

# **A STUDENT'S ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLITICS**



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From the Author:

I hope you enjoyed reading the following essays. I am a political science/history major and I am working on my first novel. The title of my work-in-progress is: “A Movement for a Better America.” To learn more about my upcoming book or to ask a question, my email is [aoberne@gmail.com](mailto:aoberne@gmail.com)

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## **LISTED ESSAYS ARE:**

- Critique Analysis on “Environmental Double Standards for Sport Utility Vehicles”
- Reel vs. Real of Charlie Wilson’s War
- Synopsis of “Abolish the Electoral College: House Joint Resolution 36”
- The Causes for American Participation into WWI and Effects that WWI Brought to the World
- The Causes Vietnam War and the Major Flaws in America’s Participation

# Critique Analysis on “Environmental Double Standards for Sport Utility Vehicles”

Since the dawn of the twentieth century, American manufacturers have engineered numerous sorts of automobiles to keep up with the growing demand from consumers. The article, “Environmental Double Standards for Sport Utility Vehicles,” from the advocacy of Suv.org, argues that SUVs unleash a maelstrom of problems for the United States concerning their fuel dependency that stirs more addiction towards petroleum and concerning their overwhelming effect to the environment. Specifically, SUVs expel large quantities of greenhouse gases and eject even higher traces of air pollutants that greatly harm the general health of any community. Contrary to this article, an argument written by John Gragg, “The American Dream: Why Environmentalists Attack the SUV,” clearly illustrates the positive side of SUVs. In general, SUVs best serve in the interest of human nature, which is the desire to alter the environment to

best benefit his or her own prosperity. Ultimately, Suv.org submitted a poorly organized analysis with information jumbled up in such a manner that it ignores its intended purpose.

Most definitely, Suv.org scrambles its information rather than presenting an organized argument. Primarily, Suv.org starts the case by imparting the thesis in the first sentence of the article without any effort in grabbing the audience's attention beforehand. As quoted from the article, "SUVs present a paradox to consumers – television advertisements present them as a way to return to nature, yet they actually accelerate existing environmental problems" (p. 546). From this opening statement, the reader can clearly see that the intended purpose of this whole commentary was to issue attacks at SUVs and disregard any attempt to actually persuade the opposition. Subsequently, the organization springs forth irrelevant statements to the paragraphs they support. In regards to Suv.org, "The U.S. EPA and the Department of Energy have teamed up to create a website that lists the vehicle fuel economy, and compares vehicles to each other. (p.549)" As observed, Suv.org has the intention to just spur information without regarding the appeal of the data towards the thesis. Finally, the organization seeks to engulf the readers with as much information as possible rather than concentrating on swaying the addressees with critical information. As cited from the article, "Commercials often depict happy families driving on mountain roads, avoiding falling rocks and enjoying the flowered wilderness in leader-seated comfort" (p.546). Perceptibly, commercials have the tendency to mislead a buyer upon false pretenses. Nevertheless, commercials provide no connection to what makes SUVs wrong.

Similarly, Suv.org intends to baffle the audience by focusing overwhelmingly on general environmental issues instead of how they relate specifically to SUVs. Firstly, the organization seeks to address the issue of global warming rather than the issue relating to SUVs. As indicated from the organization, "The IPCC anticipates highest temperatures and heat waves over the next

century, as well as more intense and dangerous storms” (p. 547). Clearly, the issue about how weather patterns effect the environment has no relevancy towards the concerning topic.

Secondly, the group centers on the problem of how smog control and air pollutants affect the human body instead of how they relate to SUVs. As stated, “These combustion pollutants contribute to eye and throat irritation, coughing, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, confusion, and headaches” (p. 549). Noticeably, the author deliberates entirely on the issue of the harm from ignition toxins rather than their relation with SUVs. Finally, the organization concentrates on the centerfold of oil dependency in the absence of information regarding SUVs. As asserted, “Currently, more than half of the oil we use is imported” (p. 550). Clearly, the statement has to do with foreign trade and not SUVs.

