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**UNITED STATES' MILITARY AND STRATEGIC  
INVOLVEMENT IN THE 2011 LIBYAN CRISIS:  
LESSONS FOR DICTATORS AND POTENTIAL  
INSURGENTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Questions still trail the 2011 Libyan Crisis seeking to unveil the underlying motives of the super powers who masterminded the ouster of Col. Muammar Gaddafi's regime under the auspices of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The study investigated the US military and strategic involvement in that crisis to ascertain US motive for participating. It sorted for vital lessons that serve as warning, particularly, to dictators and potential insurgents in Africa. The paper argued that beyond the need to save Libyans from Gaddafi's dictatorship, the US demonstrated a violent pursuit of her national interest under the umbrella of NATO. The US aimed at removing Gaddafi and transiting Libya to liberal democracy in line with what the US calls Middle East Transition (MET). Realist theory of power has high explanatory potency in the forging. The study is a qualitative research that relied on documented evidence as a source of data. Findings showed that escalated conflict between forces loyal to Col. Muammar Gaddafi and the National Transitional Council (NTC) led rebelforces created opportunity for NATO's intervention. As a leading member of NATO, the US brought its military and strategic capacities to bear on the intervention. The US tried to achieve her foreign policy objectives that sought to remove Gaddafi and democratize Libya. The method by which Muammar Gaddafi was ousted was a lesson to understanding the workings of the present day world politics where the instrumentality of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) has become a tool for forceful change of government.*

**Keywords:** *United States, Military and Strategy, Libya Crisis, Dictators, Potential Insurgents.*

## **Introduction**

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, efforts to spread capitalist democracy across the world have been relentless despite severe resistance from states that have contrary ideological inclinations. Prolonged dictatorship and attempts to perpetuate self in power by anti-liberal forces remain challenging factor undermining global democratization. From the communist oriented Eastern Europe and Asia, to religious fanatical Middle East; and from various sub-regions of Africa, some holders of state power fail to create room for political freedom and pluralism. In such states, internal resistance results in political conflicts unable, in some cases, to cause fundamental reforms or a regime change. This did not go down well with the apostles of international democratization. Thus, conspiracies across state boundaries have combined to fight for political freedom across the world. United States' policy on Middle East Transition (MET) becomes part of such efforts to democratize the Middle East. Insurgencies, invasion, interference and intervention or "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) become choice words for explanations of what come to be attempts to effect regimes changes and transitions to liberal democratization. The situation is so, owing to militarized nature of the methods through which political monopoly, regime change and transition to democratization presented themselves. United States' intervention in Iraq and invasion of Afghanistan were cases of such military instances. Such military approach comes into play where diplomacy had failed to achieve the targeted objectives. Hence, democratization trend has continued to penetrate socio-economic and political fabrics of states with the intent to establishing a single economic and political culture across the world. Liberty and freedom are the major principles behind penetrative activities of these proponents of global democratization with economic and political interests as the underlying motivation.

2011 intervention in Libya in which the United States participated was one of such cases where military strategy displayed important roles. It was a clash between Gaddafi on one hand and National Transitional Council and NATO on the other hand. The later emerging victorious with the defeat and murder of Col. Muammar Gaddafi by National Transition Council (NTC) backed NATO. The US and its allies have found military instrument as a viable option for achieving foreign policy goals in states where political monopoly provokes internal resistance. This being the trend, the study became necessary in order to understand the underlying motives behind US participation in Libya. It pinpoints at lessons from such important political outing for dictators and potential insurgents in Africa. Such lessons are vital for policies and behaviours of both dictatorial regimes and people who are seeking democratic freedom in such states. This is so considering the motives underlying participation in such crisis and how they are expressed to achieve foreign policies objectives. The fact that the US is a leading world power with enormous influence on political order and trends of our contemporary world makes her military and strategic policies and actions vital for understanding the working of our present day world politics.

