

**SPEAKER INTRODUCTION OF PETER SCHWEIZER
DELIVERED BY RICK SCHWARTZ
AT THE COMPLIMENTARY
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It is my privilege to introduce Peter Schweizer — a five-time New York Times bestselling author and president of the Government Accountability Institute.

My wife, Jane, and I first met Peter back in 2008, on a Baltic cruise for donors and supporters of Young America's Foundation.

Both of us were impressed by his **energy**, his **quick wit** and his **passion for the facts**.

I guarantee you'll be impressed by those same things today.

Peter is known for exposing corruption ... defending the principles that make America great ... and advancing freedom coast to coast.

And it all started right here — at Young America's Foundation.

Because back in 1982, Peter attended a Foundation conference as a high schooler.

There he was exposed to conservative books by Milton Friedman, Bill Buckley and others.

And he discovered that books can do what articles and lectures can't:

They can influence a person over the long term.

So after college, Peter started writing.

Since then, he's written more than a **dozen** nonfiction and academic books, all grounded in investigative research.

Peter's books have had a tremendous impact on policies in Washington ... our young people ... and all of us, as American citizens.

His bestselling book "Throw Them All Out" led to Congress passing the STOCK Act, which prohibited senators and representatives from insider trading.

"Clinton Cash" — a favorite of mine among Peter's many books — reveals how foreign governments and businesses made Bill and Hillary Clinton rich. It's an important book because it inspired independent reporting by the mainstream media.

But Peter's career goes well beyond being a prolific author.

In the George W. Bush White House, he was a consultant to the office of **Presidential Speechwriting**.

In 2012, he co-founded the **Government Accountability Institute**, a national watchdog organization that exposes crony capitalism, misuse of taxpayer dollars and other corruption by the government.

And over the years, he's appeared on numerous TV news programs — from Fox News to CNN — and has been covered by media outlets from The Washington Post to Politico.

Peter credits Young America's Foundation for sparking his interest in politics, and his passion for ideas.

- His early association with YAF led to a scholarship that sent him to The George Washington University, and later, to Oxford University.
- In 1993, he became a staff member at Young America's Foundation, serving as a research fellow, director of academic affairs and publications editor.
- Today, he serves on the Foundation's board of directors and is a popular speaker among our students and supporters.

This afternoon, all of us will hear Peter talk about his latest book called "Secret Empires: How the American Political Class Hides Corruption and Enriches Family and Friends."

Earlier this year when the book was announced, I jumped on Amazon to pre-order it as a birthday gift for my wife, who loves to read at night.

But — as it turned out — reading "Secret Empires" before bedtime didn't lead to a good night's sleep.

The more Jane read about what happens in Washington that no one ever hears about, the madder she got — and the more sleep she lost.

And the next morning at breakfast?

She told me about all of these horrendous scandals.

Murder mysteries aren't as upsetting!

But this I can promise you:

Peter's new book is fascinating.

And while it may not be **bedtime reading** (for those of us with a conscience), it certainly should be **required reading** for everyone in this room.

And now ... won't you please help me welcome bestselling author and YAF director Peter Schweizer!