

Jacob Utter

Michael C. Rothberg Scholarship: Essay A

I have often told people, when asked my personal goals, that I wish to make a sizable amount of money. This is often met with either open or silent accusations of greed, vanity, and even shallowness. But this money is not for me. My parents have never had much money, and so my whole life has been a tempest of “where can we save” and “what will happen next”. This is felt even more now as I head off to college, unable to pay without loans for the opportunity that I have overcome so many challenges, namely Attention Deficit Disorder and Type II Diabetes, to achieve. I do not blame them in any way; I cannot tell another person how to live their life if I have not experienced his or her situation. But I do not wish my children to have to limit themselves, and worry about their educational future as I have, though I will not simply hand them money that is unearned. But there is another reason I strive for this goal; to give back. I don't need a private jet, a giant mansion, or a legion of Italian sports cars; I would rather spend that money on helping those who need it. And so it happens that I find Michael C. Rothberg's legacy of philanthropy, drive, and success one which I not only find reflected in myself, but also wish to emulate more in my future.

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Michael C. Rothberg Scholarship: Essay B

If I was given unlimited power and resources to stop terrorism, my first step would of course be to eliminate current terrorist organizations via large intelligence networks and armed forces. I would not, however, simply march a huge army into countries suspected of harboring terrorist groups, since this gives the impression of invasion and creates hostility. I would only need small units, capable of taking out terrorist leaders, leaving the organizations scattered and easily kept in check. But this alone would not help resolve the threat of terrorism. After the initial removal of hostile persons, I would pour vast resources into improving the standard of living in the countries supporting these groups, as well as increasing educational opportunities. The advancement of these countries will hopefully serve not only to relieve the feelings of inferiority that often lead to anger at more modern societies, but also to perhaps help them learn that violence is not always the answer, and that through cooperation peace truly can be established. But this is where a problem arises; even if I poured nearly unlimited resources into advancing terrorist countries, it would take at least a generation or two before anti-western feelings can be at non-threatening levels, and that's looking at the situation optimistically. So I find it is really unlimited time, not power and resources, which is needed to stop terrorism.