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# GLOBAL CONFLICTS AND CRISES THE VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

A CONVERSATION WITH:

HELENE COOPER, THE NEW YORK TIMES  
PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT

ELISE LABOTT, CNN  
GLOBAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MISSY RYAN, THE WASHINGTON POST  
PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET WARNER, PBS NEWSHOUR  
CHIEF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

MODERATED BY:  
ELISABETH BUMILLER, THE NEW YORK TIMES  
DEPUTY WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

DECEMBER 15, 2014  
LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM 12 P.M.

THE MAYFLOWER RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
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PROMOTING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



**Women's Leadership**

**Global Engagement**

**VOLUME VIII - ISSUE I**



## **Ambassador Susan Rice** US National Security Advisor

### **Major National Security Challenges Facing the US**

May 14, 2014—WFPG honored National Security Advisor Susan Rice at its Celebrating Women Leaders Luncheon. The conversation focused on major national security challenges facing the US and was moderated by PBS NewsHour Co-Ancor and Managing Editor Judy Woodruff. Ambassador Rice addressed Russian intervention in Ukraine, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Syrian Civil War, the Iranian talks on nuclear weapons, the Benghazi investigation, tensions between China and its neighbors in the South China Sea, the efforts to recover the kidnapped Nigerian girls, and the current state of American foreign policy and America's role in the world.

On the crisis in Ukraine, Rice reaffirmed the administration's commitment to an internal dialogue that, she hopes, will allow the people to choose their own form of government and conduct peaceful elections resulting in a democratic transfer of power. She also reiterated that Putin's annexation of Crimea was illegitimate and illegal and that the US would consider enforcing sectoral sanctions on the Russian economy if Russian forces move further into Ukraine or if Putin takes any action to destabilize Ukraine's election. According to Rice, the United States and Europe, not Putin, would determine the "price he pays" for his actions.

Rice discussed her recent visit to the Middle East and addressed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the US support for a two-state solution. In her view, blame for the deterioration of negotiations does not lie with one side or the other, citing Israeli continued settlement construction and Palestinian reconciliation with Hamas. She also spoke about Syria and the administration's recent Washington meeting with the Syrian moderate opposition, where issues of humanitarian and financial assistance to rebel controlled

territories and the challenges of fighting a two-front war—against Assad and extremists including Al-Qaeda—were discussed. On the issue of Syrian chemical weapons, Rice said the removal of identified weapons was successful, as 92.5% were already out of the country. Regarding negotiations with Iran on ending their nuclear program, Ambassador Rice said that it is "too soon to tell" what the future will bring but that she is hopeful. On Benghazi, Rice stated that she could not say what new evidence the House Committee would uncover, as the White House has already produced a multitude of documents. She reaffirmed the administration's commitment to implementing the accountability review board's recommendations to safeguard US facilities abroad.

Rice also discussed President Obama's recent trip to Asia and its impact on US-China relations, particularly related to the current territorial disputes in the South China Sea. She praised China's neighbors for seeking solutions to these territorial disputes through international bodies and criticized China's "provocative and unhelpful" actions.



Ambassador Susan Rice and moderator Judy Woodruff of PBS

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On the subject of Nigeria and the kidnapping of over 200 school girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram, Rice insisted that the first priority of the international community should be to locate the girls. She elaborated that the US role is to offer advice and military power to the Nigerian government, should such a request be made, but that the US must respect Nigerian sovereignty.

Ambassador Rice also reflected on the current state of US foreign policy and the US's role in the world today. She emphasized the US's role as a global leader, partner, and role model for other states in terms of our moral values, culture, technology and our economic strength.

She said that during her recent travels in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, the US's partners and allies were continually impressed with US leadership and strength. The one criticism she heard of the US was of American political polarization, which she believes weakens the perception of US leadership.

As a woman leader in foreign policy, Rice strongly encouraged and advised young people considering careers in foreign policy and public service to just "do it," and to pursue their passions. Rice believes that public service can be pursued through government, the non-profit sector, journalism, and even the private sector. ♦



WFPG Board Chair Ann Stock, Ambassador Susan Rice, and Judy Woodruff



Judy Woodruff, WFPG President Patricia Ellis & Catherine Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues



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Board Member Theresa Loar of CH2M Hill with Ambassador Jose Cuisia of the Philippines and CH2M Hill guests



Judy Woodruff with Board Members Donna McLarty, Elisabeth Bumiller, Isabel Jasinowski, Ann Stock, Patricia Ellis, Theresa Loar, and Mary Catherine Toker

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# WFPG Celebrates the Voices of Women Journalists in Foreign Policy

