Evelyn Farkas

Foreign Policy & Global Trends Expert and Executive Director of the McCain Institute

The State of US Foreign Affairs. Dr. Farkas draws on her deep and wide-ranging policy experience to take a look at the entire gamut of foreign policy and national security challenges facing the United States. The international order appears to be in disorder—Russia and China are challenging the rules of the road and states such as North Korea continue to develop new nuclear weapons capability. Meanwhile, Radical Islamic terrorists continue to fight for control of territory in Iraq, Syria, Libya, parts of Africa, and elsewhere and to execute deadly attacks worldwide. How will this all play out? What can the United States do to secure a more profitable and peaceful future? What does this all mean for American interests domestically and abroad? This speech examines the greatest challenges and opportunities facing America today, and proposes approaches to prioritizing and managing geopolitical relationships in order to create a more stable and hopeful future.

The Perils Of Putin's Russia: Why America Needs To Counter Russia & How. Dr. Evelyn Farkas is one of America's top experts on US-Russia relations today and one of the foremost, credible voices on how to manage relations with Russia. A Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia under President Obama and three US Secretaries of Defense, she was responsible for crisis management in the aftermath of Russian military interventions in Europe and Syria, and for crafting policy towards Russia, the Black Sea, Caucasus, and the Balkans and on conventional arms control. Since she left government, she's remained in the middle of the debates about US-Russia relations and the 2016 US presidential election. With this talk, she looks at the impact Russian President Vladimir Putin has had on Russia, America, and the world. Dr. Farkas reviews the Kremlin's main objectives over the last decade, as well as the problematic and shocking means they have used to advance this agenda. Touching on everything from Russian intelligence operations, military interventions and occupations, and violations of international treaties to election meddling, propaganda, and fake news, Dr. Farkas argues for a firm American response to curb Putin's influence now and in the future. This talk is an invaluable tool for anyone seeking to better understand the true threat posed by Russia.

The Lunatic Fringe? North Korea, Platform Shoes, & The Bomb. North Korea has been seeking nuclear weapons for decades, and the international community has been trying to stop them since the 1990s. From the 1990s to the Obama administration, US policy oscillated between putting pressure on Pyongyang and offering incentives for diplomatic progress. The Obama administration opted to focus on compelling North Korea to forfeit their program through sanctions and a refusal to reward repeated nuclear and missile tests with assistance and negotiations. The speech reviews that approach as well as current options for managing the North Korean threat. This eye-opening speech is coupled with vivid observations from a 2008 trip as head of a Senate staff delegation to North

Korea, including a visit to the nuclear facility in Yongbyon.