

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### **CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER ON CONVERSATIONS WITH BILL KRISTOL**

NEW YORK, NY, April 13, 2015 – Author and syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer sat down with Bill Kristol for an extended biographical conversation about his education and career. In the conversation, Krauthammer reflects on his upbringing in a politically-tumultuous Quebec, his work in medicine, and his views on Zionism, Judaism, and religion. Krauthammer and Kristol also discuss some of the key ideas, questions, and themes of his writing—including the “Reagan Doctrine,” an idea he coined, the role of America in a new post-Cold War world, and whether the America of 2015 is in decline. This is a must-see conversation between two of America's most important thinkers about politics.

Below are excerpts from the *Conversation*:

**[On the Sixties and Quebec]** KRAUTHAMMER: Normally it takes till middle age to realize that Left and Right are essentially, at the extremes, the equivalent: totalitarian. [I saw as a student] that extreme nationalism and extreme socialism don't just meet in Berlin in 1933, they can meet at [McGill University in Montreal] in 1968. I became very acutely aware of the dangers, the hypocrisies...of the political extremes. It cleansed me very early in my political evolution of any romanticism.

**[On religion and belief]** KRAUTHAMMER: I'm not a sort of traditional theist. I can't say I believe in even the God of Judaism, or [of] Christianity, or [of] Islam. I'm not sure I can believe in a God of history, who is really interested in our little lives, and who listens to us... But there's a tradition, sort of Jewish agnosticism... I feel an obligation to Jewish history, to carry it on, to respect the texts, to study them, to transmit them.

**[On Obama and America in retreat]** KRAUTHAMMER: We elected a president who found the country to be fatigued, and this was the perfect opportunity to impose his view of the world, which is of America being non-exceptional, America not having the mandate of heaven, America having forfeited, if it ever had it, the moral authority to

be the arbiter of the world, which is what we were. [He was] thus a man who ordered a retreat.

Watch the *Conversation* here: <http://conversationswithbillkristol.org/video/charles-krauthammer>

**About *Conversations with Bill Kristol*.** *Conversations with Bill Kristol* is an online interview program hosted by *Weekly Standard* editor Bill Kristol and produced by [The Foundation for Constitutional Government](#). A forum for substantive, thought-provoking dialogue on pressing issues in the news and American politics, *Conversations* segments feature informal discussions between Kristol and guests on a diverse array of issues of public concern. Recent guests include former Vice President [Dick Cheney](#), former Speaker of the House [Newt Gingrich](#), business founder [Peter Thiel](#), best-selling author [Charles Murray](#), former U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff [General Jack Keane](#), and Harvard professor [Harvey Mansfield](#). New conversations are released bi-weekly.

Users can access *Conversations* at [www.conversationswithbillkristol.org](http://www.conversationswithbillkristol.org) to watch all conversations free-of-charge, read guest biographies, download podcasts and transcripts, and view additional footage.

**About the Foundation for Constitutional Government.** [The Foundation for Constitutional Government](#) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization devoted to supporting the serious study of politics and political philosophy, with particular attention to the Constitutional character of American government. The Foundation's online programming includes [Conversations with Bill Kristol](#), *Great Thinkers*, a comprehensive site devoted to political philosophers such as John Locke and Alexis de Tocqueville, as well as websites devoted to important contemporary thinkers such as Harvey Mansfield, Irving Kristol, and James Q. Wilson.

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