



# The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

February 2016

## Resurrected?

### The Domestic Sources of Russia's Return to Global Affairs

**Professor Kathryn Stoner, Stanford University**

**Thursday, February 18, 2016**

**11:30 am registration ~ noon luncheon ~ 1-2 program**

**Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road**

In the last few years under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has deployed its military in both Georgia and Ukraine. And, for the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union, President Putin has deployed military forces outside former Soviet states. At the same time, U.S.-Russian relations have hit an all-time low, with each describing the other as an "existential threat" to their respective states. Professor Stoner, who will have just returned from Russia, will discuss why this has happened and whether Russia is now in a position of strength or weakness.



In addition to many articles and book chapters on contemporary Russia, she is the author of two single authored books: *Resisting the State: Reform and Retrenchment in Post-Soviet Russia* and *Local Heroes: The Political Economy of Russian Regional Governance*. She is currently writing her third book, *Resurrecting Russia: Vladimir Putin's Imperial Dreams*.

Our guest, Kathryn Stoner, is a specialist in Russian domestic and international affairs at Stanford University. Prior to joining the Stanford faculty she was on the faculty of Princeton University for nine years, jointly appointed to the Department of Politics and the Woodrow Wilson School for International and Public Affairs.

Kathryn Stoner is a Senior Fellow and Core Faculty, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. She is also Faculty Director, Susan Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies. Professor Stoner earned her Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University.

*(Please see page 3 for reservation details.)*

#### Calendar of Events

<b>Thursday, February 4</b>	<b>Board meets in Conference Room, McCone bldg. MIIS. Open to members. 4:30 pm</b>
<b>Monday, February 1, 8, 22 &amp; 29</b>	<b><i>Great Decisions</i> series meets at MPC, room 101 Social Science bldg. 4 pm</b>
<b>Monday, February 8 &amp; 22</b>	<b><i>Great Decisions</i> series meets at CSUMB in the OLLI office at 6th and Inter-Garrison Roads, Seaside. 2-3:30 4-5:30 pm</b>
<b>Thursday, February 18</b>	<b><i>Resurrected? The Domestic Sources of Russia's Return to Global Affairs.</i> Luncheon and presentation at Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Rd. 11:30—2 pm</b>

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## December program report . . .

# DIVIDED MEMORIES

Any cop will tell you that witness accounts vary from person to person; all describe the same event from a different perspective and none report it happening in precisely the same way.

This is also true on a world scale, according to Dr. Daniel Sneider of Stanford University's Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.

An examination of how four combatant nations of World War II in the Pacific—China, Japan, Korea and the United States—remember that conflict shows that their national perceptions of it differ in significant, even profound ways, and those perceptions still reverberate in Pacific Rim politics 70 years after the war ended.

“The past is not the past in Northeast Asia,” he said, “and those events continue to impact relations” among those nations. Issues of territorial claims, reparations and military activities remain very much alive, while meetings among those nations to resolve them appear dead in the water. None was held among China, Japan and Korea from 2010 to 2012.

The Asian countries have not had an experience of reconciliation, Sneider said, comparable to that between Germany and France, and Europe at large.

China sees the war as an epic tale of national resistance against Japan's effort to colonize and subjugate vast areas of its territories, and those issues of Japanese aggression and colonialism are touchstones of domestic policies in both China and Korea, Sneider said.

Japan and the Republic of Korea “are crucial allies” of the United States, he said, “but they can't get along with each other.”

The enslavement of Korean laborers to feed Japanese industry and “comfort women” to service soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army still rankles in Korea. At the same time, Koreans don't acknowledge that many of them voluntarily fought with the Japanese Army and that Japan created the basis for Korea's industrial powerhouse.

Three schools of opinion exist in Japan: a conservative narrative that celebrates the valor of its fighting men and denies their participation in war crimes, and sees no moral difference between Western and Japanese colonialism; a progressive narrative that acknowledges the country's mistakes and

misdeeds; and a pacifist narrative that perceives Japan as a victim.

These viewpoints are reflected in the school history textbooks published in those countries and in the museums that perpetuate them, Sneider said.

