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## **Stephen van Evera**

Ford International Professor, Political Science Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"American Grand Strategy and the Current Crises: Ukraine and the Middle East"

September 29, 2014



## **Stephen Van Evera to Speak on American Grand Strategy and Current Crises**

On Monday, September 29, at 4:30PM in Lewis Auditorium, Stephen Van Evera, Ford International Professor, Political Science Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will present a lecture entitled "American Grand Strategy and Current Crises: Ukraine and the Middle East" as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series.

Stephen Van Evera teaches international relations at MIT, where he is Ford international professor of political science. He received his Ph.D. in political science from U.C. Berkeley. His publications include books on the causes of war and on social science methods, and articles on American grand strategy, American defense policy, nationalism and the causes of war, the origins of national identity, the origins

of World War I, American intervention in the developing world, Europe's future international relations, the Israel-Arab conflict, and U.S. strategy in the War on Terror.

His most recent publications are: "Using U.S. Leverage to Abate Conflicts That Harm U.S. Security," in Stephen Van Evera and Sidharth Shah, eds., *The Prudent Use of Power in American National Security Strategy*, The Tobin Project, 2010 and "Public Diplomacy: Ideas for the War of Ideas," with Peter Krause, *Middle East Policy*, Vol. XVI, No. 3, Fall 2009, pp. 106-134.

Stephen Van Evera's research interests include the causes and prevention of war, with focus on the role of national misperception as a cause of war, and on organized religions as causes of war or peace; U.S. foreign policy; U.S. security policy; international relations theory; and social science methods, with focus on qualitative methods.

Stephen first began working with international relations in mid-1980's when he served as a managing editor for the MIT Press Journals *International Security*, becoming in 2006 the Acting Director of the MIT Security Studies Program and later on the MIT Security Studies Program Acting Director.

He teaches courses on U.S. foreign policy and on the causes and prevention of war. He is a member of the MIT Security Studies Program, and chair of the Tobin Project working group on national security. He lives in Lexington, Mass., with wife Beth Rogers and daughters Lydia, Eleanor and Alice. He has numerous media appearances among which in MIT Alumni Association's Faculty Forum, the Minnesota Public Radio, WBUR (Boston).

## **Professor Stephen Van Evera Addresses U.S. Grand Strategy and Current Global Crises**

On September 29, 2014 at 4:30 PM in Lewis Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall, Stephen Van Evera, the Ford International Professor at MIT's Political Science department, gave a talk entitled "U.S. Grand Strategy and Current Crises: Ukraine, the Middle East, and East Asia." The talk was part of the Einaudi Center's ongoing Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series.

After a brief introduction from Einaudi Center Director and Vice Provost for International Affairs Fredrik Logevall, Van Evera framed his discussion by articulating the similarities between the current foreign policy situation in the U.S. and the situation that global powers in 1815 faced.

Similar to 1815, Van Evera argued, the United States faces less threat from other national powers than from non-state actors. The best way to address the threats by non-state actors is with a grand alliance of all powers. Moreover, the nuclear revolution has made wars of conquest among great powers impossible. Van Evera continued by stating that the perceived security threats by China and Russia are actually false: stifling China's rising power would be extremely counterproductive and Russia poses a threat because of the weakness of its infrastructure and its economic instability, not its military might.

Aside from addressing the perceived threat from Russia and China, Van Evera highlighted threats that could impact the world: climate change, pandemics, global financial crises, and also the looming growth of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). These threats, he argued, required the collaboration of global powers.

Van Evera then proceeded to articulate the U.S. grand strategy and potential impediments to it. First, he suggested that the U.S. pursue and sustain a peaceful agreement with Russia and China, one that pursued a settlement on Ukraine, Russian noninterference, and also framed the pivot to Asia as a way to secure all East Asia states. In doing so, Van Evera advocated for the establishment of U.S. global

legitimacy, or rather, the continued reassurance that the U.S. acts in the interest of everyone including itself.