## **Karen DeYoung**

Senior National Correspondent and Associate Editor,  
The Washington Post

## **Jill Dougherty**

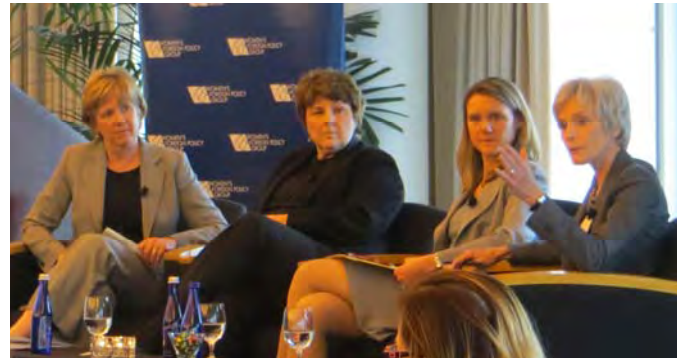
Foreign Affairs Correspondent, CNN

## **Siobhan Gorman**

Intelligence Correspondent, The Wall Street Journal

## **Elisabeth Bumiller**

Deputy Washington Bureau Chief, The New York Times



Nov 21—WFPG's 2013 Celebrating Women Leaders Luncheon highlighted the accomplishments of women journalists and included a conversation moderated by Elisabeth Bumiller, *New York Times* Deputy Washington Bureau Chief. The panel of honorees included Karen DeYoung, Associate Editor and Senior National Security Correspondent of *The Washington Post*; Jill Dougherty, CNN Foreign Affairs Correspondent; and Siobhan Gorman, *The Wall Street Journal* Intelligence Correspondent. The journalists shared insights from their coverage of key foreign policy and national security issues.

DeYoung discussed Secretary John Kerry's approach to foreign policy and his recent trip to the Middle East and Europe. She described Kerry as "the Energizer Bunny of foreign policy" because of his energetic and spontaneous leadership style. According to DeYoung, Kerry feels there has been a dearth of US diplomacy, and has attempted to remedy this by increasing US involvement in global issues, such as the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the conflict in Syria. DeYoung also commented that Kerry's independence has at times strained his relations with the White House and within State. Despite his active involvement in Syria and the Middle

East, Kerry has paid little attention the Obama administration's stated foreign policy priorities, such as the Asia pivot and Russia.

Gorman discussed the domestic and foreign policy implications of the Snowden disclosures. The leaked information forced the NSA to admit to "a whole host of wrong-doing" including violations of privacy and court orders, and has led many to question the agency's competence. Gorman asserted that it may now be the right time to consider reforms at the NSA. She also addressed the foreign policy consequences of the leaked NSA foreign surveillance programs, such as the tapping of Angela Merkel's cell phone. According to Gorman, these revelations have led to a broader international discussion about surveillance, especially between the US and its European allies.

Dougherty addressed Russia's changing role on the world stage, characterizing it as "a resurgent Russia." She cited Russia's involvement with the chemical weapons issue in Syria, the top-level Russian delegation sent to Egypt, and Russian-Israeli talks about Iran's nuclear program as examples of Russia's new proactive approach to foreign policy. Dougherty emphasized that Russia is "in search of itself," and is attempting to construct a national identity both at home and abroad. She argued that Putin's administration is also increasing its focus on soft power strategies, and aims to portray Russia as "the moral bastion of the civilized world," in contrast to the "morally bankrupt" US and Europe.

Bumiller closed the conversation by asking the panelists what areas of foreign policy coverage they believe are underreported by the US media. Gorman cited Pakistan as a topic that has faded from the headlines, while Dougherty pointed towards increased Arctic exploration, energy trade issues, and youth unemployment. DeYoung called attention to the Asia pivot, which has been largely overlooked by the media, despite the transfer of troops and shifting of military assets to the region. ♦



Board Member Theresa Loar of CH2M Hill with Ambassador Jose Cuisia of the Philippines and CH2M Hill guests

# Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

## DC & NY Mentoring Fairs

Each February, Women's Foreign Policy Group holds its annual Mentoring Fairs at George Washington University and at New York University. This year's fairs gave over 350 students an opportunity to speak with accomplished professionals in fields such as the Foreign Service, United Nations, international law and security, think tanks, international development, human rights, and public affairs and communications. Thank you to all our members and friends who volunteered to mentor and shared their experiences!

Each December, WFPG also partners with GW, NYU, and UPenn for a NGO, Non-Profit and Government Career Forum to give students a chance to learn more about job and internship opportunities. Last year, Deborah McCarthy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, opened the program with remarks on careers in the Foreign Service. McCarthy was then joined by WFPG Board member Dawn Calabia, Paolo Galli of UNDP, and Andrea Koppel of Mercy Corps, for discussion on "Careers in International Affairs: Pathways and Opportunities", which was moderated by WFPG President Patricia Ellis. Each panelist gave an overview of their back-grounds, as well as how their fields have changed, opportunities today, and the importance of work-life balance. The program also includes an expo with exhibitors from NGOs and the government.

WFPG also recently launched a international career lecture series at NYU with Patricia Nicholas, a project manager in Carnegie Corporation's International Program, and Nancy Walker, founding director and senior fellow at Ankara University Center for African Studies.

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*"I found the mentoring fair to be extremely helpful because the mentors provided advice that I would not have thought of on my own or received through generic conversations about my interest."*

*- Kameelah Dixon, New York University*

*"I was able to meet professionals that directly match my interests in international law and the UN. I have been able to connect with them after the fair and hope to keep in touch with them in the future!"*

*- Yekaterina Reyzis, The George Washington University*

*It was unbelievably inspiring, informative and exciting to talk to each and every mentor. In fact, at the fair, I was reminded of my passion in life; to have an international career through which I can have an impact on the world.*

*- Asli Sevinc, Oberlin College*

