

Thank you to the University of Buckingham for that kind introduction.

I am happy to be the one to get you out of your regular class for an hour. You are welcome. Now hopefully you didn't have too many pints last night and that we can keep everyone awake.

You may have heard but the U.S. Congress is not very popular back home. You see, I have to go overseas to get a decent reception. I even get grief from my own family. My dad is a big, tough former Air Force Sergeant. He is fond of saying:

"You know I have five boys. Four turned out really good and I have one in Congress."

In 1636 America's oldest university, Harvard was founded. It was modeled after the English University Model as many leaders of the former colony of Massachusetts had attended Cambridge. Its graduates included our second President, John Adams, his son John Quincy Adams, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush and our current President.

As America's education system prospered, so did our nation.

In 1967, Buckingham College took a page from the American tradition of private education. As Dr. J.W. Paulley said, "is it not time to examine the possibility of creating at least one new university in this country on the pattern of those great private foundations in the USA, without whose stimulus and freedom of action the many excellent state universities in that country would be so much poorer."

This transition is emblematic of a core principal of education. Innovation, whether it's in systems, discoveries or inventions, prosper when great minds are brought together and thinking is challenged. It prospers when ideas are shared, expanded upon and developed for uses sometimes not foreseen by the original innovator.

Today, many western nations, including the United States, face challenges to our systems from the very globalization that has allowed us so much prosperity in the post-World War II environment. We have a labor force with an unparalleled work ethic that does not entirely have the skillset to match the needs of a globally competitive economy.

By 2030, China will have 200 million college graduates—more than the entire U.S. workforce. By 2020 India will be graduating four times as many college graduates as the United States. We require an injection of new dynamism to maintain and grow our competitiveness as we face new competition from emerging economies. We need to work with the private sector to identify critical needs and develop those skillsets in our younger generations.

Our education system excels in its ability to foster creativity and this is how we differ from many of our global competitors, but without the foundational skills, particularly science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, we will be at a disadvantage in the global marketplace.

The UK has recognized this and established the National STEM Centre. You have seen an 18% rise in undergraduate STEM students over the last decade.

For those of you who may still be undecided on your field of study, let me offer this: a recent study found that 65 percent of graduates with Bachelors' degrees in STEM fields earn more than Master's graduates in non-STEM fields and 47 percent earn more than PhDs in non-STEM fields. Let me tell you, as the father of a college student, I really like the sound of that.

Many of you may be asking yourselves why education is so important to the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee. 20 kilometers down the road from here sits Bletchley Park, where during World War II the greatest minds of British Mathematics led by Alan Turing, were brought together to break the German Enigma Code.

None other than Sir Winston Churchill said that Turing made the single greatest contribution to the war and Supreme Allied Commander Eisenhower declared the code breaking to be decisive to Allied Victory. Together with our own Manhattan Project, these innovations enabled our allied nations to gain the upper hand and eventually, with the courageous sacrifices of countless fighting men and women, triumph over tyranny.

Today we face threats to national security in Eastern Europe, we face the unspeakable evils of terrorism in far too many places, we face evolving threats in the cyber realm and we face merciless disease in Western Africa. Having superior education is at the forefront of meeting all of these challenges.

August 24th of this year marked a special occasion between our two countries: it was the 200th anniversary of the British burning the US Capitol and half of Washington, DC to the ground. We have certainly come a long way since that time. And we forgive you.

Our bonds date back to the early 17th Century, and like all good relationships, ours has had its ups and downs, but we are the closest allies and closest of friends. We have you to thank for the core of our social structure in America. Our legal system is rooted in English Common law; our local government structure includes counties and law enforcement based on your configuration.

23 Presidents have sat at the Resolute desk, a gift from Queen Victoria. And it is believed that 23 percent of the American population can trace their ancestry back to the United Kingdom.

In 1944 Winston Churchill gave a speech in which he publically invoked the concept of a "special relationship" between our two nations. While we had a close association even prior to World War I, Churchill's designation set off more than a just military affiliation but one that involved our economies, trade, treaties and intelligence.

The strategic partnership between our nations was forged on the battlefields of World War I and II and was only deepened by the burden we shared during the Cold War. That partnership has continued unbroken as we struggle today with common threats like terrorism and the continued aggression from states such as Iran and North Korea.

Our special relationship isn't just about common enemies, however. It's about common values and goals, like democracy, freedom, global stability, and market-driven prosperity. We share a common,

hopeful vision of what the world should look like, and we are willing to do the sometimes difficult work to make it happen.

Our vision of a free and prosperous world isn't shared, of course, by leaders in places like Beijing or Moscow, or in the dark corners where al-Qa'ida and ISIL lurk. There are many challenges to the worthy goals to which we aspire, so our shared work goes on.

Our goals and our shared security are challenged by new and expanding terrorist safe havens in places like Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Mali. The threat posed by many violent radicals in Syria and Iraq who carry U.S. and British passports requires us to work closely together to keep them from bringing the fight back to our shores.

Despite all that our brave men and women have done around the world, and the incredible sacrifices they have made, the fight against al-Qa'ida is not yet finished. Even if we can eliminate the threat from core al-Qa'ida in Afghanistan and Pakistan, we must be prepared to deal with a persistent global jihadist threat beyond al-Qa'ida. This extremist ideology is bigger than one person or one group. It is persistent and dangerous. Both of our countries have been fighting it for a very long time.

