Avoid a racist foreign policy

To the Editor:

The column by Stewart Cobb ("Drop mandatory meal plans," The Tech, Feb. 14) concerning mandatory meal plans at MIT resonates with the common experience of many MIT students.

For those who have spent years living in dormitories, the mandatory meal plan is a constant reminder of the institutional and individual deprivations of being a student at MIT. The mandatory meal plan has been a lightning rod for student resistance for decades, with students and alumni alike demanding its end.

While Cobb argues that the mandatory meal plan is a "good idea," he fails to acknowledge the racial and economic disparities that it perpetuates. The mandatory meal plan disproportionately affects students of color, who are often the first to experience food insecurity and hunger.

Moreover, the mandatory meal plan exacerbates wealth disparities among MIT students. Students with higher financial aid and scholarship packages are often less affected by the mandatory meal plan, while students with lower financial aid struggle to afford the mandatory meal plan.

It is important to recognize that the mandatory meal plan is not just about food. It is about power, control, and the preservation of institutional privilege. The mandatory meal plan is a symbol of the ways in which MIT has historically privileged the wealthy and marginalized the poor.

The mandatory meal plan is a manifestation of the systemic racial and economic disparities that exist at MIT. It is time for MIT to end the mandatory meal plan and to invest in meaningful solutions to address food insecurity and hunger on campus.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

MIT student