



## Trump Lays Out “America First” Foreign Policy

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In his foreign policy speech to an elite invitation-only Washington audience, Donald Trump rolled out his “America first” foreign policy. Trump vowed that if he were elected president, American allies in Europe and Asia would have to look after themselves if they didn’t pay more for the U.S. defense umbrella.

Trump’s speech, delivered with a teleprompter in a quiet Mayflower hotel ballroom, was filled with big, awe-inspiring declarations with little detail, but delivered some insight into what foreign affairs would look like in a Trump administration.

“America first will be the overriding theme of my administration,” Trump said in his speech, delivered from a prepared text and in a subdued fashion in a stark contrast to his free-wheeling bombastic style that has powered the billionaire’s political rise on the campaign trail.

*“Under a trump administration, no American citizen will ever again feel that their needs come second to the citizens of foreign countries,” Trump said.*

“My foreign policy will always put the interests of the American people and American security first.”

Trump barely mentioned his planned proposal to ban all Muslims from entering the country – a comment that sent shockwaves through the 2016 race in the fall. Wednesday’s speech, he called it “pause for reassessment.”

He blasted President Barack Obama’s foreign policy as having “no vision, no purpose, no strategy.”

Trump’s message to ISIS:

*“Their days are numbered. I won’t tell them where and I won’t tell them how. We must as, a nation, be more unpredictable. But they’re going to be gone. And soon.”*

Possibly one of the more surprising parts of Trump’s speech was an olive branch that he said he would extend to Russia and China if he is elected.

*“We desire to live peacefully and in friendship with Russia and China,” Trump said.*

“We have serious differences with these two nations, and must regard them with open eyes. But we are not bound to be adversaries. We should seek common ground based on shared interests. Russia, for instance, has also seen the horror of Islamic terrorism.”

However, political pundits and even natural allies gave Trump’s speech a failing grade for being incoherent. It also drew snickering and disdain from foreign policy insiders who remain unconvinced that Trump is up to the job.

“It struck me as a very odd mishmash,” said Doug Bandow, a foreign policy scholar at the libertarian Cato Institute.

“He called for a new foreign policy strategy, but you don’t really get the sense he gave one.”