## **The military**

Of paramount importance to organization and secure existence of human society is security and protection against internal and external attacks. For this, Plato's identification of three basic functions of the state assigned security to a category of the population he called the auxiliaries or soldiers (Mbah, 2006). Their duty according to Plato was to protect the state against internal insurgency and external aggression. Such category in our today's world is called the military comprising the army, navy and air

force. Its primary function is to defend the sovereignty of the state against attacks to avoid destabilization of the organization, order and security of the society. Besides this primacy, is the need to meet other security requirements of our present day world which have widened the scope of military operations to production, education, research, health, science and technology, information and communication etcetera. Military establishments, particularly in technologically advanced nations, engage themselves in the production of military wares. For instance, Pentagon, the US Defense Headquarters plays a major role in the US military development. As an institution of the state, the military is occupied with researches to enhance its security roles for the state. Capacity and success of every military are dependent upon the quality of people and resources available to the institution. The quality is the outcome of training received from regular security training offered to men and officers of the military in academies, universities and colleges associated with military training/studies. Loyalty and patriotism to the state are two other important variables expectations of men and officers of the force. Obedience to seniority and constituted authority and defense of the integrity and image of the force are compulsory for continuous membership of the institution of the military. Compliance with rules, regulations and commands also make the list in the code of conduct of the military with strict discipline embodied in members, otherwise strict punitive measures come into play.

### **Strategy**

Strategy was seen only as a military term for organization and command in the battlefield with the view to defeating the enemy. However, industrial revolution and the resultant increase in production extended strategy to non-military spheres. It is an art as well as a means for political objectives. Hart (2011) saw strategy as the art of using military means to fulfil the end of a policy. This means, may involve planning, consideration of relevant factors that might come to play out and decisions on how to tackle them. In a slightly different manner Beaufre, (2011) believed that strategy was the art of opposition of contending wills and forces in resolving conflicts. But Earle (2011) understood strategy as the art of controlling all the resources of a nation or a coalition of nations in order to effectively promote and secure its vital interests against actual or potential enemies. In the foregoing, Hart and Beaufre created the impression that strategy is all about the military. They take military dimension as if it is the only aspect of strategy without illuminating on the economic and political dimensions of strategy. Unlike Earle whose understanding of the term threw important light on the control of all resources available to a nation to strategize. His approach showed the importance of economic, political and other important elements of national power as instruments for military strategy. It helped the researcher appreciate a wider scope of military strategy. Clausewitz (2011), in the other hand, saw strategy as the employment of battle as a means towards the attainment of the object of war. For him, strategy is the practical adoption of a means placed at the general's disposal for the attainment of the objective in view. This understanding typically associated strategy only with its military practice. It does not provide clue for understanding necessary determinants of strategy.

Strategy is dynamic in nature dependent upon situational factors surrounding it at a particular point in time. Strategy can change to respond to new development or inventions in any of the two conflicting parties. A shift from gorilla to terrorist approach by insurgents is an outcome of a change in strategy. It should be seen as not only an art or means for achieving military ends but in addition beyond military dimension. To this end, Mohapatra (2011) explains that with the changing nature of technological

revolution and wide ranging socio-economic development, the scope and activities of strategy have expanded from time to time. For him strategy gets broader definition that involves some non-military dimensions like political, economic and technological aspects. As such, this is an indication that strategy changes depending on the technological, economic, political and other elements of power affecting it. Mohapatra emphasized that the understanding of the term strategy has changed from time to time in accordance with the changing circumstances. For Buchans (2011) the real content of strategy is concerned not merely with the war and battle but with the application or maintenance of force so that it contributes most effectively to the development of political objectives.

Accordingly, Burke (2009) explained further that problems of a nation have to be carefully evaluated against the size, character and capabilities of the available national power on the bases of these, national strategy is planned out in form of courses of action utilizing the national power in varying combinations; analyzed to develop the best possible national strategy taken into account intervening variable that may occur as the strategy unfolds. Options should therefore be made to take care of such variables. Burke argues that a purely military strategy for a nation is no longer possible due largely to the fact that a clear-cut line of demarcation between military, economic and political matters no longer exist. Consequent upon this reality, he opined further that the development of military strategy took into account political and economic factors, just as political strategy must firmly base on military and economic power realities. His argument is a clear indication of not only the interconnectivity of these variables, but importantly, it brings to light the complementary roles of the military, economy and politics as components of national strategy. This perhaps explains why deficiency in military, political or economic strategy results to deficiency in the others.