At the turn of the 19th century, the United States of America's first covert action led to her first war, and the conflict was sparked in part by an extreme, violent interpretation of Islam. President Thomas Jefferson launched our first covert action in 1803 to protect American ships traversing what was then referred to as the Barbary Coast – the waters in the Mediterranean Sea along Northern Africa. In March 1785, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams went to London to negotiate with Tripoli's envoy from Libya. During the meeting, the ambassador declared:

"It was written in the Koran, that all nations which had not acknowledged the Prophet were sinners, whom it was the right and duty of the faithful to plunder and enslave."

Sound familiar at all with where we are in the world today? And this was 230 years ago.

ISIL clearly aspires to become the leader of the global jihad, and the group's prestige is certainly growing in those circles. ISIL has shown a proclivity for smaller scale, more achievable attacks, and we may be facing a future of lower-level but still deadly terrorist threats within our borders.

ISIL's deadly intent and access to a flood of new recruits with Western passports, combined with al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula's bomb-making capability, make this picture still more grim.

We must resolve to rollback these terrorist safe havens that are breeding grounds and launching pads for such dangerous threats. To that end, we need to sustain the work we have done in Afghanistan to ensure that it does not slide back into anarchy. Europe may be a closer target but that is merely because it is a shorter flight. Either of us could easily be next. ISIL would love to cut the heads off of as many Americans or Brits as it can.

Lady Thatcher once stated: "Terrorism attacks free societies and plays on those fears. If those tactics succeed, terrorism saps the will of free peoples to resist."

I understand that Lady Thatcher was your second Chancellor in the 1990's. What an incredible, resolute leader she was. Together with President Ronald Reagan, they stared down the evils of communism and didn't flinch, how matter how tough it got. The world is better and safer because of Lady Thatcher.

The United States and the United Kingdom must lead the world in countering the extremist ideology. We can and should target terrorist leaders, but there are individuals to replace them. While correctly attacking safe havens and training sights with bombs, we must also attack the warped terrorist ideology that distorts Islam and despises progress, modernity, and our very way of life.

Terrorism is certainly not the only threat we face. Mr. Putin's continued aggression in Ukraine is likely a harbinger of more aggression as he seeks to rebuild the Czarist Russian empire. Following his successful invasion and occupation of 20% of the country of Georgia, the world did little and Putin noticed. He has expanded his ambitions to what he calls New Russia, a terrifying flashback for free people in Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine. He rattles sabers at the Baltic nations and had his pilots buzz Alaska while the new Ukrainian Prime Minister spoke to the United States Congress.

The West does not seek a new Cold War, but history tells us that in order to preserve our freedom and that of others, together we must stand up to tyrants who bully Europe and free peoples who are inconvenient to their ambitions.

Beijing follows a very similar and equally irresponsible model. Hardly a month goes by without another example of China's steady efforts to change the status quo by taking another island or reef to benefit its economic and security interests.

China has been busy moving sand onto reefs and shoals to create several new artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago in territory claimed by Vietnam and the Philippines.

China is engaged in similarly aggressive behavior in the East Sea with the recent declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone over territory claimed by Japan and South Korea.

These provocations must be seen in the larger context of China's increasingly aggressive posture in Asia. Beijing has chosen in recent years to use its newfound power to bully and intimidate neighboring countries in a transparent regional power grab.

For the moment, Beijing seems to be getting away with this aggressive behavior, and the longer it continues unchallenged, the harder it will be to unwind.

These reckless efforts to acquire new territory in a quest for natural resources isn't all that different from China's relentless economic cyber espionage campaign against the world's developed economies to steal our innovation and the jobs that come with it.

China's leaders fear they won't be able to sustain economic growth without stealing other nations' trade secrets and natural resources.

The United States and the United Kingdom must unite to fight the ideology of the planned authoritarian regimes of Russia and China. Today, Russia stands for little but raw ambition and consolidation of power. China's aims and rise are quieter and yet potentially as dangerous. We hear leaders in NATO, on the European continent, making comments questioning liberal democracy and free markets. It's easy to see the growth of planned economies over the last two decades in China or other places and think that is the answer for the world. With centralization of power you can get a bridge built if you need it or a new high speed train approved in no time, without due process or proper compensation. What our leaders too often fail to highlight is that you also can get arrested without charge and the Internet is state owned, controlled, and censored.

In these regimes, citizens have no recourse. They are merely a nuisance to those in power and those with connections. This authoritarianism can provide some economic growth for a time, but ultimately, the best system mankind has ever created for unleashing innovation and human potential is free market-based capitalism.

Controlled economies fail to send a society's resources to its most-productive use, and rent-seeking and inefficiencies burgeon. And, indeed, there are strong indications of serious, structural problems with both the Chinese and Russian economies that could undermine their success and vast military spending increases in recent years.

It probably isn't said enough, but I would like to thank you all for the vital support of the British people in every significant security threat and crisis the United States has faced over the last century – including the latest battle with ISIL.

I'll close with this story. During the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, I was in the little town of Bastogne, Belgium. I met with elderly women there who described the horrific events of America's fight against Nazi Germany. Recalling the stories with tears in their eyes as if it happened last week, these women spoke about how when they were little girls, young American GI's arrived to liberate them from a brutal, oppressive Nazi Germany. They spoke of big, strong, tough 18 and 19 year olds from every corner of America who, after fighting the Germans by day, would console them and give them the socks off their feet at night. They shared with them their candy, food, and anything else they had.

That's who we are. That's who you are. That's our shared lineage, our shared humanity that distinguishes us from our adversaries.

Although there is no shortage of problems facing the world, I know together there is no challenge we can't overcome. Churchill said: "here we are able to stand together and work together for righteous causes, we shall always be thankful, and the world will always be free." I believe that with every fiber of my being.

Thank you all so much; best of luck to each of you in the future. God bless.