***CASO Panel***

 ***Moderator’s Introduction***

 *(Final)*

 *(25 September 2019)*

**Good Afternoon All (cover slide is still up) My name is Mahir Ibrahimov, I am director of CASO here at CGSC. They call me Dr. I….. Just to clarify, that it is just the first letter of my last name, I am not an eye doctor.**

**It is my pleasure to introduce Brig. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center for Education and Provost of Army University. Sir….(next slide please) (Senior Leader’s Opening Remarks, (5-7 minutes))**

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**Thank you Sir!**

**We greatly appreciate your support!**

**Thank you All for joining us.**

 **Our panel today will discuss the influence of China, Russia and France in Africa in the context of US interests.**

**During our previous panels, we talked about ‘influence operations’ as part of Chinese and Russian conceptions of ‘soft power’ and unconventional warfare. Culture promotion also plays an important role, for example China’s Confucius Institutes and Russia’s influence in the post-Soviet space. This conception of ‘soft power’ sees it as a complement to conventional ‘hard** power,’ which is used by authorities to serve the ruling parties’ interests.

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**To set the stage, I would like to provide an example from my area of expertise. This slide reflects how Russia Integrates ‘Soft Power’ into its strategic approach.**

**Earlier this year, at a conference on the future of Russian military strategy, Gen. Valery V. Gerasimov, the chief of the general staff of the Russian armed forces, reiterated the ideas that he initially laid out in** [**an article**](http://vpk-news.ru/sites/default/files/pdf/VPK_08_476.pdf) **published in 2013 in a Russian army journal. He said: “countries bring a blend of political, economic and military power to bear against adversaries and Russia’s armed forces must maintain both “classical” and “asymmetrical” potential.” (end of quote) This means combining combat, intelligence and propaganda tools.**

**Gerasimov is one of the leading Russian military intellectuals, and is among President Putin’s close advisors. This slide summarizes Gerasimov’s vision of Russia’s role in ongoing and future conflict, which has been consistently implemented in different regions during the last several years. We witnessed this approach in Georgia in 2008, and now in Syria and Ukraine.**

**Similar to our previous panels, today we have three distinguished experts to address this very timely topic.**

**The event is unclassified. The entire session is being video recorded.**

**The target audience is Army schools, Centers of Excellence, Regionally Aligned Forces, Security Forces Assistance Brigades, and other deployed and deploying units, universities, think tanks, Joint, Interagency, Multinational partners.**

**The video, related information as well as other CASO culture, regional expertise and language capabilities you can access within about one week after the panel.**

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**This public domain CASO page can be accessed simply by typing CASO on your browser. All these organizations are current active partners of CASO and if you click on any of these icons you can access their respective websites. If you click on CASO logo in the middle of the page, it will get you to the next page.**

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**On this page you can see CASO’s Mission and Vision Statement.**

**Click on the second link…(show the red arrow)**

**You can access and watch today’s CASO Panel online under “Conferences, Seminars and Forums” among other previous events.**

***The opinions and discussion points during the session are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent official positions of the United States government.***

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**Without further ado I would like to yield the floor to** **Ambassador David Shinn,** **who will focus** **on "‘Soft Power’ Influences of China and Russia versus the U.S. in Africa.”**

**Ambassador Shinn, the floor is yours…**

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**Thank you Mr. Ambassador for the great presentation!**

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**The next speaker is Professor Joshua Eisenman, who will discuss “China’s Rising Influence in Africa” including party-to-party relations, political training, propaganda, and youth ties.**

**Dr. Eisenman, the floor is yours…**

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**Thank you Dr. Eisenman for another very interesting presentation!**

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**At this time Mr. Roderic Jackson will tackle the matters related to "French ‘Soft Power’ and Africa”**

**Mr. Jackson, the floor is yours….**

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**Thank you Mr. Jackson for another great presentation!**

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**Now is the time for questions and comments.**

**Please introduce yourself, ask a question or make a comment. Please use the microphones on the tables. If you sit in the back, please use those microphones across the room.**

**Multiple outstations are linked thought VTC and they are welcome to participate in the discussion at any time.**

**Now, the floor is yours….**

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**The final slide contains our contact information for any related questions.**

**These are the links to the CASO website. The last YouTube link will get you directly to the play list of all CASO videos.**

Sir, addressing B.G. **Maranian**

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**Brig. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian approaches and says:** On behalf of all of us I would like to thank our panel for sharing their great expertise! (applauding)

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Dr. I.

This concludes our session.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Thank you. >>>>>>>>>>End>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>