

The time is now to address climate change:

Re: the Feb. 15 column “World today a messy but not unusually violent place.”

I appreciated George Will’s call for an optimistic approach to foreign affairs. I especially liked that he cited Steven Pinker’s research regarding a decline in violence and armed conflict. I was fortunate to hear Pinker lecture last year. He reviewed his book’s findings.

After his lecture, I asked if he thought climate change would lead to an uptick in violence and war. Pinker responded that climate change is the single most critical problem facing humanity today. He knows many researchers are investigating the impact global warming will have on violence, but he hasn’t seen anything conclusive yet.

I wish Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake would be optimistic about fixing climate change and sponsor bipartisan legislation to reduce emissions. Pessimists assume they’ll meet too much public and political resistance. Optimists know the time is ripe.

Judy Weiss

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