

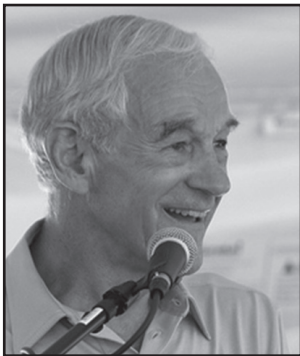
Ron Paul's FREEDOM REPORT

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Obama's Foreign Policy Rhetoric Does Not Match US Actions

President Obama's recent foreign policy speech, delivered at this year's West Point graduation ceremony, was a disappointment to anyone who hoped the president might be changing course. The failure of each US intervention thus far in the 21st century might have inspired at least a bit of reflection.



However, the president made it clear that interventionism and American exceptionalism would continue to guide his administration in its final two years. The president said, "I believe in American exceptionalism with every fiber of my being," adding the dubious claim that "because of American diplomacy and foreign assistance, as well as the sacrifices of our military – more people live under elected governments today than at any time in human history."

It's funny he would mention elections. Last week the Syrians held their first multi-candidate presidential election in 50 years. Almost three-quarters of Syrian voters participated, giving President Assad 88 percent of the vote. After three years fighting a foreign-backed insurgency, voting conditions were not optimal. However, despite State Department claims to the contrary, it can no longer be stated that Assad enjoys no popularity in his country. Even former CIA chief Michael Hayden not long ago envisioned Assad winning a fair election in Syria.

But the US government completely rejected the vote in Syria, with Secretary of State John Kerry calling it "a great big zero," because, as he put it, "you can't have an election where millions of your people don't even have an ability to vote."

That is just what happened last month in Ukraine, however, where the US-backed oligarch Petro Poroshenko won with just over 50 percent of the vote in an election where millions in the eastern part of the country did not have the ability to vote. That election, however, John Kerry declared a "victory for democracy."

Similarly, John Kerry described the 2013 coup against the democratically-elected President Morsi in Egypt as a "return to democracy," while approving the election last month – with 96 percent of the vote – of the man who led that coup.

Likewise, when a referendum was held in Crimea this spring in which the vast majority voted to re-join Russia rather than to remain in a Ukraine that had just undergone a regime change, the US administration refused to recognize the results. For Washington, it was "illegal" for Crimea to vote to secede from Ukraine, but it was not illegal for a mob in the street to overthrow an elected government in Kiev.

President Obama's spoke at length about the US role in promoting democracy around the world, but why does it seem that the US government only recognizes elections as free and fair when the US-favored candidate wins?

At West Point the president announced a new five billion dollar "counterterrorism partnership," with

much of the money going to continue supporting the rebels in Syria. Though the administration claims it only supports moderate rebels in Syria, it has refused to explain exactly which fighting groups it considers “moderate.” In fact it is known that the weapons sent to “moderates” in Syria often end up in the hands of the radicals. This five billion dollars – stolen from US

taxpayers and borrowed from China – will guarantee a prolongation of the war in Syria.

There is much to disappoint in Obama’s foreign policy speech. It is a continuation of the policy of “do what we say and we will subsidize you, disobey us and we will bomb you.” That approach is a failure, but the neocons who back it show no sign of falling out of favor.

Mental Health Screening A Good Way To Decrease Liberty, Poor Way To Increase Security

Ron Paul’s Texas Straight Talk, 6/1/14

Last week Americans were shocked and saddened by another mass killing, this one near a college campus in California. We all feel deep sympathy for the families of the victims.

As usual, many people responded to this shooting by calling for new federal gun control laws, including the mental health screening of anyone attempting to purchase a firearm. There are a number of problems with this proposal. Federally-mandated mental health screenings would require storing mental health records in a government database. This obviously raises concerns about patient privacy and doctor-patient confidentiality, as well as the threat of identity theft. Anyone who doubts that these are legitimate concerns should consider the enormous privacy problems with the Obamacare website; some have even suggested that healthcare.gov be renamed identifytheft.gov.

Giving government the power to bar some Americans from owning guns by labeling them as “mentally ill” could easily lead to serious abuses. Even authors of mental health manuals admit that mental health diagnoses are subjective and can be based on “social constructions.” Thus, anyone whose behavior deviates from some “norm” could find himself deprived of his second amendment, and possibly other, rights.

People could be even be labeled “mentally ill” because they are outspoken critics of the government. Currently, as part of the Department of Homeland Security’s “Operation Vigilant Eagle” program, veterans who express dissatisfaction with government policies run the risk of being labeled mentally-unstable terrorist threats. There has also been at least one federally-funded violence prevention program that determined that

holding certain political and social views indicates a propensity for violence. So there is precedent for labeling those with unpopular political beliefs as being “mentally ill.”

We have also seen how US presidents from both parties have used the IRS to target political opponents. Imagine the potential for abuse if those same politicians had access to the mental health records of their political opponents, or the power to label opponents mentally ill because those opponents were “dissatisfied” with the government?

People who say that the threat to liberty posed by mental health screenings is outweighed by the enhanced security they provide should consider that expanding background checks and mental health screening is unlikely to make us safer. Professor Richard Alan Friedman, director of the Psychopharmacology Clinic at Weill Cornell Medical College, has written that it is impossible to predict whether an individual will act in a violent manner.

One effective way to limit mass shootings may be to repeal gun control laws that, by disarming the law-abiding, turn the innocent into victims. Like most recent shootings, this one took place in a location where the attacker could be confident his intended targets could not defend themselves. It is interesting that even though the attacker used hammers and knives on some of the victims, no one is calling for background checks on those wishing to purchase hammers.

