

CASO Panel.

"Chinese Leadership's Increased Powers: Implications for Global Security."

(Senior leader Introduction).

21 March 2023

Good afternoon and Thank You for attending the ninth Cultural and Area Studies Office session of the 2022-2023 academic year and the second of the 2023 calendar year. Thanks to all who have made this event possible; U.S. Army Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO), Command and General Staff College (CGSC), the Global Taiwan Institute, Washington, DC and Harvard University's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the AU and CGSC staffs and especially the panel members. And for those who have taken the time to attend in person or online to learn and benefit from this great program, thanks for being here.

The Interim National Security Strategy Guidance, issued by the Biden administration in March of 2021 in its first paragraph said: " ... a growing rivalry with China, Russia and other authoritarian states ... " is one of many "unprecedented challenges" of our time. China and Russia challenge our national security interests in different regions of the world and China is specifically referred by our senior leaders as the "pacing threat," and a "systemic challenge" to our global interests, starting in the INDOPACOM region. Today's panel could not be more timely....

Responding to these profound national security challenges, today, we at the Army University and U.S. Army Command and General Staff College continue our series of discussions with a focus on the INDOPACOM Theater of operations. Today's panel, which is sponsored by U.S. Army Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO) of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), continue addressing strategic challenges which China and Russia are posing for the U.S. and our allies in the region. The topic of our CASO panel today is: "Chinese Leadership's Increased Powers: Implications for Global Security."

Today's session includes four panel members:

Mr. Russell Hsiao, J.D., Executive Director, Global Taiwan Institute, Washington, DC. He is also a senior fellow at the Jamestown Foundation, and adjunct fellow at Pacific Forum. He is a former Penn Kemble fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy and visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo's Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia.

Dr. Seong-Hyon Lee, Harvard University's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, a Senior Fellow, the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations. He is the former director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the Sejong Institute policy think tank in South Korea. He has a Ph.D. from Tsinghua University, the alma mater of President Xi Jinping.

Dr. Sean Kalic is professor of military history in the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he has taught since 2004. He is a Cold War historian and lectures and publishes widely on topics of the Cold War, the post-Cold War security environment, and transnational terrorism.

Dr. Joseph G. Babb is a professor in the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is a former US Army Military Intelligence Officer and Defense Intelligence Agency China analyst. He was also assigned to Hong Kong and Beijing for language and area studies. Dr. Babb has published numerous book chapters and articles on China and Asia.

Our Moderator is famous Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov, (Dr. I., as many call him) Director of US Army Cultural and Area Studies Office. He is the author of his fifth book "Across Cultures and Empires: An Immigrant's Odyssey from the Soviet Army to the U.S. War in Iraq and American Citizenship," among many other publications. Dr. I's expertise is featured in global media outlets such as BBC World News, Los Angeles Times, movie and Army venues.

The complete bios of the panel members and the moderator can be accessed at CASO website.

Without further ado I would like to turn the floor over to Dr. I., who will continue moderating throughout the session.

Educate to Win!

Thank you!