



The Rise of Authoritarianism

The speaker for our January 21 webinar is Dr. Ae sil Woo, an assistant professor of political science at Gettysburg College.

You will receive information on how to participate in the webinar by e-mail and on our website as the date draws near. Watch for it.

Dr. Woo studies legislative institutions and their effects on dissent in authoritarian states. In particular, she examines how authoritarian leaders address threats to their rule by experimenting with various institutional designs.

Her work has been published in a leading political science journal (*Journal of Politics*) and in a newsletter of the largest association for political scientists (*Annals of Comparative Democratization*).

Dr. Woo teaches about institutional strategies that authoritarian leaders employ to remain in power. Her work helps us to see how institutional designs facilitate the resilience of authoritarian regimes while generating conditions that threaten their survival.

Dr. Woo has lived in multiple countries (South Korea, Jamaica, and the U.S.). Her multicultural experience has enabled her to view from a broad perspective and to use cross-national analysis in her continuing research.

A 2012 graduate of Ithaca College in New York, she earned a doctorate degree from the University of California at Merced.

Welcome, New Members

The Foreign Police Association is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Pat Acker-Bailey and David Bailey, Mechanicsburg; Thomas Bartoski, Camp Hill; Brigitta Bauer, Waynesboro; Jessica Delo, Hummelstown; Nina R. Elsohn and James H. Lang, New Cumberland; Peter Graustein, Elizabethtown; Steve Hubler, Camp Hill; Curt Sober and Gail Perez, Mechanicsburg; Matthew J. Smith, Covington Twp., Lackawanna County; Stephen MacDonald and Mary Warner, Harrisburg; August and Carolyn Pfeifer, Camp Hill.

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Blinken Gets the Nod

Antony John Blinken, President-Elect Biden's Choice for Secretary of State

Antony John Blinken, 58, is a veteran Democratic government official. He served as Deputy National Security Advisor from 2013 to 2015 and as Deputy Secretary of State from 2015 to 2017 under President Barack Obama.

From 2009 to 2013, Blinken was a Deputy Assistant to President Obama and National Security Advisor to Vice President Biden.

During the administration of President Bill Clinton, Blinken served in the Department of State and in senior level positions on the National Security Council staff.

He was a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (2001-2002) and Democratic Staff Director with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (2002-2008).

In the private sector, Blinken co-founded WestExec Advisors, a consulting firm. He also is a partner in a private equity firm and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Blinken was born in New York City to Jewish parents. His parents divorced and at the age of 9, he moved to Paris with his mother and her second husband, a Holocaust survivor.

Blinken attended Harvard University, where he worked on the *Harvard Crimson* and co-edited the weekly art magazine. After graduation, he reported for *The New Republic* magazine.

He earned a degree from the Columbia Law School in 1988, after which he practiced law in New York City and Paris.

In 2002, Blinken married Evan Ryan in a bi-denominational ceremony officiated by a rabbi and a priest at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, DC. From 2013 to 2017, Ryan was Assistant Secretary of State for educational and cultural affairs. Prior to that, she was assistant for intergovernmental affairs and public liaison for Vice President Biden.

Blinken is fluent in French and plays the guitar.

Blinken's uncle, Alan Blinken, once served as U.S. Ambassador to Belgium.

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China and Its Rebellious Provinces

Scribed by Jason Bratcher
Intelligence Analysis: Global and Regional Studies
Junior, York College of Pennsylvania

China's increasing hostility toward Hong Kong and Taiwan poses difficult challenges to the United States, Robert Naeye told the Foreign Policy Association on December 17.

Naeye, a freelance journalist and an FPA member, said the current situation didn't occur overnight, but instead goes back many years.

In mapping the relationship between China and the West, Naeye noted China's history of dynastic empires, which he described as the "golden age" in which the country was unified under a strong central government.

The unity began to break down in the 19th century, caused largely by internal strife and Western interference, including the opium wars which forced China to cede the province of Hong Kong to the British in 1842.

The British returned Hong Kong to China in 1997, but under terms of a treaty, the province must retain local autonomy through 2047. China's heavy-handed rule over Hong Kong has sparked recent pro-democracy protests there.

The independent province of Taiwan came about in 1949 when Chinese Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island after being defeated in a civil war by the Communist forces of Mao Tse-tung.

Naeye said China, under its current leader, Xi Jinping, is determined to bring both Hong Kong and Taiwan under complete Chinese control. Meanwhile, the West seems intent on maintaining the status quo, a policy he referred to as "strategic ambiguity."

Another issue dividing the two countries is China's massive military buildup in the South China Sea, which the U.S. and most other nations view as international waters.

The U.S. has limited options to counter any Chinese aggression in the region, short of war, Naeye said.

In the past few years, China's economy has grown at an unprecedented pace with much of the country's budget being allocated toward defense spending.

Naeye predicted that the incoming Biden administration will try to strengthen alliances with countries that share U.S. concern over any aggressive action by the Chinese against their neighbors in the region.

FPA 2020-2021 Program Schedule and Topics

Please note several changes in the schedule.
All events via webinars at least through April.
We hope to return to the West Shore Country Club in May, but only if it is safe to do so.

- Jan. 21** The Rise of Authoritarianism
- Feb. 26** Regional Power Competition in the Middle East
- March 18** The Impact of the COVID Pandemic on the International System (Note the topic change.)
- April 8** International Fellows Reception (Cancelled due to the pandemic.)
- April 22** Turkey at the Crossroads (An addition to the schedule.)
- May 20** Iran: How Did We Get Here And What Do We Do Now?
- May 12** Embassy Trip, in person or virtual? Delegation of the European Union

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