

LECTURE SERIES - 2022

China and Indo-Pacific Region:

I. "China - From Agrarian to the World's Factory"

- 5 key decisions by Deng Xiaoping that started the resurgence of China
- What role did PM Lee Kwan Yew play in China's great turnaround?
- 400 million! people were moved out of poverty into the middle class

II. "Pulling The Curtain Back" - Does China Play by the Rules?

- Stolen intellectual property? - forced technology transfer?
- State-run capitalism - why does China has the advantage?
- Manipulated currency - keeping export prices unfairly low

III. "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" - China's path to global dominance or its undoing?

- "Debt Trap Diplomacy"
- Which country benefits more, China or the BRI partner country?
- How does the BRI compare to the Marshall Plan after WW II?

IV. "China Dream - 2049" - 11 invisible barriers that stand in the way?

- Will the Chinese become old before becoming rich?
- How will the invisible 800 million farmers and migrant workers fare?
- Will China overcome its crushing debt?

V. "Taiwan - Considering All Outcomes" - Pivotal presidential decisions loom

- How will the United States respond if China attacks Taiwan?
- What impact with the war between Russia and Ukraine have on Taiwan?

VI. "China and the Indo-Pacific Region - the Road Ahead" - due 2023

- If the U.S. leaves the Indo-Pacific area, how will Japan, South Korea, India be impacted?
- Should the U.S. maintain its current footprint in the Indo-Pacific area?

Middle East, North Africa series:

I. "20 Years in the Middle East - A Reckoning"

- What have been the successes and failures of the 20-year engagement?

II. "Evacuation: Afghanistan"

- What were the most important "lessons learned" from the U.S. withdrawal?

III. "The Middle East and North Africa - the Road Ahead" - due 2023

- What should be the U.S. footprint in the Middle East/ North Africa area in the future?

Giants of American History series:

I. Douglas MacArthur - A Man Called "American Caesar"

- What were MacArthur's greatest achievements and failures?

II. George C. Marshall - Soldier, Statesman, American Hero" - due 2023

- Was Marshal the greatest general officer of the 20th century, if so, why?