Correspondingly, the association emphasizes too much persuasion in certain places that it simply ignores the informative purpose about the dangers of SUVs. Initially, Suv.org uses an ethical source without providing much credible evidence from that source. As stated from the author, “The excellent USC report is called ‘Drilling in Detroit,’ and it can be found at [http://www.ucsusa.org/vehicles/drill\\_detroit-exec.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/vehicles/drill_detroit-exec.html)” (p. 551). Evidently, Suv.org intends to direct the reader to find the facts for the essay rather than simply providing them for the viewer. Subsequently, the group tries to escape the responsibility of providing information to certify the article’s assertions. As quoted, “However, the NAS points out that reducing the weight of the largest SUVs on the road would make all drivers safer, since the biggest SUVs tend to do more damage in an accident” (p. 550). The impression made from this statement makes the issue of safety irrelevant, since Suv.org dismissed bringing forth any data from NAS to substantiate the claim presented. Lastly, the organization ends the article by outright bashing automobile manufacturers. As indicated, “But automakers are unlikely to make significant improvements

unless they are pushed” (551). Unmistakably, the association discounts any attempt in persuading the opposition.

Concluding, Suv.org offered a disappointingly study about SUVs cluttered up with the intention to ignore its rationale. First, Suv.org disregarded any attempt in either organizing its facts or seeking to grab the readers’ attention. Second, some of the facts specify no correlation to the topic at hand. Last but not least, the article has persuasion intended to drive reader the away either by requiring him or her to look up the specifics, by disregarding any verification for the claims asserted, or by lacking any friendly tone in addressing the concerns brought up the opposition.

## Cited References

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## Reel vs. Real of Charlie Wilson's War

War, a dispute involving international relations and organized militias has remained a well recognizable and instituted element within human society and history. During the year of 1979, the Soviet Union initiated a war for soviet control and expansion over the Central Asian state of Afghanistan. This confrontation known as the "Soviet-Afghan War" or the "Soviet War of Afghanistan" lasted from 1979 to 1989 and was the Soviet equivalent of psychological recoil brought forth to the United States from its involvement in Vietnam. Eventually, the consequences of the conflict and its outcome swiftly expanded pass towards America as terrorist organizations invested in secured operations of terror due to the power vacuum in Afghanistan. However, the armed conflict in Afghanistan and its implications largely reflected the politics and the individuals involved (Crile X). Politicians such as Former President Ronald Reagan and Former Representative Charlie Wilson had made it their top priority to fight Communism and

destroy any Socialist or Communist regime, including the Soviet Union (Weeler). Their efforts generated various films of work to highlight and retell the war from a Hollywood perspective.

The most current film produced out of the Soviet-Afghan Conflict was “Charlie Wilson’s War” directed by Mike Nichols with its screenplay written by Aaron Sorkin. A Universal Picture, the movie originated from the book “Charlie Wilson’s War” by George Crile and featured highly reputable actors such as Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, and Philip Seymour Hoffman playing the roles of Charlie Wilson, Joanne Herring, and Gust Akrakotos. Essentially, the film was about Charlie Wilson’s role in the Afghan conflict and started with Charlie Wilson, hard liquor drinking, girl chasing representative of the second Congressional District of Texas attending an award ceremony in his honor. After the ceremony, the movie suddenly flashbacked to the early 1980’s where Charlie Wilson has his beginnings with the Afghan struggle in his seated position in a hot-tub with two half naked girls. A television screen soon directed Charlie Wilson’s attention away from the girls to a documentary concerning the Afghan struggle. The film continued to highlight Charlie’s progressing desire to help the Afghan as he meets and courts Joanne Herrings, a wealthy businesswoman from Texas with many international connections. Herrings used her feminine charm to fully persuade Wilson to take dire action in helping the Afghans in their conflict with the Soviet Regime. After largely discouraged by CIA’s current involvement, Congressman Wilson encountered CIA operative Gust Akrakotos under surprising yet fortunate circumstances. The duo became an unstoppable team with Akrakotos gathered intelligence on the Soviets and Wilson’s unchecked congressional power in two powerful seats on the Foreign Relations Committee. They managed through a secretive CIA endeavor to gather and transfer an alarmingly huge stockpile of former Soviet arms from Egypt to the Afghan fighters who manage to defeat the Soviets in the end. Overall, the movie presented

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