Strategy can be offensive, defensive or deterring and these can be mixed or combined to achieve maximum performance. Offensive strategy aims at attacking the enemy with a view to making him surrender or retreat. On the other hand, defensive strategy is an attempt to defend self against enemy's attack by wedging its offensive attack in such a way that its aims are not achieved. Deterrent strategy targets at weakening the will of the enemy and causing him to abandon his intention. It can cause fear in the enemy's camp and undermine the courage for further action. Clausewitz, cited in Mohapatra N. (2011). identified five elements of strategy (1) Psychological elements including the morale (2) Military force including its size, composition and organization (3) Geometry of the situation including the relative positions, movement of forces and their geometric relationship to obstacles, channels, objectives etc. (4) Terrain including mountains, river, wood and roads which might influence military activities (5) Supply including its means and sources. Howard, (2011) on his side pinpoints at four elements of strategy to include: the operational, logistical, social and technological. For Ellis (2011) strategy should include critical assumptions, ends-ways-means coherence, priorities and a theory of victory.

### **Nexus between Military and Strategy**

Though, the military is an institution or organ of the state that deals with defense strategy of the state, it is an aspect of national strategy that controls socio-economic and political elements of state powers to achieve political objectives. Strategy and military studies are inter-related such that military study is a subject of war concerned with practical activities of the state for the preparation of military force for war. In

addition to being a component element of state power needed for strategy, it coordinate economic and political variables to achieve political goals. Strategy on the other hand becomes military tool through which political objectives are achieved. While the military plans the strategy for achieving targeted ends, strategy on the other hand becomes the focus, direction and guide through which the military achieve the end. They complement each other to achieve state goals.

### **United States' Interests in Libya**

Haass (2011) argued that US interest in Libya was "less than vital" He further asserted that even the modest step of participating in a multilateral UN no-fly zone resolution in Libya would be incommensurate with America's limited strategic interest. For him, the Libyan intervention was more than anything about the role of the United States in the world. Harvard University professor, Stephen Walt argued similarly when he said, called for the acknowledgement that the United States had no vital strategic interest at stake in the outcome of the Libya struggle (Pack, 2011). At the time of their speeches, they did not envisage what would be the outcome of US participation in Libya. What later became US involvement in Libyan crisis was not only more than vital but highly visible both in strategy, finance, communication, propaganda and bombing. US participation would not have been possible without a crucial interest.

Contrary to Haass and Walt, the United States has economic, political and diplomatic interests in Libya. Its political interest was more pressing and immediate as it facilitates the wider economic and diplomatic interests both in Libya and Middle East in general. This is so considering the fact that the US is in the fore front of efforts to globalize liberal democracy and establish, expand and consolidate capitalism. Its relations with Libya during Muammar Gaddafi's reign was not cordial considering undemocratic status and posture of the Libyan dictator which did not pave way for political freedom in Libya. Besides, Gaddafi's terrorist activities, 1986 Berlin discotheque bombing and the resultant US retaliation, Libya's involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie bombings of US Pam AM 103 plane and production of nuclear weapons were some of the issues that worsened US-Libya relations during his regime.

Uncontrolled Libyans-Gaddafi faceoff helped to create the opportunity for the US and allies to venture into the dissolution of Gaddafi regime and proceeded with the process of democratization of Libya. Facilitated by the cooperation of NTC and the United Nations Security Council which passed resolutions 1970 and 1973 empowering no-fly zone and humanitarian intervention through all necessary measures respectively in what is widely known as "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) the Us and allies swung into action.

In line with our position, Sikkema (2011) explains that the US has exhibited interest to strengthen economic ties in North Africa. The North African Partnership for Economic Opportunities (NAPEO) was established to explore economic opportunities and how to take advantage of them. Sikkema revealed that under the organization, entrepreneurs in Libya and United States have started working together to create opportunities and economic growth in public and private sectors. This, according to him, is with the possibility of restructuring Libyan government to provide conducive environment for such liberal economic ties. 2011 overthrow and murder of Muammar Gaddafi aimed at paving way for democratization and liberalization of Libya but, on the contrary, it created its own problems that continue to hunt Libya till date.

Liberalization of Libyan political system will as well create foundation for US inroad into the Middle East region. With good diplomatic relations between Libya and the US diplomatic relationship with other Middle East and North African states will improve and thereafter relief the US from political tension created by Middle East fanatical politics. Sikkema had stated that the US should consider Libya an ally because Libya has close ties with both Africa and Arab communities which if utilized would improve US relations with these communities especially when we consider the fact that the US does not have healthy rapport with most Arab countries. For him the Libya revolution could be a potential turning point for US-Arab relations. In line with this, the Arab League on 6th April 2001 hosted in its headquarters in Cairo an Arab-West relations Forum in recognition of the extraordinary events taking place in the region. Speakers in the forum spoke for the rejuvenation of Arab-West relations and this will inject western democratic and human right ideals into Arab region and Libyan revolution serves as one of such vents that can spark a turning point in US-Arab relations.

