

2013 Great Decisions lecture series in review

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Friday, March 22, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center

"Egypt" by Dr. Larry Goodson, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on Youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VanvZ-q1RiM&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=8

The largest and most important Arab country, Egypt has long been the bellwether of the Arab World—as it goes, so goes the region. To the region and to the United States, which has counted Egypt as a key ally since the Camp David Accords of 1978, the Arab Spring that began in December 2010 in Tunisia has produced its most important change in Egypt. Yet, Egypt's changes have been problematic. The Tahrir Revolution of 2011 called for a toppling of the old regime's corrupt business elites and moribund military leaders, but when relatively free elections finally occurred in 2012 it was the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafists who took over the political leadership of the country.

Three important questions deserve attention. First, can political Islamists such as Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Al Nour Party achieve the democratic aspirations of the demonstrators of Tahrir Square, or will their Islamist leanings undercut their commitment to democracy (or perhaps despite their best efforts they will not be able to overcome the entrenched old elites)? That is, can true political reform occur in Egypt, and if so, what will the new polity look like? Second, the Egyptian economy has long been stagnant and struggling. Can the new leaders build a new and prosperous Egyptian economy for its 84 million, mostly young population? Third, can Egypt's new Islamist political leaders still maintain a peaceful relationship with Israel, as well as a positive relationship with the United States? Great Decisions is the publication of the Foreign Policy Association.

Friday, March 15, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center



"Threat Assessment" by Professor Frank L. Jones, U.S. Army War College

View this Lecture on Youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dagZ7YS6yHw&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=7

Professor Frank L. Jones of the U.S. Army War College discussed several current threats to U.S. security, which range from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to pandemics. In examining this topic, he explored the nature of threats, the challenges in assessing their impact on security, and the relationship between threats and U.S. national interests and policy objectives.

Friday, March 8, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center

"China in Africa" by Colonel Thomas E. Sheperd, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on Youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIOmhJkwNm0&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=6

African economies are booming, thanks in large part to China. China is investing in infrastructure projects to help it tap into the continent's resources--oil, minerals, and its high agricultural potential. Critics charge China with cozying up to dictators and ignoring issues of human rights and transparency. Others fear that the U.S. is being left behind, and its influence in Africa waning. The lectures are free and are open to all USAWC students, staff and faculty, the Carlisle Barracks Community and the public. Come early and enjoy lunch at AHEC's Cafe Cumberland. What interests govern China's engagement in Africa? Should China's growing emphasis on political ties and natural resource extraction inform U.S. relations with African nations?

Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center

"Iran" by Dr. Christopher J. Bolan, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on Youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pudb1RbF7NQ&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=5

Dr. Chris Bolan, a former Middle East policy advisor to Vice Presidents Gore and Cheney, addressed the security challenges associated with "Iran." What accounts for the troubled history of U.S.-Iranian relations? What are key U.S. and Iranian strategic interests in the region? What are the policy options for U.S. leaders as they struggle to deal with Iran's improving nuclear capabilities? Is a diplomatic resolution possible or is conflict inevitable?

Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center

"Humanitarian Intervention" by Professor Allen D. Raymond, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on Youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8Gig0bC0Ag&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=4

Professor Raymond discussed "Humanitarian Intervention" and related contemporary issues such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), the Responsibility While Protecting (RWP), the Protection of Civilians (PoC), and Mass Atrocity Response Operations (MARO). He summarized arguments for and against humanitarian intervention based upon recent experiences such as Libya and Syria. Additionally, he examined military activities that can prevent or respond to humanitarian crises." The "responsibility to protect" doctrine has become central to modern humanitarian intervention. When should the international community intervene? Why did the West rush to intervene in Libya but not Syria?

Friday, Feb. 8, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center

"Myanmar and Southeast Asia" by Retired Colonel Kevin E. Richards, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXo_UI-5Z28&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=3

Col. Richards discussed Burma being in the midst of a surprising turn from a military dominated government towards democracy. How the transition has caught many experts by surprise and may well be the most significant event in South and Southeast Asia in decades. He discussed the reasons why the transition is occurring now, what outside influences have caused the Burmese government to act now and what actions if any the U.S. should take to aid that country in its political transition and more.

Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center
"NATO" by Professor Raymond A. Millen, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on youtube:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCm_TziCJwY&list=PLYtGRVo8O_W1fxQh9aN7McFJ-KYrvMueg&index=2

Professor Millen discussed the origins and evolution of NATO and explained why the Alliance is the most successful and enduring in history. Despite frequent predictions of its demise, NATO has endured crisis after crisis. To understand this unique phenomenon compared to other alliances, Professor Millen explored the key aspects of NATO's development.

Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, 1-3 p.m., AHEC Visitor and Education Center

"Future of the Euro" by Professor Jef Troxell, U.S. Army War College

View this lecture on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqtywDhUhQU>



Professor Troxell discussed how the 2008 global recession contributed to the development of the euro crisis. How the health of the euro affects and is affected by the state of the global economy, and how European Union leaders can prevent the collapse of the common currency?

The lectures are sponsored by the Carlisle Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

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U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 28 March 2013