



Cyber-Security Conference

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on February 28, 2015**



This speech was presented to attendees of the FIU's Cyber Security Conference (funded by the Knight Foundation) on February 28, 2015.

Good morning! Welcome to Rogue Nations, Hackers and Hollywood. This is our exploration of the Sony Pictures hacking affair and its implications for business, national security, and public policy. I want to extend our thanks to the Knight Foundation for helping to make this conference possible and would like to acknowledge the work of FIU's School of International and Public Affairs in conceptualizing the event. I also would like to thank all of our speakers and panelists for joining us today.

Today we are facing a paradigm shift in foreign affairs and domestic civil liberties issues. It's Cyber Security's "Brave New World". The cyber attack on Sony Pictures last November was unprecedented in scale and scope. The incident raises important questions about how we as a nation must secure the American homeland, defend our economic interests, and safeguard our civil liberties in the face of cyber threats. It was a watershed in international affairs. It also raises the broader question of whether our traditional ideas of state sovereignty are still valid.

Are those ideas still valid in an age where hackers, cyberterrorists, and other "dark networks" can launch debilitating digital attacks from anywhere in the world with relative impunity? For some analysts, the Sony incident proves that cyber warfare has come of age as an alternative, or a complement to conventional warfare. The Sony affair also suggests that private businesses and other soft targets are likely to be the prime targets, on the cyber battlefield of the 21st Century.

Why? Because the information systems and data networks operated by private firms are typically less robust than those ran by government or military entities. Security breaches at Target, JPMorgan Chase, and other retail and financial operations have illustrated that.

Furthermore, the Sony affair raises important questions about:

- The limits of national security within the context of the nation's commercial and business operations.
- The balance between the civil rights of citizens vs. the nation's national security objectives.
- The boundaries of U.S. law and sovereignty for American businesses globally.
- The integrity of free expression worldwide.

In addition, it raises the important issue of global or regional governance to coordinate cyber policies and actions among states. Is this necessary or possible?

In their book on “The New Digital Age”, Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen point to a new era of empowerment in which the spread of digital technology will help to reallocate the concentration of power away from traditional authorities. They raise the critical question, “Will this transfer of power to individuals ultimately result in a safer world, or a more dangerous one?” Today we have convened leaders from the government, business, academic, legal, and not-for-profit sectors of our community to create what will certainly be a lively, thought-provoking discussion on this “Brave New World”.