In general perspective, Mead (2001) identified four schools of thought in US foreign policy, here considered, determining forces behind the US interests in Libya. They include: a Hamiltonian concerned with US economic well-being at home and abroad, a Wilsonian impulse to propagate US values throughout the world; a Jefferson focus on protecting American democracy in a perilous world and a bellicose populist Jacksonian commitment to preserving US interests and honour in the world

### **US Vital Interests**

Certain interests are so vital to the US that most observers would agree that US will fight to defend them in most circumstances.

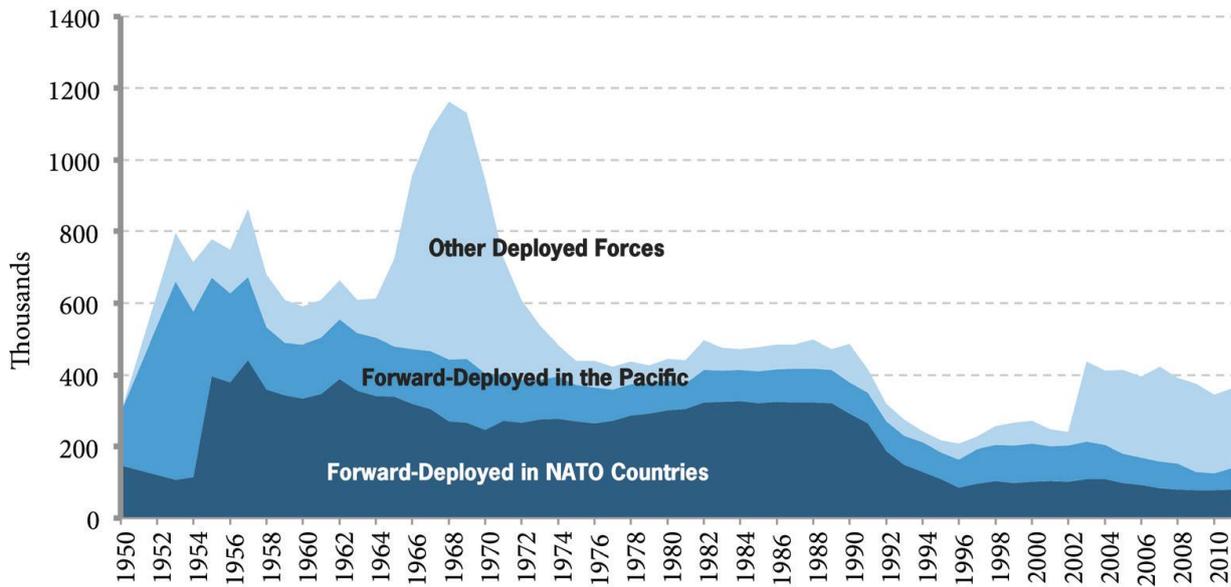
1. Protection of the US homeland from foreign enemies
2. Protection of US allies from attack
3. Ensuring unimpeded access to the global commons

### **US Conditional Interests**

1. Intervention in intra-state conflict assisting governments to enforce its responsibility against genocide, crime against humanity, ethnic cleansing or grave and systematic war crime and where the government is the aggressor in these cases.
2. Assisting a governments to stop the establishment or terminate the existence of a terrorist group posing threat to the US interests.

To ensure adequate protection of these interests, the United States maintains its military and strategic presence in countries of her interests where possible, especially where the unfolding events constitute a threat to US interests. Diagram below shows deployment of US forces abroad 1950-2010

