



Afghanistan after the US Withdrawal

Our speaker Jan. 13 is Stephen Biddle, a professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University, a member of the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, and an adjunct senior fellow for defense policy at the Council on Foreign Relations.

He will discuss the future of Afghanistan now that the United States and its allies have withdrawn military forces, enabling the Taliban to return to political power after 20 years.

Biddle has served on the Department of Defense Policy Board, on the Joint Strategic Assessment Team in Iraq (2007), as a senior advisor to the Initial Strategic Assessment Team in Afghanistan (2009), and on several governmental advisory panels.

He lectures regularly at the Army War College in Carlisle and at other military schools. He has testified before Congress on issues relating to the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, as well as European arms control.

His most recent book, *Nonstate Warfare: The Military Methods of Guerillas, Warlords, and Militias*, was published earlier this year by the Princeton University Press. He also is author of the prizewinning book, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle*. (2004)

Among his other writings are articles for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *New Republic*, and a number of scholarly publications.

In addition to his teaching duties, Biddle co-directs Columbia's Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy.

He formerly taught political science and international affairs at George Washington University. He also held the Elihu Root Chair in Military Studies at the Army War College Strategic Studies Institute and the Roger Hertog Senior Fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior to joining the Columbia faculty, Biddle taught and did research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Institute for Defense Analysis, and Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He was awarded the U.S. Army Superior Civilian Service Medal in 2003 and again in 2006 and the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service in Baghdad in 2007.

Biddle is married to Tami Davis Biddle, a professor at the Army War College, who addressed the FPA in 2020 on World War II's impact on the international system. He lives in Manhattan and Carlisle.

January 13 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, roasted turkey with cornbread dressing and natural gravy, roasted red skin potatoes, buttered green peas, 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, or by contacting Ron Pontius at ronpon@comcast.net or 717-991-0899.

Reservations must be made by 10 a.m. Monday, January 10. 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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Harrisburg, PA 17106

Iran - Saudi Arabia

By Rachel Brodsky, Economics Major
Temple University, Class of 2024

The ongoing, tense feud between Iran and Saudi Arabia is one of the world's oldest rivalries, stemming from deep divisions over religion, economics, influence over countries within the Middle East, and relations with the United States and other world powers.

So say Dr. Larry Goodson and Dr. Christopher Bolan, U.S. Army War College professors, who addressed 90 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association on Dec. 16 at the West Shore Country Club.

In modern times, the ancient conflict has played out through conventional and hybrid warfare, including terrorist attacks, and the world's major powers need to develop a multi-faceted response, they said.

Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are Islamic, but of different branches - Iran being Shia and Saudi Arabia being Sunni.

Goodson said Iran views itself as a protector of Shia and Persian minorities in the Middle East, and sees Saudi Arabia as encroaching on its rightful territory.

Meanwhile, according to Bolan, Saudi Arabia's goal is to become the heart of the Arab and Islamic world and a global investment powerhouse.

While viewing Saudi Arabia as a friend, the U.S. severed diplomatic relations with Iran in 1979 after a revolution that resulted in an attack on our embassy and the taking of hostages. Sanctions and other punitive measures were imposed on Iran, placing it on the defensive.

Iran uses proxies, drone activity, assassinations, cyber attacks, and terrorism to further its national causes. Saudi Arabia has responded in like manner, often obtaining weapons from the U.S., such as Patriot missiles.

Goodson cited Iran's push for nuclear weapons, now virtually unimpeded since the Trump administration withdrew the U.S. from a multi-lateral agreement designed to neutralize the security threat.

Bolan said the U.S. could continue to pressure Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, but that hasn't worked in the past. Other options include a new agreement or a military strike, which he said could bring serious consequences.

Welcome to Our New Members

The Foreign Policy Association is pleased to welcome the following new members: Jim Cooney, York; Timothy and Sally Ann Danko, Mechanicsburg.

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

- Jan. 13** Afghanistan after the U.S. Withdrawal
- Feb. 17** International Climate Change Leadership
- March 17** International Fellows Reception
Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- April 21** Keystone Speaker Series: Jill Dougherty,
Former CNN Moscow Bureau Chief,
"The Future of the U.S. Russia Relations"
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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