

Richmond World Affairs Council *Newsletter*

July 2014



Board Member Spotlight: Joanne Katsantonis

Joanne is chair of the energy industry team at M c G u i r e Woods. She has concentrated her practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, energy transactions and financing. Joanne devotes a significant portion of her practice to advising purchasers and sellers of business organizations and she is also a key strategic advisor to energy companies of all kinds, from public utilities and independent power producers to financial investors. While earning her law degree at the University of Richmond, Joanne served as chairman of the Moot Court Board and was honored as a member of the Order of Barristers.



Israeli– Palestinian Conflict: Who is the Peace Breaker?

The ongoing struggle between Israelis and Palestinians has again recently generated global attention due to a ground invasion led by the Israel Defense Forces against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. According to the Gaza Health Ministry, as a result of this relentless violence between these two sides, 732 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 166 children. More than 4,600 people have been wounded. Thirty-two Israeli soldiers and 3 civilians have been killed as well.

Who should be blamed for preventing this area for decades from being peaceful and stable? While the Israeli military continues its massive ground offensive in the Gaza Strip in the name of protecting its people from the terror attacks led by Hamas, hundreds of thousands of people in

many places throughout the world have gathered to chant anti-Israel slogans. This tense atmosphere against Israel has lit a fire for the movement against the U.S. which has given full support to the Israel-led campaigns in Gaza.

Join us on Tuesday, August 26, as author Joshua Muravchik discusses the current situation of the Israel-Palestine conflict. See back of Newsletter for more info.



Did You Know...BRICS' New Development Bank

Leaders of the so-called BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) recently announced the creation of the New Development Bank (NDB), which will finance "sustainable development" projects in developing countries, and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), a reserve for members in crisis. Though the initial capital reserves of the NDB and CRA are nothing near the size of the World Bank or IMF, analysts are calling these new institutions a direct challenge to the U.S. and EU-dominated world financial order.



However, other analysts contend that while the NDB may offer an opportunity for developing countries to have a greater voice in international finance and access to development

assistance without the harmful stipulations attached to IMF lending, the power shift may translate into dominance by China. As the largest economy by far among the five, China could certainly hold tremendous sway over future decisions. However, this remains to be seen.

Join us in November as we discuss the growing influence of the BRICS nations in international affairs.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep an eye out on our website, www.richmondworldaffairs.org, for more information on these upcoming events:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

JOSHUA MURAVCHIK

*Foreign Policy
Institute Fellow
at John Hopkins
School of Ad-
vanced Interna-
tional Studies*



*Author of
"Making David Into Goliath: How
the World Turned Against Israel"*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

HUSAIN HAQQANI

*Former Ambas-
sador of Paki-
stan to the
United States*

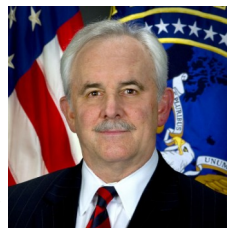


*Senior Fellow
and Director for
South and Cen-
tral Asia at the Hudson Institute*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

DAVID C. GOMPERT

*Distinguished
Visiting Profes-
sor at the
United States
Naval Academy*



*Senior Fellow of
the RAND Cor-
poration*