



News, Research and Events

November 18, 2020



## **NATO and Emerging Foreign Policy Threats: A Conversation with the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has long been considered the most significant alliance in the modern world. Last week, as part of the Director's Lecture Series, [the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison](#), the 22nd United States Ambassador to NATO, sat down with Baker Institute Director [Ambassador Edward Djerejian](#) to discuss the current status of the NATO alliance and the challenges it faces today.

Ambassador Hutchison said that NATO is a key to strengthening national security. In the coming years, "The threats we face will be much stronger, much more diverse and much longer term," she said. These include Russia's continued attempts to spread disinformation and create discord between the United States and its European allies; terrorism in the Middle East; and China's efforts to extend its influence globally.

Because of the mounting dangers, Ambassador Hutchison emphasized the need for America's ongoing leadership in NATO and a strong stance on defense. "If our alliance is not unified, then we will not be able to act boldly," she said. She also predicted that President-elect Biden will continue the bipartisan support that NATO has always experienced.

To hear more of Ambassador Hutchison's remarks, including her responses to questions about Armenia, Turkey and more, watch the full webinar on the [event page](#).

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***The Persian Gulf rift “is illustrative of the consequential shadow that the Trump administration will cast over its successor as crises that began on Trump’s watch have solidified into intractable impasses.”***

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, fellow for the Middle East,  
and Giorgio Cafiero, CEO and founder of Gulf State Analytics,  
in [Responsible Statecraft](#)

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*Photo courtesy of Texas Center for Drug Development*

## **COVID-19 Vaccines, Explained**

With the recent promising news about Pfizer and Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccines — which were shown to be more than 90% effective and have no serious side effects — many are hopeful that this deadly virus will be brought under control. However, there are still many questions about how the two vaccines, and the more than 40 other vaccines under development, were engineered and tested and what role Operation Warp Speed (OWS) — the U.S. government program intended to facilitate the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines — has played in the creation and funding of these vaccines.

To answer these questions, [Kirstin Matthews](#), fellow in science and technology policy, and [Rekha Lakshmanan](#), contributing expert for the Center for Health and Biosciences, created a visual guide that, among other details, explains what Operation Warp Speed is, the potential COVID-19 vaccines being funded under the program as well as their differences and prospects for a rapid release.

For more information and to view the full guide, please [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

**A presidential election during the time of COVID-19.** The 2020 presidential election has provided Americans with one of the wildest political roller-coaster rides ever. At this year's annual conference, the Baker Institute's **Presidential Elections Program** will convene academics, political experts and journalists from around the country to examine the lead-up to the elections and their aftermath during a three-day virtual program. **December 1, 2 & 3 | 11:00 am**

**Webinar — Cross-border customs issues in USMCA implementation after five months.** In the final webinar of a **series** on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), experts discuss the real-world impact of the many changes on enterprises engaged in cross-border trade. **December 9 | 11:00 am**

Visit our [events page](#) for a complete list.

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