



BEIJING XIANGSHAN FORUM
北京香山论坛

The Strategic Trends after the Changed Situation in Afghanistan

Wednesday, September 15, 2021. 20:30-23:00(GMT+8)

Topic

The situation in Afghanistan changes in an unexpectedly quick way since the military withdrawal of the US and other NATO countries in May 2021. As the Taliban took power after 20 years' conflict, they vowed to build an inclusive Afghan government, respect women's rights, forgive those who fought them, and seek friendly diplomatic ties with other countries including the United States, based on "mutual respect". However, the future of Afghanistan is uncertain. The webinar will focus on the following topics:

- Is it possible for Afghanistan to realize political, economic, social stability in the near future? Will civil wars and other forms of inter-group conflicts break out and lead to humanitarian crisis, refugee crisis and the spillover of terrorism? How to perceive the Taliban's domestic and foreign policy? What does the future hold for Afghanistan?
- What are the implications of the Afghanistan situation for the global strategic landscape, regional security in Central Asia and South Asia, and bilateral relations between Afghanistan and other countries?
- Are there any convergent and divergent security interests among stakeholders on Afghanistan issue? What are these countries' policies towards Afghanistan currently? How do bilateral and multilateral cooperations proceed?
- Will the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan affect its relationship with its allies and partners?

Zoom Link

<https://zoom.com.cn/j/81927578566?pwd=b1AweEhsTWlhc2J3T0FQa29DVHZrdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 2757 8566

Passcode: 384267

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Moderator

Du Nongyi Major General (ret.), Vice Chairman of China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS)

Agenda

20:15-20:30 Arrivals

20:30-21:45 Session I

1.Presentations

Alexander Lukin Director of the Centre for East Asian and SCO Studies at MGIMO University, Head of the Department of International Relations at National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

David H. Rank former Director of the Office of Afghan Affairs in the U.S. State Department

Hu Shisheng Director of Institute of South Asian Studies in China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

Muhammad Amir Rana Director of Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) in Pakistan

Mohammad Ganjidoost Senior Researcher of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) in the Islamic Republic of Iran

2.Discussion

21:45-23:00 Session II

1.Presentations

David M. Finkelstein Vice President of CNA, Director of China & Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
Rakesh Sood first Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, former Indian Ambassador to Nepal and France

R. S. Savas Bicer Colonel (ret.), Professor at Faculty of Business Social and Administrative Sciences University of Istanbul Nisantasi, Lecturer at Turkish National Defence University in Turkey

Wang Xu Executive Deputy Director of Center for South Asian Studies in Peking University

Samir Puri Senior Fellow in Urban Security and Hybrid Warfare of the IISS-Asia office

2.Discussion

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Du Nongyi

Major General (ret.), Vice Chairman of China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS)

Vice Chairman Du Nongyi joined the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 1978. After graduation from the military academy, he served as instructor in PLA University of International Relations, staff officer of the Ministry of National Defense (MND), secretary of Liaison Office in Saudi Arabia from 1987 to 1989, instructor of the UN Peacekeeping Training Center in MND from 1989 to 1997, military observer of UNIKOM from 1997 to 1998, professor and director of the UN Peacekeeping Training Center in MND from 2000 to 2004, director in charge of academic affairs in PLA University of International Relations from 2004 to 2008, deputy commandant of PLA University of International Relations from 2008 to 2013, defense attaché of the Chinese Embassy in the Republic of Korea from 2013 to 2019. He joined CIISS after retirement in 2020. He is the current chief editor of CIISS journal *International Strategic Studies*.



Alexander Lukin

Director of the Centre for East Asian and SCO Studies at MGIMO University, Head of the Department of International Relations at National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

Prof. Alexander Lukin received his first degree from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1984, a DPhil in Politics from Oxford University in 1997, a doctorate in history from the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow in 2007. Prof. Lukin has worked at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, the Soviet Embassy to the PRC, and the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Prof. Lukin worked as visiting fellow and associate researcher in several think tanks and research institutes in the United States from 1997-2006, such as the Belfer Center at Harvard University, the Brookings Institution, the George Washington University. In November 2011 he was appointed Vice President of the Russian Diplomatic Academy (for research and international cooperation).

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David H. Rank

former Director of the Office of Afghan Affairs in the U.S. State Department

Mr. David H. Rank retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2017 as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy to China. He has also served at the U.S. Embassies in Afghanistan, Greece, and Mauritius. His domestic assignments included Director of the State Department's Office on Afghanistan Affairs, Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and the Desk Officer for the Republic of Korea. From 2012 to 2013, he served as a Dean and Virginia Rusk Fellow at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy. In 2015, Dave was awarded the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award for his role in the release of the only American service member held by the enemy in Afghanistan.



Hu Shisheng

Director of Institute of South Asian Studies in China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

Dr. Hu Shisheng's research areas include the political and security situations in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the power politics in South Asia and Indian Ocean Rim, China's South Asia policy, the Geo-strategic competition between BRI and IPS in China's surrounding regions. His published books include *Tibetans in Exile: the Construction of Group Identities and its Embarrassment* (Center of China Tibetology, 2008) and *The history and future of Sino-Indian relations* (World Affairs Publishing House, 2020). He received his BA in Hindi and his MA in Sanskrit and Bali languages from Peking University. Hu did his PhD in International Politics & Relations with a focus in Ethnic and Religious issues from CICIR in 2006. In 2004 he was a Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

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Muhammad Amir Rana

Director of Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) in Pakistan

Prof. Muhammad Amir Rana was a founder member of PIPS when it was launched in January 2006 and had previously worked as a journalist with various Urdu and English daily newspapers from 1996 until 2004. He has also been affiliated with the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Singapore as a visiting fellow and completed fellowship on “Rule of law and CPEC” at National Australian University (ANU) offered by department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Australia (March-April, 2018). He has also given lectures at several universities and security institutes in Pakistan and abroad. Amir has published widely in national and international journals, professional publications and magazines. He writes regularly for Dawn, Pakistan’s leading English newspaper. He is also the editor of Pakistan Annual Security Report, and PIPS research journal *Conflict and Peace Studies*. He has worked extensively on issues related to counter-terrorism, counter-extremism, and internal and regional security and politics.



