



Impact of the German Elections

Our speaker for Thursday, October 21, is Dr. Gale A. Mattox, professor and former chair (2003-2007) of the Political Science Department at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, MD.

She will discuss the recent elections in Germany where Chancellor Angela Merkel is stepping down after 17 years as head of state.

Mattox graciously agreed to address the FPA after the originally scheduled speaker, Daniel Hamilton, had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mattox received the USNA Superintendent's Civilian Faculty Service Excellence Award in 2011. Her teaching responsibilities include national security policy, comparative European politics, American government, and international relations.

She has published six books, most recently with S. Grenier, *Coalition Challenges in Afghanistan: The Politics of Alliance*, Stanford University Press (2015); has co-edited a series called *Germany in Transition, Germany at the Crossroads, and Germany Through American Eyes*, and has appeared on the PBS News Hour and other media.

In addition, she has served on the editorial board of the Naval War College Press (2005-2020).

Over the years, Mattox has held leadership positions with the International Studies Association and the American Political Science Association. Currently, she is a visiting senior scholar with the Foreign and Domestic Policies Section of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

She has held the Distinguished Fulbright-Dow Research Chair, Roosevelt Center, the Netherlands (2007), and the Fulbright Senior NATO Strategic Studies Scholar in Belgium (2017).

She was selected a Fellow by the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars (2016-2017) and a Global Scholar (2017-2019).

Mattox served on the policy planning staff of the U.S. Department of State (1995-1996) in addition to being a Council of Foreign Relations Fellow at the department's Office of Strategic and Theater Nuclear Policy. She also was an international affairs analyst with the Congressional Research Service.

She earned her doctorate degree from the University of Virginia. She has been a Bosch Fellow in Germany, NATO Research Fellow, and a Fulbright Dissertation Scholar.

October 21 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: Tomato bisque, chicken Milanese with garden basil lemon butter sauce, wild rice pilaf, buttered baby carrots, and pumpkin mousse with caramel sauce.

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, or contact Ronald Pontius at ronpon@comcast.net or at 717-991-0899.

Reservations must be made by 10 a.m. Monday, October 18. 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.

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Is U.S. Power and Influence in Decline?

By Emma Simpson
Political Science Major
Lebanon Valley College '23

The prospect of American influence declining around the world is not new, says Gabrielle Tarina of the RAND Corporation. It's happened before, most notably during the prolonged Vietnam War.

Ms. Tarina spoke to 77 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association at its September 29 dinner meeting at the West Shore Country Club. It was the FPA's first in-person gathering since February of last year.

Ms. Tarina, a policy research analyst, said the U.S. has found itself in this position before and eventually regained its status. To do it again, she said, we must re-engage with the world via competent statecraft.

But first, she said, we must address three questions:

- How can we measure the extent of the decline?
- Why did it decline?
- What can be done about it?

Ms. Tarina cited public opinion data which she said showed that during the Trump administration, foreign governments had less confidence that the U.S. would "do the right thing" in our interaction with other countries.

She pointed to another study which purported to measure the success or failure of significant foreign policy achievements by the U.S. after World War II. The study showed that U.S. successes peaked in the early post-Cold War era, but that since our "war on terror," which began after 9-11, we have had fewer successes and more setbacks.

Ms. Tarina said several causes for our decline have been advanced, such as prioritizing the use of force over diplomacy or the diffusion of power on the world stage. She found neither explanation to be entirely persuasive.

She acknowledged that the rules-based international system in which the U.S. has always been the driving force is subject to atrophy, perhaps a factor in America's resistance to globalization. Many Americans feel that the international order is no longer benefitting them.

She said that in order to restore American influence, it's essential for the U.S. to collaborate with international partners and integrate American interests, which she estimated would take years to fully accomplish.

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

- Oct. 21** Impact of the German Elections
- Nov. 17** Brazil and Its Influence in South America
- Dec. 16** Iran - Saudi Arabia Relationship
- Jan. 13** Afghanistan after the U.S. Withdrawal
- Feb. 17** Climate Change
- March ??** 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

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