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| Stephanie Ruhle: | Thank you so much for having me tonight. I am thrilled to be in a room with extraordinary people that care about doing great things for the planet, great things for the world, great things for our country and business, and it not be a political event because I'm really tired of those right now. Tonight is a really special evening. The fact that the FPA, does everyone know how many years? 99 years this organization has been thriving, which means next year for the centennial, this is going to be a throw down, blowout, wild party. |
|  | Tonight, for the Financial Services Dinner, we are honoring not just great business people, but the specific vertical of corporate social responsibility. 10, 15 years ago that was a term people weren't familiar with. Now, we have CEOs and founders that have corporate social responsibility deeply rooted in the mission of their companies and it is the only way we can truly build great capitalism and thrive. Thank you so much to everyone in this room for all that you do, what you do during the day, what you do in your free time and being here tonight. Corporate partnerships mean everything to an organization like this. |
|  | For tonight, there's four specific people that are being honored. Four people from four companies. I mean, when the person presenting the award is a guy like Larry Fink, when Larry Fink is your Vanna White, you've won at life. You've won. Just saying. For those of you who are new to the FPA, I'd like to do a little selling for my employer NBC. NBC and my colleague and hero, Tom Brokaw, put a little video together of the history of this organization so I hope you enjoy it. |
| Tom Brokaw: | The year was 1918. The Great War was ending. Much of the world was cheering for America. The world was forever changed, but how to be certain it would be changed for the good? Paul Kellogg gathered the best and the brightest of the time in New York. A Nobel Prize winner, a Pulitzer Prize winner, leaders in academia. They were scholars and journalists. Their goal to somehow be a force for developing awareness, understanding and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. They had, in effect, created what would become an enduring global town hall, so naturally, each meaning focused on chaos, crisis, and conflict. What to do about it? How to avoid it? |
|  | In 1943, Franklin Delano Roosevelt recognized the FPA's achievements. He wrote, "The Foreign Policy Association is performing a high duty and facilitating the lucid presentation of the facts of world problems and their impact on the United states." 12 years later, in 1954, the FPA created what would become its signature accomplishment: the renowned Great Decisions Program. Each year, the group frames the most critical foreign policy questions facing America, and the world in the coming year. |
|  | The Foreign Policy Association remains today one of the most critical, independent voices in global affairs. Through its balanced, non-partisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to discover, discuss and decide which direction for U.S. foreign policy. Millions of concerned citizens have participated in Great Decisions programs in community centers, schools and libraries across the country to share ideas on global issues. The Great Decisions television series on PBS is beamed into households nationwide, where viewers can watch experts shed light on issues from peace and security, to American diplomacy and global conflict. |
| Madeleine A.: | Foreign policy is actually not foreign and it is very much connected to every American's daily life. |
| Henry Kissinger: | It is crucial for our democracy that our citizens understand what our challenges are. |
| Condoleeza Rice: | We can either choose to deliberately influence the shape of international events or we can sit on the sidelines and let someone else shape those events. |
| Colin Powell: | We have to study. We have to listen carefully. We have to be critical in our judgments about what we hear. |
| Madeleine A.: | There is not any issue that happens abroad that doesn't affect Americans directly. |
| George Shultz: | A kind of global commons has been created in security and economic terms, and the United States has taken the leading role in creating it. |
| Henry Kissinger: | The ultimate test is to move our society from where it is to where it has never been and that requires the participation of informed, committed and concerned citizens. |
| James Baker III: | A lot of people don't realize that the final arbiter of policy in our democracy is the will of the American people. |
| Colin Powell: | We're counting on you to tell leaders of your country what you want to see happen to the foreign policy of the United States of America. |
| Hilary Clinton: | With more countries facing common challenges, we have the chance and the profound responsibility to exercise American leadership, to solve our problems, and wherever we can in concert with others. |
| Tom Brokaw: | In New York City, the FPA continues to attract world leaders to engage its forums. From Henry Kissinger, to Bill Clinton, Colin Powell, to Kofi Annan. Online FPA.org takes the association's programs worldwide, spearheading the way into a new global forum: the digital town hall. As a new generation of American leaders emerge, the world they will inherit is filled with challenges: global poverty, terrorism, climate change, nuclear proliferation. All will require an engaged and educated American public. All will require great decisions. |
|  | The Foreign Policy Association has long operated under the mantra that in a democracy, agreement isn't essential, but participation is. The Foreign Policy Association thanks you for your support and, more importantly, your participation, now, and into the future. |
| Stephanie Ruhle: | When you watch that video you are reminded how important the mission of the Foreign Policy Association is now, more than ever, so thank you so much for having me here tonight. On behalf of the president of the FPA, Noel Lateef, and chairwoman, Dame Jill Sackler, thank you so much for coming and we welcome you. I just want to acknowledge the four honorees tonight because what an honor it is. Dominic Barton of McKinsey. Thank you so much. Neeti Bhalla of Liberty Mutual. Carlo Messina of Intesa. Daniel Ryan of Heidrick and Struggles. Thank you so much. Enjoy your first course. |