

THE 41st SUMMER SYMPOSIUM ON FOREIGN POLICY

The 41st Summer Symposium on Foreign Policy, organized by the Osgood Center of International Studies, was focused on the first year of Biden's Administration. It offered an in-depth interactive analysis of the evolution of foreign policy, international economics and current issues about United States of America's international affairs. The conference gathered participants of all over the world, who had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of international affairs and how to forge a career path on this field.

Participants met analysts from think tanks, international institutions and government agencies located in Washington, D.C. Among them were Brookings Institution, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Hudson Institute, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, the Department of State, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and many more. During each of the talks, students could interact with admissions officials, former students, and professors from programs at George Washington's Elliott School, Georgetown's Walsh School, Johns Hopkins SAIS and the American University School of International Service.

POLITIKUM would like to present a brief summary of the main ideas that the panelists shared during the symposium:

Richard N. Hass

Council on Foreign Relations

"Foreign Policy in a Changing World"



- The current global system has resulted inadequate on international affairs, as it has not made a significant impact on worldwide aspects such as economy and health.
- Diplomacy should be taken as a tool to use with the purpose of benefiting each country. It is a way for two or more countries to find common ground regarding a topic and look for a solution.

John McArthur

Brookings Institution

"Canada and the World"



- Canada stands in the middle of the global arena as a reliable partner with enough economic strength to counterbalance the traditional power relations between China, the US and Russia. All these countries need Canada as an ally in order to maintain their influence in their regions.
- On the achievement of the SDGS, Canada is a most relevant partner, as many countries rely on cooperation and receive Canadian bilateral aid for reaching those objectives.

Derick (Sandy) Hulme

Alma College

"Biden's Foreign Policy Agenda"



- The Biden administration faces foreign policy challenges such as nuclear proliferation, climate change or competition between traditional world powers, through multilateralism.
- Biden has also tried to highlight on his work plan that only democracy will allow to deliver correctly, invest in the American human capital and ensure the availability and access to opportunities that elevate the nation.

Sarah Hillware

Women in Global Health

"Women as Leaders in Global Health"



- International development of global health is interlinked with the success of all countries, that is why the division of the world into global north vs global south is problematic.
- Women in global health and social care are 70% of the workforce and contribute 3 trillion dollars globally of which almost 50% is unrecognized and unpaid.

Dylan Walsh

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
"The US and Latin America"



- The current US administration is concerned with the Political Systems in South American countries. Poverty and violence have positioned democracy at risk, as it has been shown that most countries in the region have trouble to choose their authorities.
- Latin America and the Caribbean are important for the US, as the country has realized the importance of South America in topics such as energy security, with the region being their main source of import of raw materials.

Stephan Bierling

University of Regensburg
"The US and Europe"



- Germany and USA share mostly security interests- but there is a hesitancy in Germany to fully collaborate which is founded in the years of Trump presidency.
- If the EU want to continue with the values of freedom and prosperity, they have to stick to the US.

Julia Nesheiwat

US Arctic Research Commission
"The Arctic in US National Security and Foreign Policy Perspective"



- The Arctic is a crucial region for topics such as science, climate change, and national security. Therefore, it promotes international cooperation, as countries involved share information between each other to look for solutions.
- The Arctic has become more relevant in recent years because of the fast-paced change of the environment in the region. The changes that happen there have tremendous impact on a global scale.

Cindy Dyer

Vital Voices Global Partnership

“Global Violence Against Women as a Foreign Policy Issue”

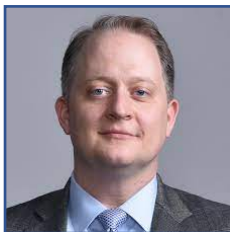


- To end forced marriage under 18 there has to be a marriage contract in place that includes women's right to work, to go to school etc., in general things that determine WHAT they can do because you can't just forbid the marriage in a lot of countries but you can better the outcome and situation for women.
- The UN's approach on gender-based violence needs an international treaty especially for that. There are already existing treaties to eliminate gender-based discrimination, but we need a more specific protocol.

