



The Passport

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

October 2022

China's Belt and Road Initiative: How China's Economic Policies are Changing the World

Professor Wei Liang

Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

11:30 am: Registration 11:50 am: Luncheon 12:50 pm: Program
**** Bayonet Black Horse Golf Course, 1 McClure Way, Seaside****

Under President Xi Jinping, China's Belt and Road Initiative, designed to develop an expanded, interdependent market for itself, became China's first grand strategy of the twenty-first century. China's rise has allowed it to exert an ever-greater influence on international affairs. This raises a number of questions: Is China an opportunity? Is China a threat? What does China want? How should the global community meet the challenges of "China shocks" and the "dragon in the room?" In her talk to the World Affairs Council, Professor Wei Liang will discuss the Belt and Road Initiative and how its projects are impacting the developing world. She will also address how the ongoing Ukraine war and US-China trade war affect China's policy choices and calculations.

A Professor at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, where she has been



teaching since 2007, Dr. Liang specializes in international trade and development policy, global economic and environmental governance, the political economy of East Asia, and Chinese foreign economic policy. She is the co-author of *China and East Asia's Post-Crises Community: A Region in Flux* (Lexington Books, 2012) and the co-editor of *China and Global Trade Governance: China's First Decade in the World Trade*

Organization (Routledge, 2013), in addition to a number of journal articles and book chapters.

Dr. Liang holds the Gordon Paul Smith Chair in International Studies at MIIS, where she has been recognized for her excellence in teaching. She earned a BA from Peking University in the People's Republic of China, and holds both an MA and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Southern California.

Please note: WACMB requires all attendees to be fully vaccinated, with at least one booster. See page 4 for further details.

Program Report: Ambassador William Taylor

Your World Affairs Council was honored to have William Taylor, former US Ambassador to Ukraine, speak to us about Russia's invasion and Ukraine's resistance during our September 21 luncheon. Ambassador Taylor is a West Point classmate of WAC Board member Doug Rogers. He had planned to speak to us in person, but since he caught Covid during a recent trip to Kyiv, he appeared digitally instead. (The technology worked like a charm with no glitches, and everyone had a clear view of the big screen.) Ambassador Taylor stressed the importance to the US, Europe, and the broader civilized world of Ukraine defeating Russia's unprovoked aggression inside Ukraine – for our security and for our values. And, indeed, Ukraine has been “on a roll” lately, with striking victories in the Kharkiv region of eastern Ukraine after feigning a broader attack on Kherson in the south.

Ambassador Taylor emphasized the problem set facing Russian president Putin beyond the recent battlefield defeats. Putin is facing a manpower shortage, as about half of the initial invasion force has been killed or wounded – including a staggering 30,000 soldiers killed in action. After recruiting foreign fighters and domestic prisoners to replace the casualties, Putin has now had to call up national reserves, which presents a serious domestic political problem. As well, Russia has used up an estimated 80 percent of all its precision weapons and cannot replace them due to the sanctions in place.

Ukraine will continue to push for victory, and very much relies on the US and NATO for supplies and intelligence. Ambassador Taylor noted that if Russia stops fighting, the war ends, but if Ukraine stops fighting, Ukraine ends. They are fighting for the existence of their country and their people, and will not give up. “Ukraine will win,” Ambassador Taylor predicted, to much

(continued in the next column)

applause. The real choice is with Russia: to escalate or de-escalate?

In a lively question and answer session, Ambassador Taylor stressed that he does not believe that US troops will be needed to fight in Ukraine, but did note the strong US-Ukraine military relations that have been in place ever since the 2014 Russian invasion of Ukraine and the continuing occupation of Crimea and parts of the Donbas region. He noted how Ukraine has remade its military on western concepts of encouraging initiative in the lower ranks, and has created non-commissioned officer ranks. This contrasts with the overly centralized, top-down Russian military – a holdover from Soviet days. Ambassador Taylor was asked if Russia was committing war crimes and genocide in Ukraine: “Yes to both” was his reply. But in order for there to be accountability and justice, Ukraine must win the war.

-by Glenn E. Robinson

Welcome to our New Members!

Leonard Anable Emanuel Andreas
Gary Baum Jacqueline Day
Rosemary and Halleck Butts
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Gabrielle and Fox Fiorentino
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Skip and Liz Lord Margaret Martin
Molly May Carl and Beverly Mitchell
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Melody Pflingsten and Crystal Wittich
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Tony Seton Robert Stelmack
Catherine Sheen Loren Steck
Darrell and Svetlana Stanaford
Louisiana Sutton Pamela Swenson
Thomas Sweeney and Keely Clifford
Joseph and Robin Tardo
Victor Tafoya Jacob Traylor
Sharon Tucker Valerie Whitworth

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due October 21. Luncheon is at Bayonet Black Horse Golf Club.

Registration: 11:30 am

Mail form and check to:

Members @ \$34 _____

Luncheon: 11:50 am

WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942

Guests @ \$39 _____

Program: 12:50 pm

or register online at www.wacmb.org

Total \$ _____

Please note: credit card information can no longer be mailed in.

If you wish to register using a credit card, please do so online.

China's Belt and Road Initiative

Name/s _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of Vegetarian Entrees _____

Note: No refunds or credit will be given for cancellations received after the due date

Discussion Groups

WACMB Discussions Groups now have their own email: discussiongroup@wacmb.org
Please use it for any Discussion Group-related communications.

The WACMB monthly Discussion Group will meet virtually at 5:00 pm on Monday, October 3, when it will address the topic of "Russia and Ukraine." All WACMB members are invited to participate. If you have never attended this Discussion Group, email a request to receive log-in information. Background materials for each meeting are posted on the WACMB website at <https://www.wacmb.org/discussion-groups/>

The WACMB/OLLI Discussion Group will meet virtually on Monday, October 10, at 4:00 pm, when it will also address the topic of "Russia and Ukraine." Registration through OLLI is required. Go to <https://olli.csumb.edu> to sign up.

LUNCHEON MENU

- "Bob Cobb Salad": Entree Salad
Topped with Turkey, Egg,
Avocado, Bacon, Olives, and
Bleu Cheese, and Tossed with
Ranch Dressing
 - Garlic Bread
 - Cheesecake
- Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade

VEGAN OPTION

"Open Sesame Salad" Topped with
Cashews, Mandarin Oranges, Crispy
Won Tons, and Sesame Dressing

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, 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.

Corporate and institutional support for the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is provided by
***California State University Monterey Bay**
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- Benefactor \$1,000
- Sponsor \$500
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- Dual \$80
- Single \$50
- Student/Enlisted * \$20

The Dual level and above include two memberships.
Make checks payable to WACMB and mail to
WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(Dual and above, please include both names)
OR join online at www.wacmb.org

Names/s: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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*** Student rates are for full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, or graduate schools, as well as for enlisted military personnel in Grades E1 to E4.**

Vaccination Requirements

- All those attending WACMB in-person events must show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination, including a booster.
- To prove your vaccination status, you can present either your vaccination card or your State of California QR code.
- You only need to present such proof once. Your documentation will be noted, and that box will be automatically checked for future meetings.
- ***For the time being, no auditors will be permitted to attend any WACMB in-person meetings. This is to ensure that every person in the room has been vaccinated and boosted.***
- Thank you for your cooperation with our efforts to keep our members healthy!

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