

CASO Panel Bios
**“U.S. Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific:
Building the Quad for Great Power Competition.”**
(14 September 2023)



Ambassador Stephen Markley Young was born in Washington, D.C. and moved to Taiwan at age 12, where his father served as a military adviser to the Republic of China Army in Kaohsiung from 1963 to 1965. Young earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University and an M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Chicago, both in history.

Within the United States Department of State, he has served in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and the Office of Soviet Affairs. He has been the Director of the Office of Caucasus and Security Affairs, the Director of the Office of Caucasus and Central Asian Affairs, the Director of the Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Affairs, and the Director of the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs.

Young served two tours in Moscow, a tour in Beijing. He was the Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic (now Kyrgyzstan), and Director of the American Institute in Taiwan in Taipei. He speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese and Russian.

While serving at the Consulate General of the United States, Hong Kong and Macau, he also oversaw Macau–United States relations.



Ambassador David H. Shinn, a former American diplomat and now adjunct professor in the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.

David Shinn has been teaching in the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University since 2001. He previously served for 37 years in the U.S. Foreign Service with overseas assignments at embassies in Lebanon, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritania, Cameroon, Sudan and as ambassador to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.

He is the co-author of *China and Africa: A Century of Engagement* and the *Historical Dictionary of Ethiopia* and author of *Hizmet in Africa: The Activities and Significance of the Gülen Movement*. He has authored numerous book chapters and articles in academic and policy journals and travels regularly to Africa and periodically to China. He is the co-author of *China's Relations with Africa: A New Era of Strategic Engagement*, which is being published by Columbia University Press this summer. He has a PhD in political science from George Washington University and blogs at <http://davidshinn.blogspot.com>.

LTCOL Paul Mostafa is a graduate of the Royal Military College – Duntroon. He is a Royal Australian Engineer who has commanded at Troop, Squadron and Regimental levels within Australian Special Operations Command, as well as a range of staff officer appointments in both Special Operations and Forces Command. He has also served on the Military Attaché's staff at the Australian Embassy – Washington, and is currently posted as the Australian Army exchange officer to the Department of Joint Interagency and Multinational Operations at the US Army Command and General Staff College.

Dr. David Hunter-Chester is a Senior Research Analyst in TRADOC G-2. A Japan-oriented Foreign Area Officer, he retired as a colonel after 26 years of service. He served at the operational and strategic levels, in Japan, Iraq and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He taught at CGSC and was the director of a Japan program at Raytheon. A graduate of Japan's command and staff college as well as its war college, he has 15 years in Japan and has written several articles, book chapters and a book on Japan.

Moderator, Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov, (Dr. I., as many call him) Director of US Army Cultural and Area Studies Office. He is the author of six books, latest are "Across Cultures and Empires: An Immigrant's Odyssey from the Soviet Army to the U.S. War in Iraq and American Citizenship," and "Soldier of Cultures and Empires," Autobiographical Anthology of Poetry and Short Stories, 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.