Mohammad Ganjidoost

Senior Researcher of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr. Mohammad Ganjidoost was the Ex-Ambassador and senior researcher of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He holds Strategic Management PhD from the Higher University of National Defense, Iran (2008); and MS (1977), BS (1975), Electrical Engineering from the USA. He served as Research Councilor in South Africa and as Head of the Mission and Ambassador in Columbia, DPRK, Bangladesh, Turkey and Pakistan. He directed the ASEAN division of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. And also directed Research Groups on the Strategic Studies, as well as the West Asia, at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS). He served as chief editor of the IPIS Persian monthly, “The Events and Analysis”, and wrote many articles for that and other publishers likewise. He organized and/or attended many international conferences, both locally and worldwide. He has taught at the International school, as well as, some other educational Institutes, in the I.R. of Iran.

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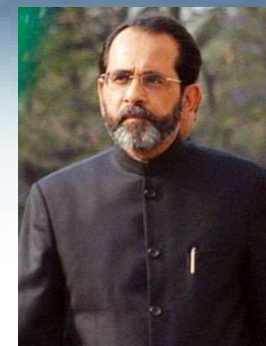
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David M. Finkelstein

Vice President of CNA, Director of China & Indo-Pacific Security Affairs

Dr. David M. Finkelstein received his Ph.D. in Chinese history from Princeton University and studied Mandarin at Nankai University in Tianjin. Active in many academic and policy-oriented organizations, he serves on the Advisory Board of Issues & Studies (Taipei), is a Senior Advisor to The China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly (Washington, D.C. & Stockholm), and a member of the National Committee for U.S.-China Relations. His edited volumes include *Chinese Warfighting: The PLA Experience Since 1949* (ME Sharpe), *China's Revolution in Doctrinal Affairs: Developments in the Operational Art of the People's Liberation Army* (CNA), etc. In March 2014 the Naval Institute Press published a paperback edition of his historical monograph *From Abandonment to Salvation: Washington's Taiwan Dilemma, 1949-50*.



Rakesh Sood

first Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, former Indian Ambassador to Nepal and France

Ambassador Rakesh Sood has over 38 years of experience in the field of foreign affairs, economic diplomacy and international security issues. He initially served in the Indian missions at Brussels, Dakar, Geneva and Islamabad in different capacities and as Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington. He also served as India's first Ambassador – Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at the United Nations in Geneva. He also chaired a number of international Working Groups and was a member of UN Secretary General's Disarmament Advisory Board (2002-03). Subsequently, he was India's Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2005 to early 2008, Ambassador to Nepal from 2008 to 2011 and to France from 2011 to March 2013. In September 2013, Ambassador Sood was appointed Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues; a position he held till May 2014. Ambassador Rakesh Sood was a Post Graduate in Physics and additionally in Economics and Defence Studies.

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R. S. Savas Bicer

Colonel (ret.), Professor at Faculty of Business Social and Administrative Sciences University of Istanbul Nisantasi, Lecturer at Turkish National

Defence University in Turkey

Dr. R. S. Savas Bicer received B.A. in Economics in Turkish Military Academy in Ankara, M.A. in Turkish War College and PhD in Institute of social science, Political Science and International Relations Department, Istanbul YEDITEPE University. While worked as an active staff officer he was employed in various NATO Headquarters and participated in several Peace Support Operations such as UNPROFOR and SFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, KFOR in Kosovo and Macedonia, and ISAF in Afghanistan. He has five NATO and one United Nations Service Medals. He also worked as a head at the Defense Industry Foreign Relations Department at Turkish Ministry of Defense. His main fields of specialization are national security analysis, peace and conflict analysis, international terror, NATO, PfP, Peace Support Operations and NATO military interventions. He has written books and articles concerning these subjects.



Wang Xu

Executive Deputy Director of Center for South Asian Studies in Peking University

Dr. Wang Xu, associate professor, is executive Deputy Director of Center for South Asian Studies in Peking University, where he obtained his Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. Degrees in literature in 1997, 2000 and 2007 respectively. His main academic interests include regional studies and Islamic studies in South Asia, particularly in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He is the author of numerous articles, including: “China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation: Prospects and Challenges”, “Pakistan’s Perceptions and Responses to China’s and American Strategy in South Asia”.

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Samir Puri

Senior Fellow in Urban Security and Hybrid Warfare of the IISS-Asia
office

Dr. Samir Puri is a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of War Studies of King's College London. He has worked in government and in academia. In 2018–19, he was assistant head of research at the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, the British Ministry of Defence's think tank. In 2017, he authored the Commonwealth Secretariat's strategy on countering violent extremism. His academic posts include lecturer in war studies at King's College London and adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe. Earlier in his career Samir worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where his assignments covered counter-terrorism policy, and a year-long secondment with the OSCE to monitor the war in east Ukraine. His career began as a defence analyst at RAND Europe. In 2016 he authored an IISS Adelphi book entitled *Fighting and Negotiating with Armed Groups*. His latest book is *The Great Imperial Hangover: How Empires Have Shaped the World* (Atlantic Books, 2020).

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