

I find myself writing this as someone invested in world events for the future especially in the next four years. When I turn 18 years old I will be sent a letter saying that I must register with the Selective Service, a step required by federal law in signing up for the draft should congress decide a draft is necessary. Given the current readiness of the US military I believe that a draft is more likely now than it has been since the Vietnam war. The most recent data shows that not all of our armed service branches are able to meet their recruiting goals. **(Prompt 8)** “In fiscal 2023, only the Marine Corps and the Space Force among the five service branches met their recruiting goals. The Army fell short by about 10,000 of its goal to bring on 65,000 active-duty enlisted soldiers; the Air Force recruited only 24,100 of the 26,877 it wanted; and the Navy recruited 30,236 active-duty enlisted sailors, well short of its goal of 37,000.” <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/01/22/uphill-battle-boost-recruiting-military-faces-falling-public-confidence-political-attacks-economic.html> The inability to recruit has impacted the overall capability of our military. “...In 2024, the military has shrunk considerably, with only 1.28 million active-duty personnel, marking the smallest force since pre-World War II levels, when there were only 458,365 personnel in 1940.... In the past three years, the military has lost 64,000 personnel, intensifying its decline.” <https://www.nsin.us/us-military-size/>

Maybe most concerning is who is being recruited. Currently I believe that the US military is made up of too many of weak people who do not have the freedom of our country at heart. These new recruits are being targeted because of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals rather than physical or mental toughness. I still believe that there are people in America that do value our country and would do anything to defend our country. Those are the people who would make our military stronger. As I see it the purpose of a military draft is to serve the interests of the people of the United States of America **(Prompt 3)**. With the potential scenario that World War III arises from the Russian conflict with Ukraine and escalates to directly involve the USA, I do not believe the interest of the American people would be served by reinstating a mandatory military draft. Military service can be a way to instill pride and patriotism in younger people, but only if they believe they are

fighting for a worthy cause. I see the conflict in Ukraine as regional one and a fight that the US should not be involved in. Unfortunately, as the US has become more involved the situation there has only worsened.

There are many countries that I believe deserve blame for the escalation of events in Europe (**Prompt 5**). Russia deserves blame for invading Ukraine; Ukraine deserves blame for an unwillingness to recognize an unwinnable war and find a way to way to protect their citizens; perhaps most importantly I also believe USA is to blame for giving money to Ukraine that is being spent to enrich weapons manufacturers and prolonging an unwinnable war. To date the US has given almost 200 billion dollars to Ukraine. With just a fraction of that money we could finish the wall on our own southern border, get homeless people off the streets and giving veterans the home they deserve after fighting for our county. Instead it has meant more death and destruction for people almost 6,000 miles away from my home.

In the worst case scenario, the war in Ukraine continues and before Donald Trump takes office Russia feels compelled to use nuclear weapons to end the war (**Prompt 7**). Trump has made it clear that he wants to end the conflict as soon as possible and I believe there are many in the current political administration who want to see it continue. If there were ever a time for the people in power to escalate the conflict further it may be now. Even members of the Kremlin point out that Donald Trump has been trying to negotiate peace plans while the Biden-Harris administration has been seeking to escalate the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian television, "During the election campaign, Trump talked about wanting to make peace in some way and was leading everyone down a peaceful path.... And now the Biden-Harris administration are doing everything they can to escalate the situation in such a way that peace agreements are doomed to failure.... Peskov asserted that Biden's administration had shown that it "will do everything to ensure that this war does not end." He insinuated that the US Democrats wanted to use this to limit Trump and take revenge for their election defeat." <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/3687836813825-kremlin-says-biden-undermining-trump-s-peace-plans-for-ukraine>

With the recent presidential election results, I believe that there should be optimism for the future of our country (**Prompt 1**). I believe that the election on November 4th was part of God's almighty plan and that

Trump will make America great again. I am also excited to see what Donald Trump will be able to accomplish. I believe that he will end the conflict in Ukraine, secure our southern border, protect the US constitution and help us keep our God given rights. While tensions remain after the election, I believe there is a majority of people who are hopeful that we are getting back on the right track. We are closer than ever to becoming unified as a country again.

Part of getting back on the right track as a country will be closing and securing our borders. **(Prompt 6)** This will help by stopping the flow of potential criminals and terrorists who are bringing drugs and crime to our safe communities. “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best.... They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems (to) us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

https://www.realeclearpolitics.com/video/2015/06/16/trump_mexico_not_sending_us_their_best_criminals_drug_dealers_and_rapists_are_crossing_border.html Since 2021 there have been 384 illegal aliens caught at the southern border who were on the terrorist watchlist. In the previous 3 years there were 11. <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/September-24-Startling-Stats.pdf> This is a shocking demonstration of how unsafe we’ve allowed our country to become by not enforcing strict border laws. **(Prompt 4)** Should the conflict in Ukraine escalate to World War III the southern border remains the most likely place for our enemies to try and enter our country.

The potential for World War III is greater now than ever before. With Donald Trump’s election, I’m hopeful that war can be avoided. **(Prompt 2)** If somehow the US finds itself involved in World War III the poor state of readiness our military currently finds itself in will likely lead to reinstating the military draft which I will be eligible for when I turn 18. The United States has a long history of patriots dying in service of their country. It would be honorable to die in service of this amazing country but fighting a regional war that has no real impact on the United States would be a waste of lives.