



## Northwood University hosts debate on U.S. involvement in Middle East

Anthony Sabella

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MIDLAND (WJRT) - (03/02/15) - It's a question that goes back decades, and the latest threat from ISIS has brought it to the forefront once again.

How far is too far, when it comes to U.S. military involvement in the Middle East?

Max Boot and Doug Bandow hashed it out, as dozens of college and high school students looked on in a packed Northwood University Lecture Hall. It was a debate on whether or not it was a mistake for the U.S. to use military force in various operations dating back to the 1980s, and whether it would be another mistake to do the same against ISIS.

Boot, a foreign policy analyst and author from New York, argued the U.S. needs to take an active role in the Middle East in order to protect itself.

"You have this death cult taking a large portion of Syria and Iraq, committing all sorts of atrocities and destabilizing the entire region, so that's a clear and present danger," he said.

On the other side is Bandow. He's a Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute and former assistant to President Reagan. He says initiatives in Afghanistan and Iraq were mistakes and only led us to the problems we're facing now.

"ISIS wouldn't exist if we had not gotten involved. Unfortunately, every time we get involved in the Middle East, we create even more problems," Bandow said.

Why have this conversation in Mid-Michigan? Northwood philosophy and political science professor Glenn Moots organized the debate and says it's all for students to gain an understanding.

"It affects them now and it'll affect them in the future. They're going to become people who make decisions for us in the future," he said.

Midland High School senior Sam Bork was one of the students in attendance.

"You come with your own policy that you're thinking, but you're also learning from them and thinking 'that's a good point I hadn't considered'," Bork said.