

(11) CORE VALUES -American foreign policy must reinforce and promote its core values of democracy, free markets, human rights, and the rule of law. America's most important export to the international community is its ideals and ideas. Americans are committed to democracy and human rights. They cherish open elections, and freedom of speech. America promotes free and fair trade, so that everyone has a chance to prosper. Every person in the world should have the same opportunity to enjoy these basic democratic values.

“The more intensely we feel about an idea or a goal, the more assuredly the idea, buried deep in our subconscious, will direct us along the path to its fulfillment.”

-Earl Nightingale

Before there was a militia, the Constitution, or a nation, America was a mere idea. This seed of thought was created by the minds of revolutionary entrepreneurs, people who sought to innovate what it meant to be a part of a country, moreover what it meant to be a human. So despite the politics of the Revolutionary War and the historical context of British-American relations, the war was centered on the survival of this notion of freedom and democracy. Over two hundred years later, the existence of this idea is still being challenged in the world. Over the past few decades there has been more anti-American sentiment than any other period in history, and the international community no longer is heavily influenced by the core values that are the infrastructure of our country. It exists both internally and externally of the United States, as American citizens themselves are not subscribing to the basic values that our country was founded upon. Combined with the antidemocratic opinions that are being diffused internationally, the quintessential American ideology is becoming a pastime rather than an active frame of thought.

With this in mind, our nation is at a distinct crossroads. We could transform and become malleable to modern ideas and ideologies with no regard to the past American identity, but I believe what must be done is a reexamination of American core values specifically relating to the Peace through Strength Platform. As Statute 11 states in its name, *Core Values*, these ideas are the most important point of the platform and give way as the foundation to all other statutes, such as Diplomatic Readiness, National Preparedness, and especially Global Leadership. Without these *Core Values*, the rest of the Peace through Strength would hold no meaning and would simply be a list of ideas thrown together. In other terms, the core values are the adhesive bond of American foreign and domestic policies. I am calling for a return to classic American ideology, that of the Manifest Destiny and the Monroe Doctrine. I refer to these theories not in actual practice but in application, to use Manifest Destiny as a means for propagating the unalienable rights that every citizen of the United States are entitled to. In regard to the latter, the modern Monroe Doctrine will be constructed to repel international influences, not just from Europe, that threaten and negate American ideals. Many opponents of this platform would state that these ideals are not needed, and that this policy is not relevant or beneficial to either America or the global community. However, this is far from the truth, and this infusion of entrepreneurship and capitalism is precisely what is needed during this time of economic despondency. Furthermore, as the Peace through Strength platform states, “America's most important export to the international community is its ideals and ideas,” this export cannot be limited due to economic uncertainty and has an unlimited source. This modern approach to the once “outdated” American

democracy will ensure the increased standard of living for all citizens of the United States and give the international citizens of the world the chance to prosper off of the ideology that attracted the massive waves of immigration in the early 1900s. This goal is a common one, and one that needs to be addressed if the original core values are to survive. These goals constitute basic human rights, and therefore the goal is a basic right in and of itself. To allow them to disappear would be a disservice to our nation and to the hard work of countless men and woman over the past few hundred years.

The most pervasive of all substances is an idea, and as Earl Nightingale states we must bury this seed of democracy deep into our subconscious to achieve this path of democratic fulfillment. At the root of everything is a core: whether it is the roots of trees, the core of the human body, or the unmoving center values that constitutes an entire country. In this uncertain twenty-first century, the United States must look internally in order to act externally, and a steadfast approach to these values will make this opportunity a reality.