

U.S. must be world policeman, says ex-NATO boss

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Photo - public domain
(via crjasmil on pixabay.com)

The former chief of NATO, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, has said America needs to be the world's policeman to make sure the world is a safer place.

Mr Rasmussen outlined his views

in an interview with Britain's Sky News. He said America needed to intervene in the world's trouble spots to restore law and order. He said: "We need determined American global leadership." He stated that the USA had no choice but to act more forcefully, explaining that: "Syria is torn by war and conflict, Iraq is on the brink of collapse, Libya is a failed state,...Russia is attacking Ukraine and destabilising Eastern Europe, China is flexing its muscles, [and] the rogue state North Korea is threatening nuclear attacks."

Mr Rasmussen was particularly critical of President Barack Obama, whom he says has not done enough to prevent conflict. He said: "Superpowers don't get to retire. Look around; you will see a world on fire." The Russia Today (RT) newspaper questions the value of recent U.S. military interventions. It said U.S. foreign policy has led to greater instability in the Middle East and North Africa. It stated that Libya plunged into chaos after the ouster of Muammar Gaddafi with the US having no post-exit plan. RT added that U.S. policy in Iraq and Syria created one of the greatest global security threats in the form of ISIS. It went on to write that the Taliban still control a third of Afghanistan, even after the US spent 15 years there.

Sources: *sky.com* / *antiwar.com* / *rt.com*

Writing

The world does not need a "policeman". It would be very dangerous. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

chief / policeman / a safer place / intervene / global leadership / choice / collapse / critical / superpowers / military / foreign policy / chaos / security threats / control

True / False

- An ex-boss of NATO said the USA would keep the world a safer place. T / F
- The ex-boss said US leadership was important to keep law and order. T / F
- The ex-boss said Syria was on the brink of collapse. T / F
- The ex-boss said China was threatening nuclear attacks. T / F
- The ex-boss praised Barack Obama for his foreign policy. T / F
- A Russian newspaper said the USA had made the world more unstable. T / F
- The newspaper said the USA had no post-exit plan after it left Libya. T / F
- The paper said the Taliban was in control of a third of Afghanistan. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. outlined | a. unsettling |
| 2. intervene | b. resolved |
| 3. order | c. usefulness |
| 4. determined | d. get involved |
| 5. destabilising | e. fault-finding |
| 6. critical | f. shape |
| 7. value | g. summarised |
| 8. plunged | h. mayhem |
| 9. chaos | i. fell sharply |
| 10. form | j. peace |

Discussion – Student A

- Do we need superpowers?
- Could China, Russia and the USA work together for world peace?
- Will the world ever be at peace?
- Should the USA not intervene in the affairs of other countries?
- Can the Middle East take care of its own affairs?
- What will we be reading about ISIS in five years from now?
- What will happen to Afghanistan in the next ten years?
- What questions would you like to ask Barack Obama about the world?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The former | a. security threats |
| 2. intervene in the | b. of collapse |
| 3. Iraq is on the brink | c. policy |
| 4. rogue | d. world's trouble spots |
| 5. nuclear | e. into chaos |
| 6. you will see a world on | f. chief of NATO |
| 7. foreign | g. a third of Afghanistan |
| 8. Libya plunged | h. state |
| 9. one of the greatest global | i. attacks |
| 10. the Taliban still control | j. fire |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Does the world need a 'policeman'?
- What would the world be like if America was the official 'policeman'?
- How dangerous is today's world?
- What risks are there to your country from other countries?
- What will happen to Syria, Iraq and Libya in the next few years?
- Is China flexing its muscles a problem?
- What threat is North Korea to global security?

Spelling

- America needed to etnvinere
- We need nedtremied American global leadership
- Iraq is on the brink of cplesalo
- China is flexing its eslsmcu
- erguo state
- North Korea is eihatgrntne nuclear attacks
- particularly crcilait of President Barack Obama
- enough to prevent tilfconc
- led to greater snaiyltbiti in the Middle East
- Libya ngldpue into chaos
- after the teorus of Muammar Gaddafi
- global sityruec

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. e	7. c	8. i	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – The USA

You think the USA would be the world's best policeman / policewoman. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries wouldn't be so good. Also, tell the others which would be the worst of these (and why): India, Turkey or Bhutan.

Role B – India

You think India would be the world's best policeman / policewoman. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries wouldn't be so good. Also, tell the others which would be the worst of these (and why): the USA, Turkey or Bhutan.

Role C – Turkey

You think Turkey would be the world's best policeman / policewoman. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries wouldn't be so good. Also, tell the others which would be the worst of these (and why): India, the USA or Bhutan.

Role D – Bhutan

You think Bhutan would be the world's best policeman / policewoman. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries wouldn't be so good. Also, tell the others which would be the worst of these (and why): India, Turkey or the USA.

Speaking – World Police

Rank these with your partner. Put the best country to be the world's policeman / policewoman at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| • USA | • Bhutan |
| • China | • Great Britain |
| • Russia | • Brazil |
| • India | • Australia |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.