



## Iran - Saudi Arabia

The Foreign Policy Association on December 16 will hear two speakers from the Army War College discuss the decades-old, bitter rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia, each country striving for political dominance in the Middle East.

The speakers will be:

- Dr. Larry Goodson, professor of Middle East studies and twice holder of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security, and
- Dr. Christopher Bolan, professor of Middle East security studies at the college's Strategic Studies Institute.

In January 2017, the two widely recognized Middle East experts appeared before the FPA to give an update on the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict.

For six years, Bolan was an advisor on Middle East and South Asian affairs to Vice Presidents Al Gore and Dick Cheney. He prepared hundreds of policy briefings and papers for senior officials at the White House, the Pentagon, Congress, and American embassies overseas.

Bolan served 30 years in the Army in various command, staff, and instructor positions. He currently teaches graduate-level courses on contemporary national security issues and the Middle East.

Goodson is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, *Afghanistan's Endless War: State Failure, Regional Politics, and the Rise of the Taliban* (2001). He currently is writing *The Syrian War: First Great War of the 21st Century*.

Goodson has lived in and/or traveled extensively throughout the Middle East and is often called upon by senior military and political leaders for advice on that part of the world. In 2019, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Changing Character of War Center, Pembroke College, Oxford University.



### December 16 Dinner Arrangements

**For the safety of our members, we ask that all attendees be fully vaccinated against Covid - 19.**

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

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar)  
6:30 p.m. Sit-Down Dinner  
7:30 p.m. Presentation with Q&A

**Menu:** Tossed garden salad, baked ham with orange marmalade, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, and chef's seasonal dessert.

*Persons with special dietary needs may request a substitute meal when making reservations. If you do, pick up a coded tag at the sign-in table and put it by your dinner place.*

**The cost for FPA members is \$33.  
The cost for non-members is \$38.**

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

You may make dinner reservations at our website, [www.fpaharrisburg.org](http://www.fpaharrisburg.org), or by contacting Ron Pontius at [ronpon@comcast.net](mailto:ronpon@comcast.net) or 717-991-0899.

**Reservations must be made by 10 a.m. Monday, December 13. If you come to dinner without a reservation, the country club may charge a late fee of up to \$10 per person. In addition, your meal selection cannot be guaranteed.**

When making a dinner reservation, please give your complete name and phone number. We need that information to notify you if a meeting is canceled.

**Dinner no-shows will be billed unless there are sufficient walk-ins to meet the reservation number we give to the West Shore County Club.**

**Contributions to the FPA are tax deductible.**

Your contribution to the Foreign Policy Association is tax deductible under the IRS code.



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The Foreign Policy Association expresses its sincere appreciation to AAA Central Penn for its sponsorship of our 2021-2022 program year.

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of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.  
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**Brazil and Its Influence in South America**  
**By Marcos Daniel Gonzalez Siverio, Penn State Harrisburg**  
**Political Science and Economics Major, Class of 2023**

Dr. Luis Bitencourt sees his native Brazil as a nation willing to function as a regional leader in its singular way while at the same time developing its own full potential. This was his message on November 17 as he addressed more than 70 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association.

Bitencourt is a professor of international security at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies in Washington, DC.

Brazil, he said, is a paradoxical place, rich in natural resources such as oil, gold, and bauxite, yet faced with severe internal challenges such as widespread poverty, corruption, and inequality.

Bitencourt said Brazil, because of its abundance of commodities like crude oil and soy, has focused much of its government policy on export trade and social programs rather than build its economy through investment in science and technology.

From a security and foreign policy perspective, Brazil seeks to resolve international disputes through peaceful resolution and negotiation rather than conflict and confrontation.

Diplomacy and arbitration are in fact Brazil's way of dealing with international relations, looking to lead by example to avoid rivalries with its Latin American neighbors, he said.

For instance, Brazil could be a leader in the fight against global warming with multiple environmental laws in place and broad popular support for these initiatives. However, it lacks the ability to enforce these laws, Bitencourt said.

He concluded by noting that Brazil's internal challenges makes it all the more difficult to assume a major leadership position even among nations in the Western Hemisphere.

Brazil is the world's fifth largest country by area and sixth most populous with more than 222 million people.

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## **A Welcome to Our New Members**

The Foreign Policy Association is pleased to welcome the following new members: Patrick and Georgia Mazzolla, York; Joseph Schatt, Camp Hill, and R. Timothy and Mary Webber Weston, Lemoyne.

### **2021-22 Program Topics / Schedule**

**All local events at the West Shore Country Club**  
**Except the International Fellows Reception at the**  
**U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle**

- Dec. 16** Iran - Saudi Arabia
- Jan. 13** Afghanistan after the U.S. Withdrawal
- Feb. 17** Climate Change
- March 17** International Fellows Reception  
Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle  
Date to be determined  
**ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
- April 21** Keystone Speaker Series  
**ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
- May ??** Annual Embassy Trip to Washington, DC  
Date to be determined
- May 19** Social Media: A Force in International Conflict

### **2021-2022 FPA Officers**

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