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U.S. Foreign Policy in an Election Year

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On September 22, The Foreign Policy Association of Harrisburg began its 2016-2017 program year by examining the possible impact of the upcoming election on U.S. foreign policy.

About 100 members and guests were in attendance.

The speaker was Dr. Shirley Anne Warshaw, a professor of political science and the Harold G. Evans Chair of Eisenhower Leadership Studies at Gettysburg College. She has written several books on the presidency.

Dr. Warshaw began by focusing on the two leading presidential candidates, Donald Trump (R) and Hillary Clinton (D) and proceeded to break down each candidate's stance on various aspects of foreign policy, ranging from military spending to Great Britain's exit from the European Union.

The main theme she emphasized was the consistency of U.S. foreign policy over the past century regardless of which party was in power. The core principles of that policy have not wavered, she said. Her step by step breakdown displayed how the current election may challenge the status quo with Trump as the challenger.

Dr. Warshaw cited several examples of Trump's stances to show how he contradicts the normal positions of both parties on foreign policy. For instance, Trump considers NATO to be outdated. On immigration, he proposes a ban on all Muslim immigrants and plans to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border. He also is the first candidate to consider a face-to-face meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un.

Clinton was seen as mostly a continuation of the Obama administration in terms of foreign policy and therefore she would maintain the current paradigm with minimal changes. Clinton believes the U.S. has an enduring relationship with NATO. She wants to increase economic sanctions on North Korea and maintain the same policies on immigration as President Obama.

Dr. Warshaw also noted that Clinton's website is far more detailed than Trump's in spelling out their differing foreign policy positions.

2016-17 Program Topics / Schedule

- Oct. 27** 2nd Annual President's Speakers Series
American Intelligence Since 9/11
Former CIA Director Michael Hayden
West Shore Country Club, Camp Hill
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Nov. 17** 41th Annual International Fellows Reception
at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Dec. 15** Geopolitics of Climate Change
- Jan. 26** Update on Arab - Israeli Conflict
- Feb. 23** Cuba Today and After the Castro Brothers
- March 23** South China Sea Geopolitics
- April 27** Russia and the West
- May 18** Future of U.S. - Iranian Relations
- May ??** Embassy Trip to be Determined

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