

War, violence not man's big concern

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 02/19/2015 06:33:53 AM EST

Thank you for publishing columnist George Will's assessment of foreign affairs issues. I was impressed that Will was willing to say Obama has taken a sensible approach to ISIS. I don't remember Will approving of anything Obama has done in the last six years.

I especially noticed that Will cited the scientific research of Harvard professor Steven Pinker whose recent book indicates there has been a decline in war and violence.

Last March, Pinker gave a public lecture reviewing his findings. Following his lecture, I asked if climate change could cause an increase in violence and conflict.

Pinker said that climate change is the single most critical problem facing humanity today. He acknowledged that researchers have studied the question of global warming's impact on war and violence, but he said that so far none of these studies have persuaded him.

Will cited Pinker to support his contention that we should not engage in unwarranted alarmism regarding foreign affairs. If Pinker's assessment is that climate change is the most critical problem facing us today, then it's not unwarranted pessimism and alarmism to want our government to address the issue.

Indeed, many members of Congress won't enact climate legislation because they are alarmists about the impact climate legislation will have on the economy and jobs, and they're pessimists about whether we can reduce emissions enough.

Studies show that well-designed climate legislation can lower emissions quickly, while creating more jobs per year than the Keystone XL pipeline would create in its entire life.

Please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby for more information.

JUDY WEISS

Brookline

[LINK](#)