

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEWT GINGRICH ON AMERICA AND THE STATE OF THE WORLD

New York, NY, September 28, 2015 – Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich sat down with Bill Kristol to discuss the serious domestic and foreign policy challenges confronting the United States. Considering the state of the world, he offers his take on the threats posed by Islamism, Russia, and China. On domestic politics, he explains how feckless bureaucracy is undermining political, economic, and technological initiative, and sketches some ideas for reforming or eliminating bureaucracy. Finally, Gingrich and Kristol discuss President Obama and his legacy, as well as how a new president could reverse course. This is a must-see [Conversation](#) for anyone interested in American foreign policy and our current political landscape.

Below are excerpts from the *Conversation*:

[On Barack Obama's legacy] GINGRICH: What people have to come to grips [with] is that this is one of the most consequential presidents in modern history. He set out to radically change America. In many ways he has succeeded. Whether we can turn that back after '16, we'll see. In the short run, he is in many ways like Woodrow Wilson. He has with great ruthlessness and determination moved in a particular direction with a particular set of values. He's often been fairly dishonest while he was doing it but nonetheless he kept grinding away. He will leave the country more centralized, more bureaucratic, more influenced by regulation, more left-wing in his cultural values, weaker in the world, and surrounded by a level of chaos that would have been unthinkable in 2008.

[On a dangerous world] GINGRICH: You have an Islamist challenge, you have a Chinese challenge. The Chinese are building artificial islands surrounding the South China Sea in a way that only makes sense if you assume you want to declare sovereignty over this enormous area. The Russians are still very dangerous. They're a weak economy but they're a very nationalists state and they have five or six thousand nuclear weapons. You have to design an American strategy that takes all

of these kinds of things into reality. And frankly our elites have no interest in trying to do that. They're very worried about global warming and about helping refugees and about strengthening the UN as a multi-national center of getting away from nations. Nobody in the Obama Administration has any serious plans for Russia, China, or for defeating the Islamists.

[On a feckless State Department] GINGRICH: I think that we today have a State Department which is incapable of being effective. It has to be overhauled from the ground up. Look at the negotiating with Iran. Unless it was a willful desire to surrender and they actually didn't care, it is incomprehensible how bad the negotiation was. Did we actually hire adults to go and be this stupid? Because the Iranians just routinely ran over them and they tolerated it. It was as though the Iranians were the super power and we were the ones pleading for something. It was the opposite of the actual balance of power in the region.

Watch the *Conversation* here:

<http://conversationswithbillkristol.org/video/newt-gingrich-ii/>

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—from the American presidency and the Middle East peace process to the ideas that have shaped Western civilization. Recent guests include syndicated columnist [Charles Krauthammer](#), 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.

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Media Contact:

Andy Zwick 917-423-1422

AZwick@constitutionalgovt.org