## US Forces Deployed Abroad

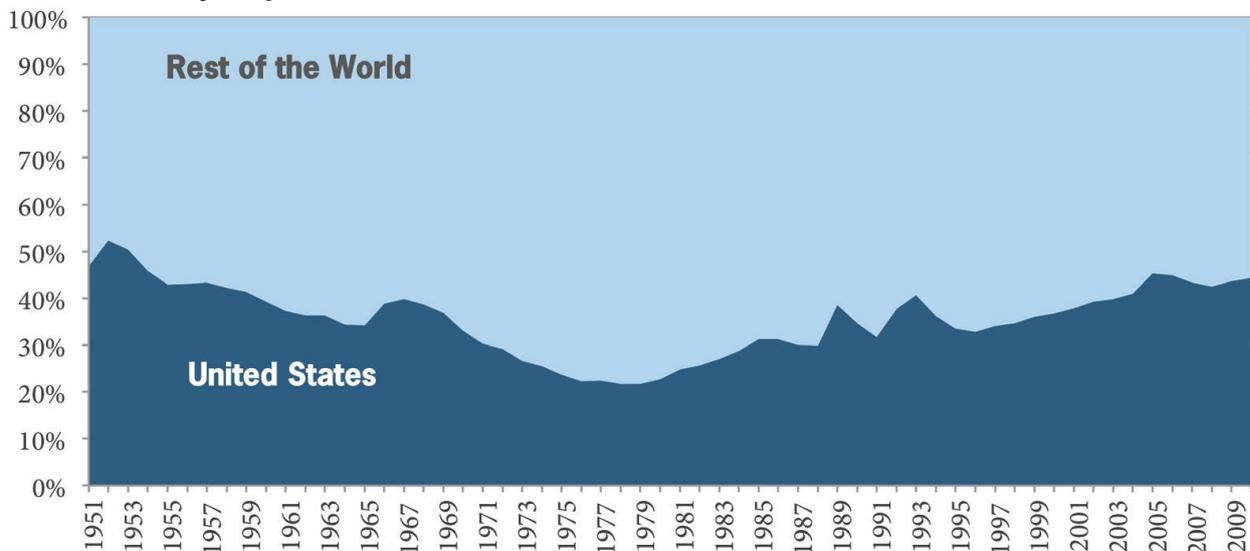


**Source:** US Department of Defense “Military Personnel Statistics 1953-2011” published in 2012 US Defense Advisory Committee’s Summary of Findings page 23

The above diagram is an evidence of US deployment of her military personnel to enable her protects her foreign policy goals outside the US. There is evidence of fluctuation in number of personnel deployed within 1951-2010. The diagram also shows increase in the number of personnel from two hundred thousand in 1952 to one million, four hundred thousand in 2010.

On the other hand, US military spending goes far beyond any other country and many countries put together. The diagram below shows world military expenditure from 1951-2009 with the US spending highest.

## World Military Expenditures



**Source:** Correlates of War and SIPRI Military Expenditures published in 2012, US Defense Advisory Committee’s Summary of Findings page 25

The above diagram is an evidence of US whooping expenditure in her military. What the US expended in 1951 as shown in the diagram (51%) was above other countries' expenditure put together. Look at the diagram, her expenditure in 2009 was as high as 49% of the total world military expenditure. The above evidence is therefore an indication that US military is a major instrument for achieving her foreign policy objectives outside her territory.

### **US Military and Strategic Involvement in 2011 Libya Crisis**

A look at the US interests in Libya has shown factors likely to cause US involvement in Libya. Her actual involvement in Libya stems from attempts to satisfy those interests that inform US foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa. Apart from US historic relations with Libya, the US was involved in making Gaddafi and the world know that his continuous stay in Libya's state power was illegitimate and unacceptable to Libyans, international community and the US in particular considering dictatorial character of his regime and abuse of human rights. US-NTC relations have encouraged the group to wage internal resistance which attracted international attention with the US mobilizing support in the United Nations for resolutions 1970 and 1973 which empower US led NATO to use "all necessary measures" to intervene in Libya. The intervention resulted to heavy bombardment of Libya and an end of Gaddafi and his regime. The situation was followed by series of arms and political conflicts among different warring factions. Information from U.S. Office of the Special Coordinator for Middle East Transition (MET)'s Fact sheet shows that US involvement in Libyan crisis includes the following:

1. One quarter of the over 10, 000 sorties flown to Libya was done by the US.
3. The US provided nearly 70 percent of the coalition's intelligence capacities and a majority of its refueling assets, enabling coalition aircraft to stay in the air longer and undertake more strikes.
4. Politically, US leadership continued to play important role in maintaining and expanding international consensus that Gaddafi must step down, sending an unambiguous message to the regime.
6. The US continued working to facilitate greater political, financial and non-lethal support to include up to \$25 million in medical supplies, rations and personal protective gear. US administration supported Senate Bill 1180 that allowed the freeze of Libyan government assets to meet pressing humanitarian needs in manner that was consistent with domestic legal requirements and UNSCRs 1970 and 1973.
7. The US escalated the political, diplomatic and financial pressure on Gaddafi which resulted in the number of official who resigned from Gaddafi government. The list includes his foreign minister, an interior minister, ambassadors to the United States and the United Nations, a central bank governor, an oil minister, five generals, and his labor minister
9. Secretary Clinton, the State Department's envoy in Benghazi and other US officials were engaging members of Libyan opposition, including the NTC, to understand their aspirations and steps they were undertaking to build a democracy that reflects the will of the Libyan people.

