

Diplomacy, not war

Cato Scholars Warn against Iran War on Speaking Tour

Iran sits at the nexus of several U.S. foreign policy threats. The Islamic Republic is undermining U.S. operations in Iraq, actively supporting terrorist activity throughout the Middle East, and ignoring numerous United Nations mandates on its nuclear program.

A grant from the Ploughshares Fund has allowed Cato foreign policy scholars to travel the country, address these important issues, and explain to a variety of audiences why war with Iran is not in America's interests. The speaking series, "A Grand Bargain with Iran," lasted from April through September. Events took place in 13 states, including cities such as

the United States has faced in Iraq should illustrate the risks of preemptive action against Iran. Figures such as Sen. Joseph Lieberman have said that the United States "must be prepared to take aggressive military action against the Iranians" because Iran cannot be trusted to negotiate in good faith.

Cato foreign policy scholars have responded on the tour and in the media that while diplomacy may not be a perfect option, it is certainly the best available. In a Policy Analysis published earlier this year, "The Bottom Line on Iran: The Costs and Benefits of Preventive War Versus Deterrence," Cato foreign policy

analyst Justin Logan argued that a study of the history of Iran's foreign policy shows it to be much more rational than many portray it to be. He and the other speakers explained on the tour that if the Bush administration believes the Iranians are not negotiating in good faith, there is a straightforward way to find out: offer them a grand bargain that gives them what they say they want in exchange for giving up a capability to build

nuclear weapons. The bargain would include offering Iran's leaders full diplomatic recognition, normalization of economic relations, and a comprehensive security guarantee in exchange for Tehran to open its nuclear program to international inspections with the assurance that the program will not be used to build nuclear weapons.



Photo: Nick Infusino/The Daily Northwestern

Christopher Preble, director of foreign policy studies at Cato, spoke to an audience of students at Northwestern University at one of the stops on his speaking tour.

Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Seattle. Several of the events were sponsored in conjunction with the World Affairs Council.

On the tour, scholars Ted Galen Carpenter, Christopher Preble, Justin Logan, Stanley Kober, and Leon Hadar advocated a diplomatic solution for the Iranian problem. They argued that the disasters

NEWS NOTES



José Piñera, co-chairman of the Cato Institute's Project on Social Security Choice, was the keynote speaker at a South African symposium on retirement policy. Piñera spoke in Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban on the success of social security privatization in Chile and the worldwide movement toward private account systems. South Africa's *Mail & Guardian* newspaper reported, "Chile's reforms have been celebrated globally and adopted in 30 countries since it moved from a bankrupt, pay-as-you-go welfare system, which was funded by taxpayers, to a long-term savings plan with workers providing for their own retirement, with mandatory contributions. The social security system proposed by the South African government is likely to operate along the same lines."



Roger Pilon (above, at the national convention of the American Constitution Society in July) contributed the essay on the Declaration of Independence to the new edition of the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*.

***Tax Notes*, the "bible" of tax analysis, ran a lengthy joint interview with **Chris Edwards** and **Dan Mitchell** on July 30. The discussion covered corporate taxes, tax reform, and global tax competition (the subject of Dan Mitchell's cover story in the July-August issue of *Cato Policy Report*). The interview can be found on Edwards's page at www.cato.org.**