

Ambassador Jan Kickert on Austrian foreign policy



On Tuesday, February 19, 2019, students and faculty at Utah Valley University (UVU) had the privilege of listening to Ambassador Jan Kickert presentation what foreign policy means to a small country. Ambassador Kickert is Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations. It was a great presentation that suits many of my interests in political science. Austria joined the United Nations in 1955. In 1934, Austria was fascist, which was similar to the Italian fascist, with Benito Mussolini, who governed in Italy at that time. I found that this lesson was very helpful for me to understand how the Austrian government used history lessons to construct its foreign policy. It took some time for Austria to find itself, when some of his provinces were eager to join neighboring countries. Eventually it eventually became an independent state. Once the World War II began, many Austrians joined the German Nazi. During a short time after the end of World War II, Austria experienced the same fate as Germany, and it was divided to four parts by different countries. By embracing neutrality, Austria became independent one more time. In line with this

policy, Austria joined the United Nations in addition to being a good place for communication, and the EU has helped to boost Austria's economy.



Hazim Alshabari with Ambassador Jan Kickert

Austria was able to attract some of its institutions of the United Nations to its capital and Vienna, became one of the headquarters of the UN. When the iron curtain fell along the eastern border,

Austria had considerable room for maneuver in its foreign policy. It played a big role in the ban of Weapons of Mass Destruction including the ban of nuclear weapons.

Thank you Ambassador Jan Kickert and UVU office of Global Engagement for hosting this very interesting event.

Hazim Alshanbari, UVU student