China's Memorial Hall of Victims in Nanjing commemorates the “Rape of Nanking” massacre of civilians by Japanese troops, and its Museum of Chinese People's Resistance to National Aggression is an educational facility visited by school children and military cadets.

Japan's Yasukuni Shrine memorializes soldiers and sailors killed in action and is a rally point for conservatives. A visit there by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was seen as a “provocation” by China. The Hiroshima Memorial, the most visited site in Japan, describes the horror of the nuclear bombing of two cities, and Okinawa's Peace Memorial shows Okinawans as victims of both the Japanese and U.S. armies.

Japan's school texts are long on facts and “light on analysis; very dry,” Sneider said, and don't dwell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Korea's Hall of Independence also celebrates the nation's resistance to Japan, while omitting its collaborative role, he said, and neither that museum nor the nation's textbooks mention atomic bombings.

U.S. textbooks are the only ones among the four that devote soul-searching analyses to the atomic attacks, cite the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor as America's cause for fighting, and don't emphasize the origins of World War II in Asia: Japan's invasions of Korea and Manchuria in the 1930s.

General Douglas MacArthur's influence on postwar Japan “was huge” in terms of Japan's confronting its wartime past, Sneider said. MacArthur's decision to not hold Emperor Hirohito responsible for wartime decisions in exchange for acquiescence to U.S. rule “was very important. Millions died in the name of the emperor, but he is not mentioned in the Tokyo trials” that followed Japan's surrender. No one was held responsible except for the wartime military and political leaders.

Kevin Howe

**RESERVATION FORM**  
Reservations due February 15, 2016

February 18, 2016  
Registration 11:30 am  
Luncheon at noon  
1 pm Program

Mail form & check or credit information to:  
WAC - P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942  
or Fax reservation form to (831) 643-1846.

Members @ \$25 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests @ \$35 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card charge \$2 ea \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

*Resurrected? The Domestic Sources of Russia's Return to Global Affairs*

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Vegetarian? (72 hours notice) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make a Great Decision . . .**

. . . to attend the program that promotes citizen awareness and discussion about timely foreign policy issues. It's run by the Foreign Policy Association of New York through the council system of the World Affairs Councils of America.

The purpose of *Great Decisions* is to educate citizens about issues of vital importance to American foreign policy, and to provide information for making informed decisions about that policy.

*Great Decisions* is the oldest and largest grassroots educational program on world affairs of its kind in the country, with about 350,000 overall participants.

The program was launched by the FPA in 1954. Its intellectual architect was Bernard C. Cohen of the Princeton Center for International Studies. Today it is one of the four flagship programs of the World Affairs Councils of America.

And this month the program is offered to us in Monterey at CSUMB and MPC. The eight-week program is free to the public, but necessitates the purchase of a Briefing Book which details each of the eight subjects covered: At MPC it's Feb. 1, The Middle East Alliances; Feb. 8, The Rise of ISIS; Feb. 22, The Future of Kurdistan; Feb. 29, Migration; March 7, The Koreas; March 14, The United Nations; March 21, Climate Change; March 28, Cuba and the U.S.

At CSUMB, the dates are Jan. 25; Feb. 8 & 22; Mar. 7 & 21; April 4, 18 & 25. One group 2-3:30 p.m. and another 4-5:30 p.m. Same topics, same order. Meeting locations indicated in *The Calendar*, page 1.

**Welcome! New Members**

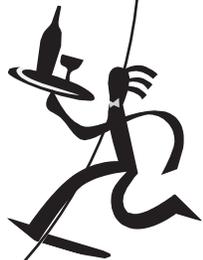
Russell Sunshine & Nancy Swing  
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Alexanne Mills

*LUNCHEON  
MENU*

*Caesar Salad  
Baked Salmon  
Beurre Blanc  
Rice and Vegetables*

*Dessert : Chef's Choice!*

(vegetarian)  
*Pasta Primavera*



# The Passport February 2016

*This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area. Founded in 1951, the Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, EIN-0301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups and student scholarships.*

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