

Beyond War: Causes of Conflict, Prospects for Peace Conference
June 2, Dinner Program Speakers

Jon Sawyer: Closing

Thank you, Nadja – for this powerful presentation and for the dedication you and Bruno have shown over what is now nearly a decade to ensuring that the story of Colombia and its neighbors is accurately and fairly told, with the full historical and cultural context that story requires.

What a profound example of the mission we cite at the bottom of every page on our website—the quotation from the third Joseph Pulitzer, and my first editor, that “we will illuminate dark places and, with a deep sense of responsibility, interpret these troubled times.”

He wrote those words in 1953, at the dawn of the thermonuclear age and the Cold War. I made them part of our mission statement in 2006, at a time when this country was deeply troubled over the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and our response to terrorism.

We are just as troubled today.

Our mission—raising the level of reporting on the biggest global issues, working with the best media outlets in the world to reach the broadest possible audience, and then extending that reach by working with our K-12 and university partners—has never been more important.

You’ve seen the range of our networks in the panels this afternoon and in the talks tonight—collaborations with great universities like Howard and Harvard, joint projects with superb outlets like *Vox* and *NewsHour*, the opportunity to support the work of journalists as gifted as Nadja and Yochi and as talented as Indigo and her bandmates from Howard.

The theme of this year’s conference could not be more important, or more timely—how to reframe the way we cover conflicts so as to prevent them where possible, give them the context they require, and properly apply the lessons of conflicts past. I hope that all of us come away with new insights, and a redoubled commitment to make this the priority it deserves to be.

The Pulitzer Center is able to do the work we do only because of you—our journalists, our news media and educational partners, and the individuals and foundations who provide the financial support that makes us the engine for innovation and positive change that we aspire to be.

This year we are especially grateful to Humanity United, for so generously supporting our work across the globe, and in so many classrooms, on conflict prevention and resolution, and for making this conference possible.

But I know that Humanity United shares our belief that making this work a success ultimately falls on every one of us, individually. We are grateful to you all.

This closes the formal part of today's events. I hope that you'll come back bright and early tomorrow, for a wonderful trio of workshops you'll find in the program – and that you'll join us for further conversation tonight. The bar is open!