Japan and East Asia

Our speaker for May is Frederick R. Dickinson, professor of Japanese history at the University of Pennsylvania, who will share with us his views on the current political situation in Japan and East Asia.

Dickinson is co-director of Penn’s Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies and deputy director of the Penn Forum on Japan. Born and raised in Japan, he teaches courses on modern Japan; on empire, politics and nationalism in East Asia and the Pacific, and on world history.

He is the author of War and National Reinvention: Japan in the Great War, 1914-1919 (published 1999), Taisho Tenno (2009), and World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930 (2013). Currently, he is working on a global history of modern Japan.

Dickinson has received grants from the Japanese Ministry of Education, the Fulbright Commission, and the Japan Foundation. He was a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution (Stanford University, 2000-2001) and a research scholar at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Kyoto, 2011-2012). He has taught not only in this country but in Europe and in Japan.

He holds a master's degree in international politics from Kyoto University (1986) and a doctorate degree in history from Yale University (1993).

Embassy Trip Being Rescheduled

The FPA has received late word that Japan is unable to host us at its embassy on May 8, as previously scheduled. However, the embassy suggested that we explore alternative dates, which we are doing. The reason for the change is that an important Japanese official is visiting Washington, DC, that week, and there would have been no one available to speak with us.

Carol Nechemias, trip organizer, says we are exploring other possible dates in May or June. Meanwhile, we will maintain the current list of participants and standbys. Once a new date is set, we will let you know.

Congratulations to Lily

FPA Harrisburg's youngest member, Lily Ward-Diorio, is the valedictorian of the 2019 graduating class at Boiling Springs High School. She and her twin sister Becca, the class salutatorian, are entering Brown University in Providence, RI. Lily aspires to a career in international relations. We send her off with our very best wishes.

May 16 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: Charred Carrot Soup
Chicken Marsala, Mushroom Demi-Glace
Wild Rice Pilaf
Buttered Green Beans with Toasted Almonds
Strawberry Shortcake

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, May 13. 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.
The Current State of Arms Control

Scribed by Dayshalee Rosario Cruz
Lebanon Valley College

Mark Fitzpatrick, a leading voice on nuclear non-proliferation, told 140 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association on April 25 that the current state of arms control can be summed up in three words: It doesn’t exist.

Fitzpatrick noted that the United States is on track to withdraw from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty on grounds that Russia is violating it. The U.S. withdrawal threatens to accelerate a worldwide arms race, he said. Meanwhile, countries like North Korea, India and Pakistan are determined to hang on to their nuclear weapons for self-protection. Other countries, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, aspire to develop nuclear weapons, increasing the danger that they may fall into the hands of terrorist groups.

For 13 years, Fitzpatrick headed the Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Policy Programme of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, based in London. Before that, he spent 26 years as a career diplomat with the U.S. State Department, where at one time he served as acting deputy assistant secretary for non-proliferation.

Fitzgerald cited 12 reasons why he is pessimistic about arms control and only six reasons why he is optimistic, including the fact that so far nuclear weapons have acted as a deterrence to a worldwide war and that no such weapon has been employed by any nation since 1945.