



China and It's Rebellious Provinces

Our speaker for December 17 is Robert P. Naeye, an award-winning freelance journalist based near Hershey who has a keen interest in China, its provinces, and its tenuous relationship with the United States.

Naeye has visited China and Hong Kong and is an avid reader of world history and current affairs. He particularly is concerned about Hong Kong because his two adopted sisters were born there.

Naeye is a member of the Foreign Policy Association, having joined in 2016 shortly after moving to Pennsylvania. Not long after joining, he wrote an article about the FPA which was published in *The Burg*.

In his talk, Naeye will make note of China's explosive economic growth and its increasing tensions with the U.S. He will discuss the worsening threat that China poses toward the semi-autonomy of Hong Kong and Taiwan.

He will address the question of whether the world's two super powers, both economically and militarily, can continue to prosper free of armed conflict?

Naeye has given more than 100 lectures all over the world, mostly about astronomy. He is former editor-in-chief of *Sky & Telescope* and *Mercury* magazines.

He has authored two books and contributed to three others, including NASA's official 50th anniversary volume. He worked for NASA for 16 months at its Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

He has written hundreds of articles on astronomy and other topics and edited hundreds of others.

Naeye is an amateur photographer and global traveler. He has created a website to showcase his photos. The site address is www.robertnaeye.com.

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More Presidential Trivia

Since suspending our dinner meetings during the pandemic, we have had to fill space normally occupied by our monthly menus and reservation information. This being a presidential year, we have chosen to include some trivia about past presidents.

For example, can you name the only former president who at the time of his death was not a U.S. citizen?

Or can you name a major American city that bears the name of a former vice president from Pennsylvania?

You'll find the answers at the end of this column.

Donald Trump is the 11th U.S. president to lose his bid for re-election. The others being: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William Howard Taft, Herbert Hoover, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George H.W. Bush.

They were ousted from office by Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Joe Biden.

Notice that Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, and Jimmy Carter appear on both lists. Cleveland lost his re-election bid to Harrison in 1888, but came back four years later to regain the White House, thus becoming the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms.

And of course we all remember Jimmy Carter, defeating President Gerald Ford in 1976, only to lose to Ronald Regan in 1980.

Carter, by the way, holds the record as the longest living ex-president, having left office in 1981, almost 40 years ago. Herbert Hoover lived 31 years after his presidential service ended in 1933.

Answers to the above questions:

At the time of his death in January 1862, former president John Tyler was a citizen of the Confederate States of America, having just been elected to the CSA House of Representatives.

Although disputed by some, most historians believe that the city of Dallas, Texas, was named for George Mifflin Dallas of Philadelphia, who served as vice president of the United States from 1845 to 1849. He was an outspoken advocate for Texas statehood.

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National Defense Strategy

Scribed by Matthew J. Smith

FPA Secretary

The United States is poorly postured to meet the global security challenges posed by Russia, China, and even North Korea, says David Ochmanek, a senior defense analyst with the Washington-based think tank, the RAND Corporation.

Ochmanek, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense, spoke to the FPA by webinar on November 18. He said the post-Cold War era, when regional adversaries were America's major concern, is a thing of the past.

Ochmanek noted the ease with which an America-led coalition overcame the forces of Iraq's Saddam Hussein in Operation Desert Storm. He said we were able to establish military dominance early because of our technological and strategic advantage, including control of the air space.

By contrast, China has a large amount of technological assets and up-to-date military armaments that would prove a difficult hurdle in any confrontation over Taiwan, Hong Kong, or the South China Sea.

To discourage Chinese aggression, Ochmanek said the U.S. must improve its surface-to-air missile systems, rethink reconnaissance strategies, and further support Taiwan's defense capabilities.

Russia presents a different challenge, he said. In order to deter or combat Russian hostility in Eastern Europe, the U.S. should enhance its counter-space systems, position more military equipment and ground troops in the region, and develop better counter-battery operations.

As to North Korea and its nuclear weapons, Ochmanek said the U.S. must improve the reliability of its regional missile defense systems.

Although the U.S. has been mostly successful in fighting against non-state, terrorist groups in the Middle East, there is room for improvement, such as developing lightweight reconnaissance-attack aircraft to carry out military operations in the region.

In conclusion, Ochmanek said the world is more dangerous and complex than it was in the 1990s and if these new challenges are not soon addressed, it could lead to an America that is less safe and less prosperous.

FPA 2020-2021 Program Schedule and Topics

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.

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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