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cated as this. But it is not a responsible choice for the most prosperous and powerful nation on the planet.

When you consider the range of challenges that the world is struggling with, most countries don't lie awake at night worrying about America's presence; they worry about what would happen in our absence.

So we cannot be seduced. For us, the lessons of history are clear.

We don't see an excuse for inaction. We see a mandate to lead. Because the greatest challenges that our world confronts are best addressed — and in some cases can only be addressed — by good and capable people working in common cause with citizens of other nations.

You often hear politicians talking about American exceptionalism, and indeed, this nation is exceptional. But remember, please, we're not exceptional because we say we are and keep repeating it; we're exceptional because we do exceptional things.

In other words, greatness isn't about bragging. It's about doing. It's about never being satisfied. It's about testing the limits of what we can achieve together — of what America and its partners can accomplish in the world. And that is exactly what we are trying to do, with the United States today already more deeply engaged on more important issues, in more parts of the globe, than ever before in our history. And we are profoundly conscious of the gravity of the challenges. In the words of the Haitian proverb, there are mountains beyond the mountains.

One mountain that we have to climb, which stands in the way of the calm that we want in our lives and the stability that we need to achieve many of the things we want to achieve, is the scourge of violent extremism that threatens communities around the world. And there can be no peace without eliminating this scourge.

Boston needs no lessons in how important it is to win the battle against terrorists. I want you to know, without exaggeration, we will win it and we are even winning it now. In Syria and Iraq, we have degraded the leadership of the terrorist group known as ISIL or Daesh, and we and our partners have liberated a third of the land that it once occupied, and we are continuing to move. They have not taken one piece of territory and held it since May of last year, but we're not going to be successful in the long run if the world continues to turn away from other kinds of problems and allows the production of terrorists at such an alarming rate. And that is why it is critical that we expand our commitment to taking on violent extremism at the roots.

So all of us need to do much more to build relationships with partners overseas, to deliver assistance to families and communities abroad, to promote stability worldwide. And we need to do this not because it is morally right, which it is; not just because it's in keeping with our national ethos,

Safe space for drug users will save lives

SACHA PFEIFFER'S powerful Globe report ("Overwhelmed by overdoses, clinic offers a room for highs," Page A1, April 26) on Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program's new safe space project, where drug users can receive medical monitoring and support while they are high, is a groundbreaking and essential new intervention in treating and helping those whose lives are most at risk from opioids.

Today's unprecedented opioid crisis requires creative interventions on many fronts. The safe space project is highly innovative for Massachusetts, deeply humane for the individual, and realistic in the kind of new interventions we must consider implementing if we are to get ahead of this epidemic.

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless recognized a major gap in how our state deals with addiction. They acted on that void to create a sound, reasonable, and nonjudgmental medical intervention that unquestionably will save countless lives.

There is no sugarcoating the deadly effects of this substance abuse crisis in our community. I applaud Boston Healthcare for the Homeless for taking the risk and daring to add an essential new choice to a toolbox that includes treatment, health care, prevention, and outreach.

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The writer is the president and CEO of Victory Programs, a nonprofit focused on homelessness and substance use disorder treatment.

All populists are not created equal

WHILE APPROPRIATELY castigating the demagogues of 20th-century America, Michael Bloomberg ("Defeat the demagogues," Opinion, May 4) asserts a specious symmetry of populism on the right and left. While populists on both sides are frustrated with governments — federal and state — that are unresponsive to their needs, equating Donald Trump's nativism with Bernie Sanders' democratic socialism ignores real differences. Scapegoating a class of people — illegal immigrants — is poisonous, divisive and ultimately unproductive, but challenging an economic philosophy — neoliberalism — which has benefited only the wealthy is the first step toward the creation of governments that work for all. Building a wall on our southern bor-

label. For the past 30 years, the Democratic Party has let the poor and working class slip into poverty while doing nothing to prevent the appalling income inequality that exists in our country, the lack of universal health care, failing infrastructure, etc. He had good reason not to back the party that supported Wall Street and millionaires. Meanwhile, Sanders has caucused with the Democrats consistently and tried to amend many bills so that the poor, the working class, and veterans would be treated more fairly. He has been more of a Democrat, standing up for the principles that used to characterize the party, than the regulars. We need both Sanders and Warren to create the nonviolent revolution that is long overdue.

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