Shane Harris

The Washington Post

"Trends in American Foreign Policy and National Security"

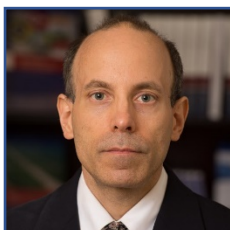


- The American public doesn't really trust the media. The reason? Although a journalist should limit himself to presenting the facts impartially, it is increasingly common for what is presented is only what spectators want to hear.
- With the arrival of the internet, it is more usual to reach media. Before, anyone who intended to reach people had to do it through the printed media. Nowadays a smart device and good connectivity is enough.

Richard Weitz

Hudson Institute

“The US and Russia”



- The US under the Biden administration is following a mix between the policies of both former administrations regarding arms control. Biden sticks with Obama's approach of denuclearization but on the other hand he didn't immediately rejoin the treaties that Trump left.
- Russia and China relations are stronger than ever and are going to stay like this in the future due to serious ties like the belt and road initiative, common interests and the good relations between the leaders. This makes the triangle of US-Russia-China a very interesting one.

Michael O'Hanlon

Brookings Institution

“US Military Policies Under Biden”



- The Taliban relation to al-Qaeda is dangerous for the US and for the international community, since a Taliban government in Afghanistan could mean that the country would become a shelter for terrorists that seek to compromise the US interests in the region.
- The US plan of building a military and police force in Afghanistan has not been successful, but that does not mean that it was a correct decision to withdraw military troops from the country, as the current occupation could have lasted longer for the sake of US interests in the region.

Robert Sutter

George Washington University

“The US and China”

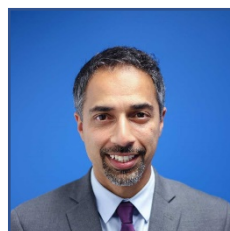


- The Biden Administration's deliberative approach to China is influenced by US domestic politics and Congress favoring a continued robust hard line against Chinese challenges.
- Until the Obama administration there was a stable relation between China and US because both countries agreed on a pragmatic approach, but this changed with the Chinese activities becoming more intrusive.

Trita Parsi

Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

"The US and Iran"



- From the bigger picture, it was right to withdraw from Afghanistan because the idea of being in there was designed for and from the US, and there is a tendency that when the US intervenes in other countries, they don't win these wars, it just prolongs the war and more people suffer.
- The idea of 'if we stop Iran, everything in the region will stop' is naive, there are more countries and issues involved, it's just not the complete picture. There is a more balanced regional approach needed so that we can better our approach in Iran as well.

Ambassador Reuben Brigety

Sewanee: The University of the South

"The US Racial Divide and Foreign Policy"



- The Confederate Government was the first, in world history, to base its mandate on the idea that black men are not equal to white men, and that their natural position is one of subordination and servitude to the white race.
- It is simply untenable to say that we are excited to talk about history as long as we do not talk about those belonging to a race other than white because it makes us uncomfortable. We must respect and elevate our common humanity. Contesting this idea has been the dividing line throughout the history of the South.

Amanda Keammerer

Javilud LLC

"The US and Cybersecurity"

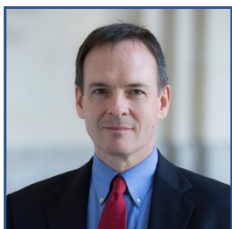


- Cyber topics should be treated at a human level, as majority of dangers that threaten us nowadays are caused by human error.
- Cybersecurity is important to not underestimate the basics, every single detail should be taken into consideration for the security of ourselves and our information.

Robert Daly

Woodrow Wilson Center

"Managing the US-China Relationship"



- China is a story of recovery or revitalization, and its Communist Party must integrate internationally to survive and meet the needs of the Chinese people. In this sense, China is not competing with us, but we are with China.
- The best thing the US can do in the face of this competition is to manage it. Proper management includes maximizing your profits, minimizing your losses, and avoiding war.