

think tanks and advocacy groups push particular political agendas, the research reports are prepared by experts in their fields. Debaters interested in supporting a larger role for government in solving social problems will find support from groups such as the Urban Institute, the Brookings Institution, and the Carter Center. Evidence opposing greater government involvement is available from groups such as the Cato Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, the Hudson Institute, and the Heritage Foundation. Debaters interested in environmental advocacy can find supporting materials from groups such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund. For every public policy problem, there are think tanks or advocacy groups preparing reports on that specific problem.

The following paragraphs describe the major research think tanks “in their own words”—meaning the descriptions are those contained in the “about us” links on the groups’ own websites.

American Enterprise Institute (www.aei.org/library.htm): “The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of freedom—limited government, private enterprise, vital cultural and political institutions, and a strong foreign policy and national defense—through scholarly research, open debate, and publications. Founded in 1943 and located in Washington, D.C., AEI is one of America’s largest and most respected think tanks.”

American Foreign Policy Council (www.afpc.org): “For two decades, the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC) has played an essential role in the U.S. foreign policy debate. Founded in 1982, AFPC is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing information to those who make or influence the foreign policy of the United States and to assisting world leaders, particularly in the former USSR, with building democracies and market economies. AFPC is widely recognized as a source of timely, insightful analysis on issues of foreign policy, and works closely with members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and the policymaking community.”

Brookings Institution (www.brook.edu): “In its research, The Brookings Institution functions as an independent analyst and critic, committed to publishing its findings for the information of the public. In its conferences and activities, it serves as a bridge between scholarship and public policy, bringing new knowledge to the attention of decisionmakers and affording scholars a better insight into public policy issues. The Institution traces its beginnings to 1916 with the founding of the Institute for Government Research, the first private organization devoted to public policy issues at the national level.”

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (www.carnegieendowment.org): “The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing cooperation between nations and promoting active international