10. The US also supported crude oil sales from TNC-controlled areas. On April 26, the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) posted a new Libya General License and a new Statement of Licensing Policy on Libyan crude oil sales. These actions were taken to remove sanctions barriers under domestic law to U.S. persons' participation in certain transaction involving oil and gas by the NTC.

**Source:** U.S. Office of the Special Coordinator for Middle East Transition (MET) Fact sheet, US Department of State

### Humanitarian Costs

The US Government provided almost \$81 million for humanitarian activities in Libyan conflict as of June 3, 2011

#### FY 2011 USG ASSISTANCE FOR THE LIBYAN COMPLEX EMERGENCY

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			
Agency for Cooperation and Technical Development (ACTED)	Logistics and Relief Supplies	Libya	\$25,000
ACTED	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Supplies	Libya	\$500,000
Danish Refugee Council	Protection, Logistics and Relief Supplies	Libya	\$438,649
International Relief and Development	Logistics and Relief Supplies	Libya	\$349,223
TRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tunisia	\$50,000
TRC	USAID/OFDA Commodities: 2,000 blankets; 40 rolls of plastic sheeting; 9,600 water containers	Tunisia	\$40,300
International Medical Corps (IMC)/Merlin	10 health kits and three trauma Kits, plus transportation	Libya	\$357,905
IMC	Health, Logistics and Relief Supplies, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Libya	\$2,500,000
Merlin	Health	Libya	\$483,854
Mercy Corps	Logistics and Relief Supplies, WASH, Agriculture and Food Security	Libya	\$550,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Libya	\$500,000

WHO	Health	TBD	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications	Libya	\$750,000
WFP	U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Libya	\$750,000
TBD	Emergency Relief Activities and Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$184,122
Program Support Costs			\$1,520,947
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Libya	\$5,000,000
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Tunisia,	\$5,000,000

State/PRM Assistance	Committed Thru June 3	Projected June 3 thru EOY	Total Projected	Egypt	\$10,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE	4,586	941,252	1,945,838		0
Programs-NEA	Evacuation and repatriation programs for	Libya,	\$27,500,0		
NEA (Non-Add)	996,586	941,252	1,937,838	Tunisia,	0
MED (Non-Add)	8,000	-	8,000	Egypt	
Emergency	1,836,205	Assistance and protection for Libyans	1,836,205	Libya,	\$14,500,0
Diplomatic and Consular Service	internally displaced persons as well as	refugees and migrants in Tunisia, Egypt,		Tunisia,	0
Repatriation Loans	4,500	and Malta -	1,836,205	Egypt	
Program Account-Consular Affairs	Medical and surgical care, water and	sanitation facilities, protection of detainees	Libya,	Tunisia,	\$17,700,0
Diplomatic Security	823,882	and conflict victims	1,836,205	Egypt	0
TOTAL, State Operations	\$309,673	1,500,000	6,150,925	Tunisia	\$300,000
	Libyans, third-country nationals, and hos	communities in Tunisia			
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>					<b>\$60,000,0</b>
<b>STATE/PM/WRA ASSISTANCE</b>					
Mines Advisory Group	Conventional Weapons Destruction		Libya	\$486,937	
Swiss Foundation for	Conventional Weapons Destruction		Libya	\$470,670	

**Source:** US Oversea Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid, Department of State. [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp\\_uploaded\\_documents/110615\\_United\\_States\\_Activities\\_in\\_Libya\\_--\\_6\\_15\\_11.pdf](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/110615_United_States_Activities_in_Libya_--_6_15_11.pdf)

### US Assistance to Libya

Contrary to the argument that the US interest in Libya is less that vital, the US Special Coordinator for Middle East Transition (MET), said that United States has strategic interest in democratically stable and prosperous Libya and is supporting Libya's democratic transition in cooperation with the UN and other international partners. Extract from MET fact sheet shows some of the US assistance to Libya since the 2011 crisis.

