

The following excerpt is an analysis of Barack Obama and John McCain's thoughts regarding humanitarian aid and intervention.

() When it comes to sending troops to protect the oppressed, it is Mr. Obama who has sounded a lot more like an interventionist than Mr. McCain. Mr. McCain has long been a skeptic of sending American troops on humanitarian quests whether for peacekeeping, peacemaking or missions that morphed from one to the other. He has reminded voters that he opposed military interventions in Lebanon in the early 1980s, and in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia in the 1990s. ()

Mr. Obama has praised what the United Nations calls a **responsibility to protect**, a doctrine that elevates aiding oppressed populations over respecting national borders. Mr. McCain has agreed, but both men have emphasized the need for case-by-case judgment.

() In a debate in early October, Mr. Obama said that in Darfur the United States could be providing logistical support, setting up a no-fly zone, at relatively little cost to us if it had help from other nations. But when pressed, Mr. Obama's aides said that he would be hesitant to commit American ground troops, who are in short supply because of the demands of Iraq and Afghanistan.()

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/23/us/politics/23policy.html?ref=politics>