



# The Passport

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

July 2018

## Xi in Command

**Michael Ipson**  
International Banker

**Thursday, July 19, 2018**

**11:30 am: Registration ~ 11:50 am: Luncheon ~ 12:50 pm: Program**

**Rancho Canada Carmel Valley Road**

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, has introduced new and far-reaching political and economic policies since assuming leadership in 2012. He has also accrued increasing powers to himself. Xi now holds the top offices of the party (Secretary General), the state (President), and the military (Chairman, Central Military Commission). In March, China's National People's Congress amended its constitution to eliminate presidential term limits. Xi Jinping is officially referred to as the Paramount Leader of the PRC.



In his presentation to the World Affairs Council, Michael Ipson will review how Xi has centralized his personal power over China, and will look forward to what might be expected as Xi embarks upon his second term as China's supreme leader. Mr. Ipson will

discuss China's growing global role and analyze the major challenges that China and President Xi face, including China's economy and the quality of its environment.

Michael Ipson began his engagement with China in 1966 as an exchange student in Hong Kong. After pursuing graduate studies in Chinese and Vietnamese history, he began a career in banking, spending 28 years in Hong Kong and China. During the last five years, he sojourned in Beijing for the second time, including

two and a half years as Country Manager for the International Finance Corporation, which is the private sector arm of the World Bank. He continues to travel to China while working with financial institutions.

*(Please see page 3 for reservation information)*

### Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 5

4:30 pm

**Board Meeting: McCone Building Conference Room, MIIS. Open to members.**

Monday, July 9

4:00-5:30 pm

**Discussion Group: MPC Social Science Building Room 101. Parking \$3.00 in Lot D**

Thursday, July 19

11:30-2:00

**Luncheon and Presentation: *Xi in Command*, by Michael Ipson**

**Summary of *The Demise of the Arab Spring and the Deep State***

Dr. Robert Springborg

The World Affairs Council was honored to host Dr. Robert Springborg for its June luncheon, when he spoke on *The Demise of the Arab Spring and the Deep State*. Recently retired from the Naval Postgraduate School, Dr. Springborg is currently a non-resident fellow at the Italian Institute of International Affairs, and is widely recognized as one of America's premier scholars of the Middle East.

Decades before the term "deep state" entered the American political lexicon, it was most frequently used in analyses of Turkey to explain how the military kept tight reins on the exercise of power while allowing elections to occur and democracy to ostensibly function. Dr. Springborg elaborated on how deep states have come to rule most Arab republics (less so in monarchies) by centering real power, which has been enabled by coercion, in military intelligence, security forces, police, and the office of the presidency. Typically, these institutions are "off budget," meaning that the true extent of their resources is not publicly known. As well, these resources are autonomous from the usual tax collection system, often being generated by smuggling and similar illicit activities controlled by these deep state institutions.

*(continued next column)*

Dr. Springborg's main argument was that the pervasive deep state arrangements in much of the Arab world successfully worked against any real democratic transition during the Arab Spring. While Egypt may have been the most famous case of Arab Spring change, it now represents the clearest victory of the deep state in reversing those democratic steps that were initiated in 2011. In addition to fighting deep state interests, the democrats of the Arab Spring faced long odds when it came to other social variables, such as income levels, median age, and the size of the middle class.

Wading briefly into current American discussions, Springborg noted that in comparison to the Middle East, the United States has no equivalent of a deep state—"yet."

*By Glenn Robinson*

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**RESERVATION FORM**  
*Reservations due July 13 for July 19 presentation*

**Registration 11:30 am**  
**Luncheon 11:50 am**  
**Program 1 pm**

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

**Members @ \$29 ea.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Guests @ \$35 ea.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Credit card charge \$2 ea.**  
**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

***Xi in Command***

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

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**Questions? Call the office at 831-643-1855**

**World Affairs Council**  
**Monterey Peninsula College**  
**Discussion Group**

The next MPC Discussion Group meeting will focus on *North Korea . . . What Now?* Participants will appraise what has happened since the Trump/Kim Jong-un summit in June. What is the way forward with North Korea?

This highly relevant discussion will be held on Monday, July 9 at 4:00 pm in the Social Science Building, Room 101, Monterey Peninsula College, 980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940. Parking is available in Lot D for \$3.00; parking permits are available for attendees.

Come join the discussion!

**LUNCHEON MENU**

- Romaine Salad with Walnuts and Raspberry Vinaigrette
- Lasagna
- Roasted Red Potatoes and Vegetables
- Fresh Rolls and Butter
- Chef's Choice Dessert
  - Coffee

**Vegetarian Option:**  
Grilled Portobello  
Mushroom

# The Passport July 2018

*This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). 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-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups and student scholarships..*

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