Area of Assistance	Nature of US Assistance to Libya
Democracy, Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights	The US collaborates with UN, civil society government & media to ensure transparent and broad public supported constitutional development to achieve Libyan constitution
Election Management and Administration	The US provides technical assistance and support for election, management and administration e.g creating voters registry close cooperation with Libyan government EU & UN
Independent Media	The US is working to strengthen local and independent media, and provide training for journalistic standards

Elections Monitoring	The US supported International Electic Observer Mission for Libya's first nation election
Political Party Development	The US provided technical assistance new the political
Supporting New Representative Bodies	The US helped in developing programin to support representative bodies at nation and local levels.
Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration	Assisting Libyan Government in Navigatin the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of militia members
Justice and Security Sector	US is working with Libyan authority support the delivery of justice and security
Transitional Justice	Working with government, civil society, and other informal community leaders to bu transparent justice and reconciliatic systems in Libya
NGO Development	Providing technical assistance to NGOs throughout Libya to bolster the administrative, financial and programma capacities
Public Financial Management	Providing targeted technical assistance government of Libya to promote financ transparency and improve governance Libya financial and economic resources.
Economic Growth and Facilitation	Providing technical advice to th government of Libya on pub infrastructure-related projects and facilitatin meetings with US businesses who ca source services and equipments f reconstruction.
African in Diaspora Marketplace	United states added Libya to the 20 African Diaspora Marketplace (ADM initiative which encourages sustainab economic growth and employment supporting US based Diaspo entrepreneurs' startups and establishe business on the Africa continent.
Women's Economic Empowerment	The US is developing an assistance bolster economic empowerme opportunities for women by providin business skills training activities to wom and key actors in the business communitie
Conventional Weapons Destruction	The US is supporting international mi action NGOs to clear unexploded ordnan and destroy unsecured conventio weapons.
Weapons Abatement	The US committed significant assistance f conventional weapons mitigation effort including the survey, inventory and dispos

	of known weapons and ammunition storage sites in Libya.
Border Security Training	The export control and border security programme is resuming engagement with the government of Libya with targeted technical assistance focused on land border security.
Ministry of Defense Advisory Support	The Department of Defense is providing advisory support through the Defense Institution Reform Initiative to Libya's Ministry of Defense to assist in the process of establishing defense institutions and armed forces that are unified, capable and subject to civilian control and the rule of law.
Chemical Weapons Security and Destruction	The US has provided support for improving the near-term security of Libya's chemical weapons and is working closely with the Libyan authority to facilitate the eventual destruction of these weapons.
Support for the War Wounded	The US facilitated collaboration between the government of Libya and US hospitals to provide advanced medical treatment for war-wounded who were severely injured in combat. The US also assists Libya to improve management and technical capacity of the Libyan health care system and care for the war-wounded.
Refugee and IDP Relief	In the immediate aftermath of the revolution, the US provided humanitarian assistance to international organizations and NGOs aiding internally displaced persons, refugees, logistics, water sanitation and hygiene activities as well as distribution of emergency relief supplies and food assistance.
High education Tax Force	In May 2012, the US and Libya launched the US-Libya Higher Education Tax Force to expand educational exchanges and cooperation.
Fulbright	Libyan students who were scheduled to participate in the Fulbright programme prior to the revolution have had their candidacies restored. In the 2012-2013 academic year, Libya will send 14 Fulbrights to the United States.
English Language	The English Access Micro scholarship Programme has three active programs in Libya – one in Tripoli and two in Benghazi with a total of 80 Libyan students ages 17-18.
Cultural Preservation	The US is providing resources toward

	partnership between Oberlin College and the Libyan Department of Antiquities to document and preserve endangered archeological sites.
International Visiting Leaders Programme	Approximately 30 Libyan government officials, youth and civil society representatives, women leaders and a journalist will participate in three-week professional development during the FY 2012 fiscal year

Cultural Preservation	The US is providing resources toward partnership between Oberlin College and the Libyan Department of Antiquities to document and preserve endangered archeological sites.
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**Source:** Extract from Fact Sheet, Office of the Special Coordinator for Middle East Transition (MET) US Department of States

