

Methodist University Community Oral History Project
Methodist University
Fayetteville, NC

Freddie T. Holbrooke

Interview Conducted by
Carl Dyke
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-the impression that a booming economy was due to Obama’s policies is wrong; Trump’s tax cuts fueled
it

Interview of

FREDDIE T. HOLBROOKE

Interviewed by

CARL DYKE

0:03

DYKE: Okay! So, I'm Carl Dyke, Methodist University Department of History. I'm here with

0:08

HOLBROOKE: Freddie Holbrooke.

0:09

DYKE: Freddie Holbrooke. And Mr. Holbrooke, it's good to be with you.

0:11

HOLBROOKE: Well, thank you!

0:13

DYKE: Okay, so, this is—we're here heading towards the rally for President Trump, and Freddie—Mr. Holbrooke—would you like to tell me anything about your life? Just to sort of set up who I'm talking to?

0:29

HOLBROOKE: Well, just a normal American. I enjoy my country, and I'm looking for the freedoms that Trump offers, I do believe.

0:38

DYKE: Yeah. What do you do?

0:41

HOLBROOKE: I'm in sales.

0:42

DYKE: Sales. Fantastic. And, sort of just in general, what is it that you like about the president? What brings you out?

0:51

HOLBROOKE: Well, the one thing is, he's not a regular, typical politician. Plain and simple. I mean, so much has come to light with him being there that they've been ignoring. It's just a matter of his presence, and what he offers through it.

1:06

DYKE: Yeah. So, what sorts of things do you notice in particular that people have been ignoring?

1:12

HOLBROOKE: Oh, good grief! I mean, you look at all the things that—I mean, if you go back to—everybody says Hillary [Clinton], with her e-mails and things like that. [This refers to the FBI

investigation into whether Clinton had erred in having a private e-mail server while she was Secretary of State.¹] You know, I'm ex-military; I seen a U.S. Naval seaman get locked up for taking a picture on a ship because it was classified; and she got away with everything she did. I mean, it's crazy. I mean anyone else would have been put in jail for a long time. And, you know, just looking at what's in the news today, I mean, how many lies have they told continuously about Russia being in collusion with Trump? And they find that information out, it's not him, it's actually the Democrat Party that was pushing a lot of information, and, you know, it just keeps going and going. [This refers generally to the scandal that led to Trump's impeachment in 2019.]

1:59

DYKE: Yeah. So, what are you expecting out of the next four years?

2:02

HOLBROOKE: Well, I hope he gets it. I mean, I hope this election keeps him in, and hopefully with that, [the] next four years, a lot more can come to light that more Americans will see, and actually—. It can't be pushed aside for so long.

2:22

DYKE: Is there anything in terms of, sort of, sort of—policy developments, or is that not really the—?

2:27

¹ According to the New York *Times*, a State Department investigation found that the server “ ‘did not necessarily’ increase the likelihood of classified information being transmitted on unclassified systems, . . . but it did add ‘an increased degree of risk of compromise.’” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/18/us/politics/state-dept-inquiry-clinton-emails.html>

HOLBROOKE: No, with the policy, and things like that, I mean—he basically did the same thing [Ronald] Reagan did. I mean, he lowered taxes and increased incentives for businesses to be here again. And, you know, I feel he'll keep doing it. And, you know, everybody wants to say that a lot of the stuff [America's economic success under Trump?] was because of the policies [Barack] Obama had put in place, but it really wasn't. I mean, if he hadn't come in to get the tax cuts like he done, we wouldn't have grown any. We'd have just kept doing the same old, same old.

3:01

DYKE: Yeah. So, being in sales and business, have you any kind of developments there?

3:16

HOLBROOKE: Actually, it's been a very good year for our business. Even with the shutdown, COVID and stuff [the global pandemic of COVID-19 or Coronavirus that caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans and massively disrupted the economy], we've done okay. But, you know, the trend I'm seeing is, many products we've dealt with have been overseas. And now we're starting to focus more back on home again, and it's really, in my opinion, gonna be for the better.

3:45

DYKE: So, do you think any of that has to do with the policies towards China?

3:52

HOLBROOKE: Yes, I do. I mean, I really do. And it's not just in general trade. I mean, 'cause we get stuff from Mexico and, you know, Canada as well. So what we do is we deal with matte-boards from Canada

and molding from down south. [Sounds of people at the entrance to the bus]. Got to go. But I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

4:14

DYKE: Thank you very much.

4:16

HOLBROOKE: Have a great day.

4:17

DYKE: You too.