Instead of focusing on passing more laws, our focus should be replacing the entitlement culture with a culture of self-responsibility and respect for the rights of others. Government can help this process by ending

its routine violation of our rights and the use of violence as a means to achieve domestic and foreign policy goals. This is not to suggest that government policies are directly responsible for the shootings, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that growing up in a time of preemptive war may feed a deranged person's delusion that violence is a proper way to deal with personal frustrations. Fixing the culture is much more difficult than passing new laws but is the only way to guarantee our liberty and our security.

Ron Paul: Charles Krauthammer Wrong On Russia/China Trade Deal

From the Ron Paul Institute website, June 2, 2014

Recently on the Ron Paul Channel, Dr. Paul reviewed an article by neoconservative writer Charles Krauthammer, in which Krauthammer expresses his great fear that US "influence" is on the decline after a \$400 billion trade deal between Russia and China was signed last month.

"It's almost as if he is terrified that peace may be breaking out," said Dr. Paul

The neocons believe that the US bullying the rest of the world is very good, said Dr. Paul, because we have to spread American exceptionalism around the world. We don't want to look like we are a weak nation.

But that approach to the world is not strength, Paul says. It is actually a sign of insecurity and inferiority that the US government feels compelled to either buy its friends or bomb those who refuse the US bribes.

The neocon mindset is incapable of considering that security, peace, and prosperity do not depend solely on foreign submission to US bombs or bribes.

Dr. Paul zeroes in on what is really bugging Krauthammer about the Russia/China deal: his fear that the US military budget will not continue to rise at the neocon-preferred level.

Paul catches Krauthammer in a lie, as the neoconservative warns that US military spending will be cut "down to the pre-Pearl Harbor level."

Not true, Paul points out: Krauthammer's deception is in claiming that a reduction in the rate of increase is equal to a decrease. It is quite a simple lie to catch, but the neocons nevertheless continue repeating it to an uninquisitive media.

VA Scandal Is Just The Tip Of The Military Abuse Iceberg

Ron Paul's Texas Straight Talk, 5/25/14

President Obama held a press conference last week to express his outrage over reports that the Veterans Administration was routinely delaying treatment to veterans, with some veterans even dying while on alleged secret waiting lists. The president said that, "if these allegations prove to be true, it is dishonorable, it is disgraceful, and I will not tolerate it, period." He vowed that, together with Congress, he would "make sure we're doing right by our veterans across the board."

The president is right to be upset over the mistreatment of US military veterans, especially those who return home with so many physical and mental injuries. Veterans should not be abused when they seek the treatment promised them when they enlisted. But his outrage over military abuse is selective. He ignores the most egregious abuse of the US armed forces: sending them off to fight, become maimed, and die in endless conflicts overseas that have no connection to US national security.

It is ironic that the same week the president condemned the alleged mistreatment of veterans by the VA, he announced that he was sending 80 armed troops to Chad to help look for a group of girls kidnapped by the Nigerian Islamist organization Boko Haram. Is there any mistreatment worse than sending the US military into a violent and unstable part of the world to conduct a search operation that is in no way connected to the defense of the United States?

As Judge Andrew Napolitano said last week, "Feeling sorry for somebody is not a sufficient basis for sending American men and women into harm's way."

We are naturally upset over reports that Nigerian girls have been kidnapped by this armed Islamist organization. Unfortunately, cruel and unjust acts are committed worldwide on a regular basis. What the media is not reporting about this terrible situation, however, is that it was US interventionism itself that strengthened Boko Haram, and inadvertently may have even helped

the kidnappers commit their crime.

Back in early 2012, just months after the US-led attack on Libya overthrew Gaddafi and plunged the country into chaos, the UN issued a report warning about the proliferation of weapons from that bombed out country. UN investigators found – eight months before the attack that killed the US ambassador in Benghazi – that, "Some of the weapons ... could be sold to terrorist groups like al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram or other criminal organizations."

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The US, NATO, and the UN are guilty of creating the unrest currently engulfing much of northern Africa, as they all pushed lies to promote an attack on Libya that destabilized the region. Now the president is launching an intervention in Chad and Nigeria to solve the problems created by his own intervention in Libya. This pattern is the same in places like Ukraine, where the US-backed coup in February has led to chaos and unrest that leads to even more intervention, including NATO's saber-rattling on the Russian border. Has anyone in the Administration or Congress ever considered that interventionism itself might be the real problem?

As Americans celebrate the Memorial Day holiday, we should remember that though the VA's alleged abuse and neglect of US veterans is scandalous, the worse abuse comes from a president and a compliant Congress that send the US military to cause harm and be harmed overseas in undeclared, unnecessary, and illegal interventions. The best way to honor the US military is to honor the Constitution, and to keep in mind the wise advice of our Founding Fathers to avoid all foreign interventionism.

Ron Paul On Fox's Cavuto Show

Dr. Paul spoke with Neil Cavuto earlier this month about revelations that the NSA was collecting and analyzing our photographs for facial recognition purposes.

His take on the revelation:

"It's just another reason to get rid of the NSA. In a republic the government is supposed to be set up to protect the privacy of individuals and to reveal its own secrets. But now we have government that does everything in secrecy, it does everything to undermine the privacy of the individual. And this is just another step. It's incrementalism. But maybe somebody is going to wake up and say 'why do they need all this?'"

"The bigger picture is they have no business doing this in the first place. They always make mistakes – governments are inclined to make mistakes. But you can't just say 'we're going to monitor this' or 'let's have search warrants to take pictures.' You have to look at the principle and the principle is the government has no right to do this and the people shouldn't put up with it."

Nothing in this publication is intended to aid or hinder the passage of legislation before Congress.

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