### Analyzing United States Military and Strategic Involvement in Libya Crisis

Richard Haass of the US Council on Foreign Relations had argued that US interests in Libya was “less than vital.” Steven Walt, Harvard University Professor similarly argued that the United States had no strategic interest at stake in the outcome of Libya revolution. However, the US interests in the Middle East, North Africa and her involvement in the Libya Crisis speak volumes contrary to Haass and Walt’s submissions. Their arguments are more refuted and contradicted by the office of the Special Coordinator for Middle East Transition’s Fact Sheet on US roles in Libya. As shown above the United States has a special unit that coordinates Middle East Transition (MET). This is an indication that The US interest to get Middle East areas transitioned to democracy is in motion and her involvement in Libya as shown by the council is purely a physical demonstration of US interest in Libya and attempt to achieve it. The US propagation of liberal democracy within the global environment is not hidden. Middle East and North Africa are receiving their share of democratization occasioned by the dictatorial politics and anti-western fanaticism which has over the decades made liberal penetration of the zone difficult. Dictatorship in Libya and other surrounding states constituted opportunities for military intervention with primary objectives to defeating the dictator and transitioning the society to democracy as a way to linking it up to the US led democratic world. Therefore, US interest in Libya is very vital and her strategic interest was at stake in the outcome of the crisis.

### Lessons from United States’ Involvement in Libya Crisis

Having said all these, it is necessary to learn from US involvement in Libyan revolution as a basis for advising states that may find themselves in the same situation Libya did. The lessons are prescribed for dictator and potential insurgents. It is important to identify some of these lessons discernible from the Libyan situation.

1. In the first instance, despite political and economic inclinations the researcher acknowledge the fact that there is an ongoing attempt to transition dictatorial societies to western prescribed form of democracy and the United States is leading other capitalist

states to achieve this. The trend is an outcome of the defeat of the communist East and triumphant attempt by the capitalist West to liquidate and replace dictatorships with capitalist hegemony across possible world. As the East collapsed, the west celebrated its victory by attempting to establish its hegemony across the world. The struggle according to Mugabe has taking a military dimension that protects neither civilian population nor military installations of the affected state. The dictatorship is defeated and terminated for a regime change and political transition, to a democratic government, to emerge. How democratic a government so established would be considering imperial character of the intervening country(s) is a question of utmost interest? Dictators and potential insurgents should take cognizance of this democratic trend and reality to guide their policies and actions so as not to be victim of this struggle.

2. Secondly, it is either deceptive or lack of information to argue that the US does not have vital interest in Libya Revolution. Or for anybody to argue that the US has nothing at stake in the outcome of Libya Revolution. The study has shown us that US interest in Libya is not only vital but as well rooted in the struggle to democratize Middle East region. Attempts to relief Libya of its years of dictatorship and democratize it is an aspect of that rooted interest with a measure of humanitarian sympathy for Libyans not ruled out.
3. Lesson has also been learnt that in such Libyan situation, the United Nations can issue an open ended resolution like that of 1973 which can empower members to handle international issues as they want without concrete UN control. Resolution 1973 that permitted members of the UN to use “all necessary measures” to intervene in Libya was as good as allowing members initially to do their will. This singular act is a confirmation of the anarchic nature of international system. As the realist theory of international relations states, international system has no government regulating actors within the system. The existence of the United Nations does not provide such active regulations to check powerful members influencing its resolutions to their whims and caprices. For states within the system, caution should be their watch word.
4. It is important also to note that even without US interest, dictatorship of a prolonged category should ordinarily attract the attention of international community otherwise some dictators would conquer and reduce citizens to slaves. To avoid such situation, super powers are looked upon to intervene but the way and manner such intervention plays out becomes an issue of international discourse.
5. Finally, the study has shown that dictatorship and internal resistance associated with it create opportunity for foreign intervention especially with an escalated military actionstaking the lives of civilian population. Again, it showed that most times the loss outweighs the gain in terms of the level of damage incurred by people who only asked for freedom.

## **Conclusion**

The struggle to achieve political freedom and democratize dictatorial societies has involved the US military and her socio-economic and political state powers to achieve her political objectives in what is called humanitarian intervention or “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P). Internal resistance to dictatorship with escalated military response against the rebels created situation for intervention in Libya. Evidence showed that US

foreign policy preferences for global democracy and her involvement in Libya revolution proved the vitality of her interest in Libya situation. Both military and non-military participation of the US in Libya were her ways to achieving her political objectives without failing to do some humanitarian assistances in the course of intervention.

Except the trend is halted, more interventions may come even beyond Middle East and North Africa for reasons no other than what happen in Libya. Dictators and political insurgents should have a rethink and consider the implication of foreign intervention and see diplomatic negotiation as a viable tool for political settlements. Self-ego must stop pushing dictators to self-destruction.

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