The Champlain Institute is a week-long ideas forum and exchange. Each summer, COA hosts leaders from around the country and the world to share their expertise on pressing issues of our time. This year’s conversations will focus on national security, trade disputes, cyber warfare, terrorism, where democracy is working, civil wars, Russia, North Korea, and other hotspots around the globe. To register, go to www.coa.edu/ciregister

Saturday, July 28 at 5pm
A Conversation with Ambassador Susan E. Rice
THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Former National Security Advisor for President Obama and U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Susan Rice is the opening keynote of this year’s Institute. Ambassador Rice is currently a Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow at the School of International Service, American University, and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Ambassador Rice has served two Presidents in senior positions in National Security policy-making over the span of almost 25 years. She has deep knowledge of all aspects of National Security decision-making, the role of the President and the NSC, as well as military, defense and intelligence policy.

Monday, July 30 at 9 am
Hacking, Informatsionnaya, and the Grey Zone: How Technology is Shaping a New Global Competition among Great Powers
THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Nick Dowling served in the Pentagon and the Clinton White House as Director for European Affairs on the NSC Staff where he helped coordinate US policy to end the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo. Since government, Nick has been CEO of IDS International, a firm that helps the US government deal with conflict and complexity in the 21st century, working on issues ranging from cyber warfare to security assistance. Nick is also active in policy circles through government and think tank advisory boards, including membership in the Atlantic Council Strategy Consortium, the Army Education Advisory Committee, and the Council on Foreign Relations. He remains active in politics, supporting Democratic candidates for national office with fundraising and policy advice. Eventually, he hopes to return to public service in the cause of peace, working directly once again to end or prevent a war. Nick has a Bachelor’s degree from Harvard College and a Master’s in National Security Studies from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Monday, July 30 at 5 pm
The Rule of Law Under Trump
THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Neal Katyal, the former Acting Solicitor General of the United States, focuses on appellate and complex litigation. At the age of 47, he has argued more Supreme Court cases in U.S. history than any minority attorney, recently breaking the record held by Thurgood Marshall. As Acting Solicitor General of the United States, Mr. Katyal argued several major Supreme Court cases involving a variety of issues, such as his successful defense of the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Mr. Katyal served as a law professor for over two decades at Georgetown University Law Center, and has also served as a visiting professor at both Harvard and Yale law schools.

Tuesday, July 31 at 9 am
US-EU Relations
THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Ambassadors Bill Eacho, C. Boyden Gray, and Jim Lowenstein will discuss the current state of US-European Union relations. Ambassador C. Boyden Gray is a founding partner of the D.C.-based law firm, Boyden Gray & Associates LLP. In the 1980s, he served as legal counsel for Vice President George Bush, and counsel to the Presidential Task Force on Regulatory Relief, chaired by Vice President Bush. Former US Ambassador to Austria, Bill Eacho became a Visiting Professor of the Practice at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University in 2014. Amb. Lowenstein is vice chairman and co-founder of the French-American Foundation in New York and Paris, the chairman of the Advisory Council of the American Library in Paris, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a French Legion of Honour Officer. Amb. Lowenstein is a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs and Ambassador to Luxembourg.
Tuesday, July 31 at 5 pm
Walls or Bridges: What will Shape American Greatness in the 21st Century?

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Tony Blinken, currently the co-founder and managing director of WestExec Advisors, a strategic consultancy, has held senior foreign policy positions in two administrations—including as Deputy Secretary of State in the Obama Administration, the nation’s number two diplomat. Mr. Blinken helped to lead diplomacy in the fight against ISIL, the rebalance to Asia, and the global refugee crisis, while building bridges to the innovation community. Mr. Blinken also served as Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama, chaired the Deputies Committee, the administration’s principal forum for deliberating foreign policy, and was National Security Advisor to Vice President Biden.

Wednesday, August 1 at 9 am
Security in the Indo-Asian Region

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Former United States Navy Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert’s expertise is in the Asia-Pacific, “where maritime, nuclear, and other critical issues challenge America and its partners.” Admiral Greenert served as the 30th Chief of Naval Operations from 2011 to 2015. He was previously the 36th Vice Chief of Naval Operations and held a variety of command positions. He is the recipient of various awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

Wednesday, August 1 at 1 pm
On the Ground: Listening to Afghan Women’s Voices

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

Thursday, August 2 at 9 am
Is Democracy Failing?

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Ted Widmer is a senior fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. Dr. Widmer served as a speechwriter and senior advisor to former President Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001 and as a senior advisor to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton from 2012 to 2013. He was formerly the director of The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress and the director of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. The author of many books, Dr. Widmer is a frequent contributor to The New York Times, The New York Observer, Politico, The Boston Globe, and The American Scholar.

Thursday, August 2 at 5 pm
Violence and Elections After Civil Wars

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Sarah Z. Daly is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Faculty Fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses on civil wars and peace-building, international security, and ethnic politics with a primary regional focus on Latin America. Her book, Organized Violence after Civil War: The Geography of Recruitment in Latin America, explores why armed organizations remilitarize or demilitarize in the aftermath of peace accords. She has conducted field research in Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Brazil, and Israel, is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and has spent time at the World Bank, Organization of American States, and Peace Research Institute of Oslo.

Friday, August 3 at 9 am
Liberty and Security Today

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
Karen Greenberg, an expert on national security, terrorism, and civil liberties, is Director of the Center on National Security at Fordham University School of Law. She is the author of The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo’s First 100 Days, which was selected as one of the best books of 2009 by The Washington Post and Slate.com. Her newest book, Rogue Justice: The Making of the Security State, explores the war on terror’s impact on justice and law in America. She is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Friday, August 3 at 5 pm
US-Middle Eastern Relations Past and Future

THOMAS S. GATES, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
The Honorable George Mitchell served as the U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace from January 2009 to May 2011. He was a US Senator for fifteen years and served on the Finance, Veterans Affairs, and Environment and Public Works Committees as well as serving as Senate Majority Leader. From 1996 to 2000, he was Independent Chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks. Under his leadership, the Good Friday Agreement, a historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to by the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom, and the political parties of Northern Ireland. In 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Clinton, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Chairman Yasser Arafat, Senator Mitchell served as Chairman of an International Fact-Finding Committee on violence in the Middle East. The Committee’s recommendation is widely known as The Mitchell Report.