



## "Democracy & Democratization: Challenges & Opportunities."

68th Annual Student Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA). Hosted by the US Military Academy at West Point. Pictured (front row, right side, third person) Makayla Quinn, SIS Senior majoring in International Relations and minoring in Economics.

**SCUSA** is the oldest and largest undergraduate conference of its type in the world. Approximately 200 undergraduate students from over 100 colleges and universities around the world attend SCUSA. Throughout the conference, the student delegates and cadets debate and formulate policy recommendations that realistically model American strategic responses to significant national and global challenges. The highlights of the four-day conference include the opening senior panel discussion, an evening keynote banquet address, four roundtable sessions, and a closing-report session. The keynote speaker was Dr. Richard N. Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations. The conference theme was, "Democracy & Democratiza

tion: Challenges & Opportunities." Beginning the day after the U.S. presidential election, the conference invites participants to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the United States as it responds to key questions concerning the health and future of democracy. Among the questions to be explored are: what are the political, normative, and material limits to promoting democracy in the world? Does democracy confront greater challenges in some countries and regions? How does political radicalism in its many forms challenge democracy? What does the survival of authoritarian and hybrid regimes indicate about the long-term prospects for democracy internationally? Can democracy successfully navigate ethno-religious conflict?