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### Wrestling the Beast

In recent years, Afghanistan has been the controversial topic on the minds of many. Afghanistan's heroin production is largely to blame for this. To combat heroin production, the United States government has employed various policies and actions. Three promising United States solutions to this heroin-infested mess include a stricter inspection of imports; a larger, better-paid coast guard; and the eradication of poppy fields.

To repress the infiltration of drugs into the United States, the United States government should enact a more thorough inspection of imports to cripple much of the drug market. Afghanistan centers most of its economy on the production of heroin. "Afghanistan produces three-quarters of the world's opium and heroin—hundreds of tons a year" (Roston 24). Most of the heroin found in the world is from Afghanistan. After the heroin is produced, it is shipped to many large American cities to find a comfortable home in the veins of addicts. By intercepting the huge loads of heroin being imported, the United States would soon make a dent in Afghanistan's unscathed heroin dream.

A larger, better-paid United States coast guard would protect the nation from the drug-flooded imports crossing the borders. With a more effective coast guard, the United States could fight Afghanistan's terrorists indirectly by hurting their pocketbooks. "Bin Laden's ties to the drug trade have been difficult to pin down. But American officials say that reliable intelligence reports from U. S. allies have linked him and his al-Qaeda network to the drug trade" (Pound 1).

By thwarting their drug efforts, the tighter border control would also pry the warlords loose from their regional monopolies. With the warlords out of power, a more stable government might be possible for the Afghanistan people.

Along with a movement towards military intervention, the eradication of poppy fields would decrease the ever-growing heroin production. With destruction of the poppy, poppy's by-product, opium, would suffer greatly. "Opium cultivation became important for the war effort for its ability to raise cash. Guerillas, peasants, and criminals would plant the poppies, and prune, irrigate, and harvest them. The by-product would then be smuggled across the porous Pakistani border" (MacDonald 64). The eradication of the poppy crops would lead to the loss of the warlords' power. They would no longer have their prized heroin to financially support their military stronghold on Afghanistan. This would be another means to help quell the rapidly growing drug problem.

As drugs lead the world into a downward spiral, Afghanistan finds itself in the middle of the predicament. To resolve this quandary, the United States must take action. Three effective methods to resolve this issue are a stricter inspection of imports; a larger, better-paid coast guard; and the eradication of poppy fields. Any one of these methods would be an important step to slow heroin production and create a sound government in Afghanistan.

Works Cited

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