David Rohde

Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Winning Foreign Correspondent, MS NOW Senior National Security Reporter, Author

Global Fault Lines: Power, Conflict, and America's Role in a Fragmenting World. In this timely keynote, David Rohde draws on decades of frontline reporting to analyze today's rapidly shifting global landscape. He examines current conflicts and offers informative insights into how U.S. foreign policy is evolving amid intensifying competition with China and Russia and turbulence in the Middle East and Europe. Grounded in firsthand experience and rigorous reporting, this talk equips audiences with a deeper understanding of the risks, trade-offs, and strategic choices defining the next era of global affairs.

Beyond the Headlines: Fairness and Facts in Our Political Moment. Rohde reflects on the challenge of covering American politics and national security in an era of deep polarization and declining media trust. With decades of experience in frontline reporting, he examines how conspiracy theories, hyperpartisanship, and misinformation distort public understanding. He makes the case for nonpartisan journalism rooted in evidence, nuance, and intellectual humility. Audiences leave with a sharper framework for evaluating today's headlines and a renewed commitment to facts over faction.

Where Tyranny Begins: Our Institutions Are Failing. How Do We Fix Them? Drawing on his book *Where Tyranny Begins*, David Rohde examines how political pressure and hyperpartisanship have weakened trust in the Justice Department and FBI. He unpacks how recent presidencies exposed structural vulnerabilities in American democracy. Rohde explains why nonpartisan public servants—from election officials to judges to career investigators—are essential to preserving the rule of law. He concludes with pragmatic reforms and a clear-eyed, hopeful case for strengthening democratic institutions before further erosion takes hold.

A Rope and a Prayer: The Story of a Kidnapping. In this gripping keynote, Rohde recounts his seven months in Taliban captivity after being kidnapped while reporting in Afghanistan. He shares how dialogue, patience, and resilience shaped his survival and ultimate escape. The story offers rare insight into extremism, misinformation, and the human dynamics inside militant movements. Both harrowing and inspiring, the talk explores courage, empathy, and the enduring power of hope under extreme pressure.