

# NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

## 'Keeping America Safe' is topic of Manchester forum featuring columnist Stossel

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Are America's actions overseas serving the country well? Have U.S. military interventions made the country more secure, at an acceptable cost — or have military actions proved too costly to American troops, the country's principles and our financial future?

These questions and other topics were discussed during a national security forum held at the Radisson Hotel Manchester Downtown Wednesday night, hosted by the Charles Koch Institute. The forum, titled "Keeping America Safe: National Security in the 21st Century," was moderated by John Stossel of the Fox Business Channel and featured a panel of experts including Andrew J. Bacevich, professor emeritus of international relations and history at Boston University; Stephen Kinzer, senior fellow in international and public affairs at Brown University; Chris Preble, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute; and William Ruger, vice president of research and policy at the Charles Koch Institute.

The event drew an estimated crowd of 200 people.

"This is my home state, where I was born," said Ruger. "I'm thrilled we could fill up the room. It shows how engaged Granite Staters are in the issues affecting our country."

"I admit to being remarkably ignorant on this subject but hope to learn a great deal," said Stossel. "I've lived in the world of Fox where we need to 'kill them over there before they kill us over here,' and Obama is a wimp, and it seems the predominant thinking is we're not doing a great job. Let's hear your take — how are we doing?"

Kinzer said Americans need to adjust to changes in the world hierarchy, a change that "nothing in our past has prepared us for."

"The U.S. doesn't see the world the way other countries do. We think the U.S. is the sun," said Kinzer. "Americans are going to have to adjust to a world we won't dominate in the next century."

Kinzer said cultures and civilizations go through traumas and changes.

"We have great policies to deal with a world that doesn't exist anymore," said Kinzer. "Ever since the Soviet Union had the bad manners to disappear, we've suffered from absent enemy

syndrome. We're starting to realize slowly that when you shoot across someone's border, they might shoot back."

The panelists discussed the pros and cons of U.S. military presence overseas.

"To send just one soldier to Afghanistan is the same amount as it costs to send 20 students to Phillips Exeter," said Ruger.

"I'm of the view that the U.S. military presence in Asia serves a useful purpose," said Bacevich.

When asked how the U.S. could fight ISIS, Bacevich argued that culture and education prove more effective than military action.

The panel was asked about potential threats to the U.S. in the coming years.

"China is one of those states that could be a threat to the U.S., but it's not right around the corner," said Ruger. "We have a lot of challenges in the future, but there are countries that have even greater ones."