

## **Should the U.S. Continue Aid to Ukraine?**

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Some say that the US has an obligation to help those at home before extending aid abroad. Are there moral reasons that can support prioritizing one's fellow citizens over foreign allies in need? Why should our moral responsibilities be affected by arbitrary territorial borders?

There is a suggestion that aiding Ukraine and drawing out this war, even if costly in terms of loss of life, is the preferable course of action. The argument relies on the notion of deterrence – as in our criminal justice system, we punish wrongdoers in order to discourage others from trying something similar in the future. But is this a justifiable strategy without evidence that it will be effective? How do we know the moral thing to do if the consequences are uncertain?

Just war theory applies a moral framework to acts of international aggression. But what use is it to identify wrongdoers and cast moral blame at countries which we think fail to play by these rules? There seems to be no one in a position to authoritatively settle disagreements and hold rulebreakers to account. What is the point?

Do you think the US should continue sending aid to Ukraine? Which of these arguments do you find most convincing? Which objections to this position do you find most persuasive?