



MILLER CENTER
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U.Va.'s Miller Center & Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Host Reagan Centennial Conference On Foreign Policy

Washington, D.C. – The University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs, together with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, hosted a two-day conference on Feb. 10 and 11 at the National Press Club. The conference, which examined the impact of President Ronald Reagan's foreign policy, was the second in a series of official Ronald Reagan Centennial Academic Symposia.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, NBC News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent Andrea Mitchell moderated a roundtable on Reagan's global legacy. Roundtable participants included Sen. Jim Webb; former Sen. John Warner; John Negroponte, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and former director of national intelligence; and former State Department official Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations.

According to Warner, Reagan's agreeable manner included "simple concise messages... delivered from the heart."

Warner said, "He won the confidence of the armed forces. He won the confidence of the American people. That was his formula."

On Friday, Feb. 11, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney gave an address offering his personal reflections on Reagan as a leader.

“He never sought to get even with anybody except by the triumph of his ideas,” said Mulroney. “He struck me as a leader more interested in healing old wounds than in settling old scores.”

More than 20 top scholars, policy makers, and journalists participated in other panel discussions throughout the conference. These discussions focused on several key issues, including Reagan’s defense buildup, global democratic expansion, the rise of global capitalism, the effects of Reagan’s economic policy, and the relationship between partisan politics and foreign policy. Participants included Zalmay Khalilzad, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Iraq, and Afghanistan; Kiron Skinner, an associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University and a fellow at the Hoover Institution; Mel Leffler, a faculty associate at the Miller Center and history professor at U.Va.; Robert Kagan, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Washington Post columnist; and Michael Barone, Washington Examiner senior political analyst.

Beginning this week, an archived webcast of the entire conference will be available at www.millercenter.org/academic/reagancentennial/video.

The conference is one of four academic conferences being held as part of the Reagan Centennial Celebration. Others will take place at the University of Southern California, the University of Notre Dame, and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson’s public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives, and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

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