



U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities

Our speaker for the October 22 webinar is Kori Schake, director of foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington, DC-based think tank.

Her appearance is being made possible by a generous contribution from AAA Central Penn. As the time for the webinar approaches, you will receive an e-mail explaining how you can tune in and even participate in the Q&A portion.

Dr. Schake formerly was deputy director-general of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London. She has had a distinguished career in government, working at the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the National Security Council at the White House. She has taught at Stanford University, West Point, Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, the National Defense University, and the University of Maryland.

Her past posts have included:

- State Department - deputy director of policy planning (2007-2008).
- National Security Council - director of defense strategy & requirements (2002-05).
- Defense Department - special assistant to the assistant secretary for strategy and requirements (1994-96), and NATO desk officer, Directorate of Strategic Plans and Policy (1990-94).

In 2008, she served as a senior policy advisor to the presidential campaign of John McCain.

Dr. Schake is the author of five books, among them:

- *America vs. the West: Can the Liberal World Order be Preserved?* (2018).
- *Safe Passage: The Transition from British to American Hegemony* (2017).
- *State of Disrepair: Fixing the Culture and Practices of the State Department* (2012).

She also is co-editor, along with former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis of *Warriors & Citizens: American Views of Our Military* (2016).

Dr. Schake has been published widely in policy journals and the popular media, including CNN.com, *Foreign Affairs*, *Politico*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. She is a contributing writer to *The Atlantic* magazine.

She earned her doctorate and master's degrees in government and politics from the University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree in international relations from Stanford.

A Message Regarding Schedule Changes From FPA President Howard Davison:

Because of uncertainties posed by the continuing coronavirus pandemic, the FPA board has had to make several changes in the program schedule for 2020-2021. The updated schedule is posted on the reverse side of this page.

We have decided to continue with webinar presentations at least through March as in-person gatherings seem to be out of the question until spring, if then.

Our first webinar in September went quite well. If you missed the presentation on Russian disinformation by author Nina Jankowicz, you can access it on the Midtown Scholar Book Store's website: midtownscholar.com and click on podcasts/videos.

If it is deemed safe to do so, we will hold our annual International Fellows Reception on April 8 at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle.

Our hope is that we can return to the West Shore Country Club on May 20 for a dinner meeting featuring a talk on Iran by one of the foremost experts on that country, James Roberts, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for counterterrorism.

We have had to cancel the Keystone Speaker Series event for this program year, but hopefully will be able to make our annual Embassy Trip to Washington in May.

I would like to thank Legend Financial Advisors Inc. of Pittsburgh for providing technical support for our webinar series. Legend's Dan Kleck is arranging and conducting each webinar. Legend is a fee-only financial advisor that offers personal investment management and retirement planning services. You can learn more at legend-financial.com.

I also wish to thank AAA Central Penn for its sponsorship of our October program and making possible the appearance of our outstanding speaker, Kori Schake. AAA Central Penn provides travel services and information to motorists in nine counties. It is part of nationwide network with more than 53 million members. Learn more at aaa.com.

An Equal-Opportunity Critic

Our October 22 speaker, Kori Schake, has penned two recent articles for *The Atlantic*, both critical of foreign policy positions taken by presidential candidates Donald Trump and Joe Biden. You might want to give the articles a read:

- "The Damage That 'America First' Has Done," published March 20.
- "Biden's Bad Foreign Policy Ideas," June 7.

You can read both articles on line by simply typing the titles into your favorite search engine box.

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Russian Disinformation and the West

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Russian interference in democracies through the use of disinformation has been occurring at least since 2007 and affects more countries than just the United States.

So says Nina Jankowicz, who spoke on September 24 via a webinar jointly sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association and the Midtown Scholar Book Store.

Ms. Jankowicz is the author of a recently published book, *How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News and the Future of Conflict*. She also is Disinformation Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a Washington, DC-based think tank.

She said Russia's goal in spreading disinformation is to cause chaos and pit free societies against one another by amplifying discord that already exists. The main objective, she said, is to foster distrust among the public and get people to disengage from the democratic process.

According to Ms. Jankowicz, Russia uses disinformation to reach its own domestic goals and to further its national interests. Preoccupied with internal conflict, the U.S. and other nations are less likely to pay attention to what Russia is doing on the international stage.

The chaos caused by the circulation of disinformation creates an example for Vladimir Putin to show to his people that democracy does not work, she said. It also has allowed Russia to garner worldwide recognition despite its declining status as a world power.

Ms. Jankowicz discussed the tools used to spread disinformation and create discord, which are largely the social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter. Through these and other means, Russia has sought to divide Americans by the spread of extremist and polarizing content.

She said Americans need to fight the disinformation war by demanding transparency from social media companies and insist on standards of truth and accuracy.

The webinar was presented in a Q&A format with Ms. Jankowicz responding to questions from the FPA's own Carol Nechemias, associate professor emerita of public policy and political science at Penn State Harrisburg.

2020-21 Program Topics / Schedule

All events via webinars at least through March. We hope to hold the International Fellows reception at the Army Heritage and Education Center in April and return to the West Shore Country Club in May, but only if it is safe to do so.

- Oct. 22** U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities
- Nov. 18** National Defense Strategy
- Dec. 17** China and Its Rebellious Provinces
- Jan. 21** The Rise of Authoritarianism
- Feb. 26** Regional Power Competition in the Middle East
- March 18** The Decline of America's Global Influence
- April 8** International Fellows Reception
Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- May 20** Iran: How Did We Get Here
And What Do We Do Now?
- May ??** Embassy Trip, date to be determined

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