

October 2017



David H. Petraeus

Retired US Army General and Chairman of KKR Global Institute

General (Ret.) David H. Petraeus is among the most prominent U.S. military figures of the post-9/11 era. General Petraeus' military career was distinguished by significant achievements during assignments in Cold War Europe, Central America, the United States, Haiti, Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the greater Middle East and central Asia.

After General Petraeus' retirement from the military, and following confirmation by the Senate by a vote of 94-0, he served as Director of the CIA, during which time the Agency played the central role in a number of important achievements in the global war on terror.

Over the past decade, General Petraeus was named one of America's 25 Best Leaders by the U.S. News and World Report, a runner-up for Time magazine's Person of the Year, the Daily Telegraph man of the year, a Time 100 selectee, and one of Foreign Policy magazine's top 100 public intellectuals.

He is a frequent commentator on global security and economic issues and a Visiting Professor of Public Policy at CUNY's Macaulay Honors College from September 2013 through December 2106.

Subject Area/Topic: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

Highlights: General Petraeus began by thanking COFFE members for their public service and said that he sees Government as part of the solution, not as the problem. He continued with what many in the audience might have found to be a surprisingly upbeat view of where the current Administration stands on foreign policy. He singled out for praise the following members of the current foreign policy team: National Security Advisor, General H.R. McMaster, Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford, Secretary of state Rex Tillerson and Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

General Petraeus emphasized a few broad beliefs:

- Islamic extremists will attack. We must be prepared and we must continue training/enabling opposition forces.
- We cannot be effective alone —coalitions are necessary.
- Parochialism is keeping us from leading the world. Leading requires compromise.