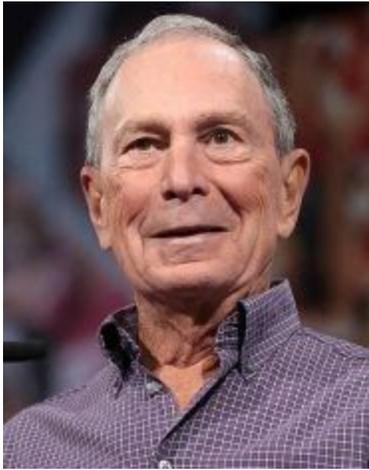


## Mike Bloomberg



***“This war must come to an end. But it is crucial that we end it in a wise, thoughtful and deliberative way.” – Mayor Michael Bloomberg***

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### At a Glance

**Billionaire media mogul** Mike Bloomberg is positioning himself as a moderate alternative to Joe Biden. In 2001, Bloomberg became the three-term mayor of New York City. During his Republican, and eventually Independent, tenure, he fervently supported Wall Street, implemented the heavily-criticized “stop-and-frisk” program, and subjected the city’s Muslims to an expansive surveillance program. He was also a staunch advocate for the misguided Iraq War – a stance he recently said he does **not regret**.

After leaving office, he used his fortune on political activism, including in helping Democrats nationwide win political office and fighting climate change and gun violence. Since joining the Presidential race in late November, Bloomberg’s self-funded campaign has already spent \$409 million to raise his profile. You can find his thoughts, comments, and plans on issues of war and peace below.

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### Ending Endless Wars

- In 2003, Bloomberg used his platform as mayor of the largest U.S. city to not only support the invasion of Iraq, but to **propagate the lie** that Saddam Hussein was involved in the attacks on 9/11. He later stood with the Bush administration against those asking to set a timetable for troop withdrawal.
- Bloomberg has talked about a drawdown of the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan, but believes that some unspecified

number of [forces should remain](#) in order to fight Al Qaeda and ISIS. He also believes that the U.S. should provide Afghanistan not only with development assistance, but also security assistance.

- He believes that U.S. special operations forces in Iraq and Syria have been an [effective counter](#) to ISIS and criticized Trump's decisions to withdraw those forces.
- While he has said that he would push the Saudis to stop their atrocities against Yemen, Bloomberg believes that "the U.S.-Saudi relationship remains critical." He has referred to Saudi Arabia's rulers as "[reformers](#)," especially in terms of improving women's conditions – despite still-widespread harassment, torture, and imprisonment of women's rights advocates. He also praised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's leadership as creating "progress going in the right direction," even after the execution of Jamal Khashoggi.

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## **Nuclear Weapons**

- Bloomberg [advocates for](#) the renewal of the New START Treaty, the INF Treaty, and other nonproliferation agreements with Russia.

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## **Iran**

- Though Bloomberg initially came out against the Iran nuclear deal as not being strict enough on Iran, he has criticized Trump's withdrawal from the agreement and says he [will re-enter](#) it and add on to it.
  - He believes the recent U.S. airstrike on Iranian Qassem Soleimani was both legal and justifiable, alleging an imminent threat despite a challenge of that view by numerous intelligence sources.
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## Pentagon Spending & Diplomatic Funding

- Bloomberg has [called on](#) the Pentagon to “introduce greater rationality and discipline into its budgeting process,” and discussed the need to refocus spending on electronic, cyber, and space weaponry, as well as artificial intelligence.
  - He disagrees with Trump’s funding cuts to diplomacy and foreign aid, and has promised to increase funding to the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
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## Korean Peninsula

- Bloomberg plans to pursue an interim agreement to work toward [total denuclearization](#) of North Korea. He is in favor of “quiet, sustained and firm diplomacy” in coordination with not only Asian allies like Japan and South Korea, but also other bordering powers like China and Russia.
  - He plans to calibrate sanctions relief based on North Korea’s behavior.
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## Israel/Palestine

- While officially supporting a [two-state solution](#) for Israelis and Palestinians, his motivation is solely Israel’s security. He also opposes moving the U.S. embassy out of Jerusalem and has denounced the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement.
- Bloomberg is a [major proponent](#) of Israel and its current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – going so far as to fly to Tel Aviv in 2009 and 2014 to support Israel’s military assaults on Gaza.