



National Defense Strategy

Our speaker for March 28 is David Ochmanek, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and now a Senior Defense Analyst with the Washington, DC-based think tank, the RAND Corporation.

Ochmanek will give us his insight into the United States' national defense strategy. He is well versed on the subject because since 1985, he has held high-ranking positions with the Defense Department and RAND, a global policy research organization.

From 2009 to 2014, Ochmanek was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Development, and from 1993 to 1995, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy. At RAND, he was a Senior Defense Analyst and Director of the Strategy and Doctrine Program for Project AIR FORCE from 1985 to 1993 and again from 1995 to 2009.

Ochmanek was a member of the U.S. Foreign Service from 1980 to 1985 and was an Air Force officer from 1973 to 1978.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is currently an adjunct professor at Georgetown University.

Embassy Trip Filled, but Still Register

Carol Nechemias has announced that more than 80 members have signed up for our May 8 embassy trip to Washington, DC. There are no more seats left on the two buses. However, Carol notes that there may be cancellations, so if you want to get on the waiting list, you should still register by April 26. You can find a copy of the registration form on our new website, www.fpaharrisburg.org. Or contact Carol at c4n@psu.edu. Your check will not be cashed unless you go to DC.

Paris and Normandy Cruise

The Foreign Policy Association is hosting an eight-day river cruise through the picturesque and historic French countryside of Normandy. The cruise both begins and ends in Paris. The dates are April 9-16, 2020. A block of river view staterooms aboard the Viking long ship Kadlin is being held for us until April 14, 2019. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Phyllis Skok at jes_pss@verizon.net or Cindy at cindy@holidaytour-travel.com or 717-763-7878.

March 28 Dinner Arrangements

Place: West Shore Country Club
100 Brentwater Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Time: 5:30 PM: Social Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 PM: Sit-Down Dinner
7:30 PM: Presentation w/ Q & A

Menu: West Shore Country Club Salad
Cider Brined Roast Pork Loin
Sweet Potato Mash
Sweet Onion Pan Gravy
Hot Fudge Sundae

Those with special dietary needs may request a substitution when making a reservation. If you order a substitute meal, remember to pick up a coded tag at the table and put it by your place. Alternate meals will be chicken unless chicken is the main course – then fish will be the alternate or vegetarian, which will be chef's choice, typically non-meat pasta.

**The cost for FPA members is \$30.
We welcome non-members to attend dinners.
The non-member cost is \$35.**

There is no charge for anyone to attend the program presentation only, beginning at 7:30 PM.

**For Reservations Contact: Ron Pontius at
ronpon@comcast.net or (717) 991-0899,
or you can reserve on our new website:
www.fpaharrisburg.org**

Reservations must be made by 10 AM Monday, March 25. If you come for dinner without a reservation, the country club may charge a late fee of up to \$10 per person.

When making or canceling a dinner reservation, give your complete *name, address and phone number*. We need that information to notify you if a meeting is canceled due to the weather or for any other reason.

NOTE: We bill no-shows.

No-shows will be billed unless there are sufficient walk-ins to meet the reservation number given to the West Shore Country Club.

Contributions to FPA are tax deductible.

Your contribution to the Foreign Policy Association is deductible to the fullest extent of the law under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

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Russia's War on Western Democracies

Scribed by Akash Banerjee
Student at Warwick High School, Lititz
Winner of the 2019 FPA Governor's School Honorarium

Dr. S. Mohsin Hashim, professor of political science at Muhlenberg College, told the Foreign Policy Association on February 27 that there were several factors behind Russia's heightened hostility toward the West.

More than 170 members and guests attended the monthly FPA gathering at the West Shore Country Club.

Dr. Hashim cited three crucial elements that have driven Russian foreign policy since the collapse of the Soviet Union: post-Cold War structural changes, Russia's own sense of self, and widely varying regimes.

He said the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) greatly influenced Russia's militarism and policy by limiting the country's spheres of influence.

Russia's increased security concerns were largely dismissed by NATO and the EU. Thus, Russia perceived itself as being ignored by the West and vulnerable to both internal and external conflicts.

Post-Soviet Russia did not feel it was receiving the respect and recognition that it deserved as a world power, Dr. Hashim said.

Moreover, internal divisions split the country into three branches of thinking: westernizers, nationalists and conservatives. This created several different regimes with Boris Yeltsin's "liberal" regime coming out on top for a time. Through Yeltsin, the nation's 89 regions became virtual independent states. Thus, the Russian perception of democracy was bound to be heavily warped.

Dr. Hashim said Russia's current leader, Vladimir Putin, gained power at a time when the public was willing to exchange freedom for stability. Putin was able to impose power vertically by bringing regional governments under central control and manipulating the economy, especially oil and gas prices.

Putin claimed to run a "managed democracy," but Dr. Hashim said Putin ultimately will fail because his heavy handed approach does not allow civil society to express opposing ideas.

"He (Putin) is playing a weak card very astutely," Dr. Hashim said.

An award-winning educator, Dr. Hashim has done extensive research on post-Soviet Russia. He speaks fluent Russian and holds a masters degree in economics from Moscow State University. He earned his doctorate degree from Penn State in 2000.

2018-2019 Program Topics / Schedule
All Events at the West Shore Country Club

(Due to speaker availability, there has been a switch in topics for our March and April meetings.)

- March 28 National Defense Strategy
- April 25 Current State of Arms Control
- May 8 Embassy Trip to Washington, DC - Japan
- May 16 Japan and East Asia

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