

# Charlie Wilson's War Movie Questions

*DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. They will be collected after the film.*

1. Charlie is told that he is 'a man of many character flaws'. How do these faults affect the way you feel about him?
2. 'How is it possible that this Congressman of no particular importance is doing this by himself?' Why do you think Charlie's efforts were so successful? What kind of person and resources do you think it takes to change the world?
3. The characters use films, fundraisers, weaponry and politics in their attempt to change the world. How influential do you think each of these things are in shaping and changing our world? How would you like to change the world, and what methods could you use to do this?
4. Charlie works hard to provide the Afghan resistance with the means to shoot down the Soviet helicopters. There is a great deal of rejoicing when this finally happens. How did you feel when the first helicopters were shot down? What are the problems with using violence to achieve goals, and when might it be necessary to do so?
5. Why do you think the visit to the refugee camp inspired Charlie to action? To what extent do you think it is easier to care about things when we see them personally? What issues do you care about most, and what first aroused your interest in those things?
6. Charlie's covert war unites Israel, Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and America in helping the Afghan people fight the Soviets. What motivates these countries to work together? Have you ever found yourself working alongside people you don't naturally get on well with? What brought you together?
7. At the end of the film it is indicated that the aftermath of the war in Afghanistan might fuel anger against America in the future. Given the current situation in the region, do you think that Charlie's actions were justifiable? What do you think drives people to become terrorists?
8. Gust tells Charlie a story about a Zen master who refuses to say whether events are good or bad, instead the master simply comments: 'we'll see'. What do you think the point of the story was? How can we make decisions when the ultimate consequences of our actions are inevitably unforeseeable?
9. Charlie describes US foreign policy as, 'we change the world and then we leave.' How is this ending ironic, or the opposite of what you may have expected to happen? Or is it not, in fact, ironic? How does this 'leaving' at the end of the movie better shape your understanding of the conflicts in Afghanistan that followed, the rise of the Taliban and the terrorism that followed, and the current fighting and rebuilding that is taking place?