Finally, Van Evera acknowledged the various challenges to the “global alliance” strategy. Aside from potential special interest groups, he also mentioned U.S. cultural insularity, general ignorance surrounding relevant history, and the prevalence and influence of neoconservative thinking in U.S. foreign policy. He concluded the discussion with a section detailing areas where more research was needed, especially regarding the future of WMDs, the influence of religion and war, and effective ways to protect the commons.

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## **Sang-Hyun Song**

President of the International Criminal Court; Judge in the Appeals Division of the International Criminal Court

"Preventive Potential of the International Criminal Court"

October 9, 2014



## **Judge Song, President of the International Criminal Court, Will Speak at Cornell**

On Thursday, October 9, 2014, at 4:30 pm in Lewis Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, the President of the International Criminal Court, will present a lecture entitled “Preventive Potential of the International Criminal Court” as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series. The event is organized in collaboration with Cornell’s Law School.

Judge Song first attended Seoul National University Law School, earning an LL. B. He then attended Tulane University Law School as a Fulbright Fellow, obtained a Diploma in Comparative Legal Studies from the University of Cambridge and a J.S.D. from Cornell Law School.

Judge Song has extensive practical and academic experience in the areas of court management, civil and criminal procedure, and the law of evidence. For more than thirty years, he taught as a professor of law

at Seoul National University Law School. He has also held visiting professorships at a number of law schools, including Harvard, New York University, Melbourne and Wellington.

Judge Song started his legal career as a judge-advocate in the Korean army and later as a foreign attorney in a New York law firm. He has served as a member of the advisory committee to the Korean Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice.

Judge Song has vast experience in relevant areas of international law, principally international humanitarian law and human rights law. He is co-founder of the Legal Aid Centre for Women, and of the Childhood Leukaemia Foundation in Seoul, and the President of UNICEF/KOREA. Judge Song is also the respected author of several publications on legal issues, ranging from law and economics to legal education and social justice to a review on the conventions on human rights and child's rights.

Judge Song was first elected on March 2003, and then re-elected for a further full term of nine years. He was elected President of the Court in 2009, and then re-elected on March 2012 for another three-year period. He is assigned to the Appeals Division of the International Criminal Court.

### **Song Highlights Preventive Potential of International Criminal Court**

On October 9, 2014 Judge Sang-Hyun Song, the President of the International Criminal Court, presented a lecture entitled "Preventive Potential of the International Criminal Court" as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series. The event was organized in collaboration with Cornell's Law School.

After an introduction from David Lee, Provost's Fellow for Internationalization, Song presented the theme of his talk - the preventative potential of the ICC and the key role of courts in the deterrence of genocide, use of child soldiers, and other human rights violations. Song's personal experience with humanitarian disasters began at the age of 9 during the Korean War when he was forced to live in a bunker and walk 10 miles a day past dead bodies to find food and water for his family. Since then he has visited many communities impacted by atrocities in countries such as Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These encounters stirred memories of his traumatic childhood experiences, and urged him to figure out a way to stop this "brutality and madness." Song firmly believes that human society can change and the world can improve for the better, but it is not easy work and requires struggle and sacrifice. "Progress does not occur overnight. Obstacles must be removed bit by bit and it's a long process," Song said. Although historical breakthroughs are few and far between, Song thinks that the establishment of the ICC in 1998 was significant.

Simply establishing the court did not mean an end to the challenges faced in implementing a binding international system of justice, but Song feels that it's safe to say that the ICC is here to stay. Although important players like the United States, Russia, and China have still not joined the Rome Statute, they acknowledge that the court plays an important role in international jurisprudence. What makes the ICC different from ad hoc courts is that it isn't dealing only with past events, but is also part of the international rule of law and most importantly can play a preventative role.

