

## Julián Castro



***“We get stronger and safer the more that we exercise our soft power, and not necessarily our military power.” — Secretary Julián Castro***

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### **At a Glance**

Julián Castro [grew up with politics](#); his mother founded a political party to raise Mexican-American voices and his math teacher father was an involved community activist. After a brief stint in law, he joined the San Antonio City Council in 2009, going on to become a three-term mayor in 2009. In 2014, he joined the Obama administration as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Castro’s political record does not provide concrete actions in relation to foreign policy, and his presidential campaign has prioritized domestic over foreign policy. He has, however, [strongly critiqued](#) the Trump administration’s damage to our global alliances.

The former Secretary [recently expressed](#) his broad take on foreign policy, “The country has a role to lead for the values that we believe in, for freedom, democracy, and opportunity. That doesn’t mean that we entangle ourselves in wars...However, we need to reclaim our role as the world leader in standing up for things like human rights around the world.” You can find his thoughts, comments, and plans on issues of war and peace below.

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### **Ending Endless Wars**

- Castro recognizes that the U.S. military needs to get out of Afghanistan, but is not committed to a particular approach or timeframe. He [advocates for](#) withdrawal “in a way that is orderly, that respects our allies, that leaves the region as stable as we possibly can, given the circumstances.”
- He [believes](#) troops should leave Syria, and is “not a big fan of the commitments America has made, over these last 15 years.” Simultaneously, he was against President Trump’s previous

attempt, calling it erratic and saying that “once you’re there, you have to actually have a solid plan for how you’re going to withdraw.”

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## **Nuclear Weapons**

- When asked about a no first use policy at a [July town hall](#), Castro said that he supports “working toward the end of nuclear weapons” and “no more proliferation,” and that he would look more into no first use specifically.
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## **Iran**

- Castro [has criticized](#) the Trump administration for being “hellbent on moving us toward war with Iran.”
  - He [has called](#) the Iran Nuclear Deal “a landmark achievement that prevented a nuclear-armed Iran for more than 3 years,” and vowed to reenter the agreement if Iran complies with it.
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## **Pentagon Spending & Diplomatic Funding**

- Castro called President Trump’s 4th of July military parade a “[waste of money](#).”
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## **Korean Peninsula**

- Castro [has said](#) he would be willing to speak with adversaries, but has criticized President Trump’s approach with North Korea as lacking substance, being “all for show,” and legitimizing a dictator.
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## **Israel/Palestine**

- Castro favors a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, and [faults the Trump administration](#) as enabling Benjamin

Netanyahu's "reckless" promise to annex the West Bank if re-elected.