

Essay Chunk #2:

THE BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

Joint Resolution: To authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces (including ground troops) against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Note: For the purposes of this essay and the simulation, this is a resolution that mainly uses the language of one one proposed in early 2015 by President Obama, but with one crucial difference: it DOES call for the use of up to 40,000 ground troops in Iraq and Syria to defeat ISIS (in addition to aerial strikes).

Text:

Whereas the terrorist organization that has referred to itself as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other various names (in this resolution referred to as "ISIL") poses a grave threat to the people and territorial integrity of Iraq and Syria, regional stability, and the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners;

Whereas ISIL holds significant territory in Iraq and Syria and has stated its intention to seize more territory and demonstrated the capability to do so;

Whereas ISIL leaders have conducted terrorist operations in Lebanon, Paris and against a Russian airliner, and have stated that they intend to conduct additional terrorist attacks internationally and in the United States;

Whereas ISIL has committed despicable acts of violence and mass executions against Muslims, regardless of sect, who do not subscribe to ISIL's violent and oppressive ideology;

Whereas the United States has taken military action against ISIL in the form of aerial strikes and drone strikes in accordance with its inherent right of individual and collective self-defense;

Whereas the efforts of the ground troops of our partner nations, in cooperation with United States aerial strikes, has been effective in containing ISIL's expansion but insufficient to eliminate or significantly reduce ISIL's presence in the area; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Authorization for Ground and Aerial Military Force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant."

SECTION 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

- (a) **AUTHORIZATION.** — The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as the President determines to be necessary and appropriate against ISIL or associated persons or forces as defined in SECTION????
- (b) **WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.** —
- (1) **SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.** — Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).
- (2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.** — Nothing in this resolution supersedes any requirements of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.)
- (c) **LIMITATIONS.** — The President is not authorized to deploy more than 40,000 ground troops without seeking a new authorization for any troop level above that.

SECTION 3. DURATION OF THIS AUTHORIZATION.

This authorization for the use of military force (aerial and ground forces) shall terminate three years after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, unless reauthorized before the three year period expires.

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF AIMS

It is the goal of this resolution to enable: (1) the defeat of ISIL; (2) the restoration of sovereignty to Syria and Iraq of territories seized by ISIL; (3) an orderly withdrawal from the territories currently occupied by ISIL once it is defeated.

THINGS TO TRY TO RESEARCH (list your sources on the left for any information that you find)

Statements about ISIS/ISIL (especially about the use of U.S. aerial forces - and ground forces - against ISIS) **made by your politician** (whether on Twitter, or in interviews, or in the texts of speeches they have given)

SOURCE

INFORMATION (attempt to paraphrase it whenever possible)

SOURCE	INFORMATION (attempt to paraphrase it whenever possible)

SUMMARY, REFLECTION, or ANALYSIS:

Their voting record on past authorizations of force (in Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.) - IF they were in public office when such votes occurred (have they ever even had to vote on a joint resolution for the use of force before, or would they be new to such a decision?)

SOURCE

INFORMATION

SOURCE	INFORMATION

SUMMARY, REFLECTION, or ANALYSIS:

Restate the Cook PVI for their state (Senator) or District (Representative) - this is mainly to determine whether their constituents (and voters) lean Democratic or Republican, and how much. This will be used to interpret the importance of public opinion polls below (since Democrats and Republicans tend to be split in public opinion polls on what to do). *This was in Essay Chunk #1.*

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The most recent public opinion polls you can find about ISIS/ISIL and use of ground troops (noting the differences in support or opposition among Democrats and Republicans (see article links on History Haus > Unit 2 Page > Item #5 > “Links regarding Public Opinion Polls”)

SOURCE

INFORMATION

SOURCE	INFORMATION

SUMMARY, REFLECTION, or ANALYSIS:

❑ How soon is there next election [are they even planning to run for reelection?] and how safe, solid or competitive is their “seat”? Do they usually win their elections by large margins and do they have plenty of campaign funds raised, or are they in a district or state where the race tends to be close, and do they not have as much campaign cash raised at this time? *[NOTE: This is basically a summary and re-statement of information from Essay Chunk #1]*

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❑ Is there any evidence or reason to believe that their party might favor one decision or the other on this joint resolution? Could presidential election or Congress election strategy for 2016 affect the decision, and in what ways? You'll have to dig deep for this one. You could research either party and look for articles about 2016 strategy and ISIS, for example. You may or may not find much. You could certainly identify possible ideas, but ultimately you'll need to point to evidence or at least solid clues that can support your hunches.

SOURCE

INFORMATION

SOURCE	INFORMATION