Song went on to discuss four broad ways in which the ICC offers preventative measures. First, the ICC prevents atrocities through deterrence. Although this is difficult to measure and evidence is largely anecdotal, the very existence of the ICC indicates that there will be consequences to the commission of crimes against humanity. Second, the ICC is able to offer timely intervention. By reacting to threats of crime at an early stage, the ICC is able to open investigations and provide observers who are a powerful

tool for accountability. Third, the ICC is able to provide stabilization. With a particular emphasis on protecting women and children, the ICC represents a step away from a male-dominated world. Through the establishment of trust funds, the ICC offers the possibility of reparations to victims. Lastly, the ICC plays a role in what Song called “norm setting.” The ICC is not only a layer of international laws, but a strong system of moral and legal norms that can act as a catalyst for changing the norms in societies around the world. Song saw this last preventative function as an ambitious goal that will take a long time to achieve. With the proper national implementation and political will, however, he thinks the goal is attainable.

After addressing the preventative role of the ICC, Song also identified a number of challenges faced by the court. First, the ICC would be more effective as an international body if it could rely upon stronger national jurisdictions as the primary deterrent. The ICC is an international safety net, but national jurisdictions could serve as a stronger, more substantive system with greater resources at its disposal. Second, the ICC would be stronger if it got more cooperation from states. The ICC has no police force of its own and relies upon member states for their backing, without which it is powerless. Third, the ICC needs to achieve universality. At present 122 states have accepted the Rome Statute, but more than 70 have not. The majority of the human race is outside of ICC protection, and the Asia Pacific region in particular is largely under-represented.

To summarize, Song said that the ICC was only one piece in protecting human rights. Multiple mechanisms are necessary, and political solutions are vital. Long term prevention will require sustainable growth in education, democracy, and economic development. He sees the preventative role of the ICC as an important part of promoting growth in these areas. “The long term value of the ICC lies not only in punishment of perpetrators but in the prevention of future crimes,” Song concluded.

[Cornell Chronicle](#)

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## **Francis Fukuyama**

Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies,  
Stanford University

"Will Democracy Have Competitors in the 21st Century?"

November 18, 2014



[CornellCast](#)

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## **Ólafur Grímsson**

President of Iceland, 1996-Present

"Iceland's Clean Energy Economy: Lessons for a Global Transformation"

November 21, 2014



## **President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Will Speak at Cornell**

On Friday, November 21, 2014, at 4:00pm in Schwartz Auditorium, Rockefeller Hall, the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, will present a lecture entitled "Iceland's Clean Energy Economy- A Roadmap to Sustainability and Good Business" as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker

Series. The event is organized in collaboration with the Cornell Energy Institute, the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, and the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs.

Please note that admission is by ticket only. Free tickets are available at the Einaudi Center (170 Uris Hall). The event will be live streamed on Cornell's website. There will be also special security. All attendees may be subject to search. Bags may not be allowed in the auditorium.

President Grimsson studied economics and political science at the University of Manchester, and in 1970, became the first person in Iceland to earn a PhD in political science. In 1973, he became a Professor of Political Science at the University of Iceland. He was the University of Iceland's first Political Science professor. He served as a Member of Althing (Iceland's Parliament) from 1978 to 1983. He served as the Chairman of the People's Alliance executive committee from 1983 to 1987. From 1987 to 1995, he was Leader of the People's Alliance; during this time, he served as Minister of Finance from 1988 to 1991 and as a Member of Althing from 1991 to 1996. He assumed office in 1996, ran unopposed in 2000, was re-elected in 2004, ran unopposed in 2008, and was elected for a record fifth term in 2012. In 2013, he announced the formation of the Arctic Circle, an organization designed for the facilitation of dialogue among political and business leaders, environmental experts, scientists, indigenous representatives, and other international stakeholders to address issues facing the Arctic as a result of climate change and melting sea ice. He is Iceland's fifth President.

The Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series features prominent leaders in international affairs who can address topical issues from a variety of perspectives. The Speaker Series is part of the Foreign Policy Forum at Cornell University led by the Einaudi Center to maximize the intellectual impact of Cornell's outstanding resources in this area.

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## **Sarah Mendelson**

U.S. Ambassador, Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; Senior Advisor and Director of the Human Rights Initiative at Center for Strategic and International Studies; Deputy assistant administrator, Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG), Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

“Why Governments are Targeting Civil Society and What Social Scientists Can Do About It”

February 23, 2015



## **Sarah Mendelson Addressed the Targeting of Civil Society**

On Monday, February 23, 2015 Sarah Mendelson from the Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS) gave a lecture entitled “Why Governments are Targeting Civil Society and What Social Scientists Can Do About It” as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series.

After a brief introduction from Einaudi Center Director and Vice Provost for International Affairs Fred Logevall, Dr. Mendelson framed her discussion with current examples of governments targeting non governmental organizations, media organizations, and civil society in general, to prove the relevance of the issue.

Mendelson provided examples from most of the continents, and the implications of government actions in various sectors, such as public health and humanitarian assistance, security and conflict prevention, natural disaster relief, as well as the broader development issues.

The threat and its broader implications to international development as a whole, however, has not gone unrecognized: in 2013 and 2014, President Obama addressed it on the margins of the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution within the following year, and, most recently, the U.S. National Security Strategy (February 2015) addressed the importance of a vibrant civil society and the growing restrictions around the world.

Just as recognition of these threats has increased, so has knowledge regarding the various reasons for “closing space” around civil society. Mendelson addressed these reasons, articulating a potential animus between governments and “open activism,” including but not limited to increased connectivity and



transparency granted by technology, as well as the tensions found in the varying sources of funding for NGOs, increasing anti-Americanism worldwide, the use and abuse of counterterrorism policies, and religious arguments.

Mendelson ended her lecture with different suggestions on how individuals can improve the current situation, but cautioned that there was no panacea and that attempts needed to be adjusted according to each situation.

[Cornell Chronicle](#)

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## **William Hitchcock**

Randolph P. Compton Professor at the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs

“Why the First World War Still Matters: Reflections on the Centennial, 1914-2014”

March 9, 2015



On Monday, March 2, 2015, William Hitchcock from the University of Virginia (UVA) gave a lecture entitled "Why the First World War Still Matters: Reflections on the Centennial, 1914- 2014" as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series.

After a brief introduction from Einaudi Center Director and Vice Provost for International Affairs Fred Lovevall, Dr. Hitchcock organized his lecture with three underlying themes: the origins of WWI, the difficulties of building a stable peace after WWI, and the impact of WWI on soldiers. In each section, Dr. Hitchcock drew connections between WWI and the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. Hitchcock framed the discussion on the origins of WWI in five concentric circles. The four outer circles were the shifting balance of power in Europe at the time, the level of threat perception and what each state saw as the principal threat to its security, domestic politics in each state, and the weight of the military within each state's government. The outbreak of the war was the center circle. He

elaborated on how the first World War engulfed the entire world, with reasons varying from structural and economic factors like the shifting balance of power to domestic politics and threat perception.

In doing so, Hitchcock tied the events preceding WWI to the events preceding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the origins of peace and its subsequent “legitimacy” in both contexts. In his words, “throw in nuclear weapons, and you have 2015.”

Finally, Dr. Hitchcock discussed the human conditions surrounding WWI, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He addressed the differences in scale, then and now, but he also noted the similarities in the experiences that soldiers (then and now) shared, ranging from extreme physical discomfort to shell shock or what is now known as PTSD.

Dr. Hitchcock concluded his lecture with a quote: “Our public discourse is heavy with the language of war, and the tragedy of it is that those voices will always be able to find some young people to answer the call. As in WWI, so in our own time, it will be the young who have to pay the terrible price of war.”

[CornellCast Video](#)