



Senator Dianne Feinstein

Honored at Celebrating Women Leaders Dinner

On November 3, 2011, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, addressed Women's Foreign Policy Group members and guests on "Technology, Terrorism, and Intelligence: Economic and Security Challenges in a Globalizing World" in a conversation with New York Times Pentagon Correspondent Elisabeth Bumiller. Topics of discussion included cyber security, Iran, and withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bumiller asked Senator Feinstein about threats to US cyber security, particularly from China and Russia. Feinstein replied that it is a serious issue that needs to be addressed through cyber agreements as well as national laws. While government networks have made an effort to become more secure, the private sector is resistant to the implementation of security standards.

Another topic of discussion was the Haqqani Network, an insurgent group allied with the Taliban. Feinstein feels that in order for the US to consider negotiations with the Haqqani Network, they must change their ways. Unfortunately, they seem unwilling to do so. She cautioned that the US needs to withdraw from Afghanistan carefully and slowly. A resurgence of Taliban rule would have a devastating effect on Afghan women and girls. Similarly, the US needs to be cautious in its withdrawal from Iraq, as Iran has been aggressive in its attempts to exert influence in Iraq.

On the subject of Iran, Bumiller questioned Feinstein about whether the recent plot to murder the Saudi Arabian Ambassador is a sign that Iran's government is becoming more aggressive, or whether it was the work of the Quds Force, which is the external arm of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard. Feinstein believes that the Quds force was certainly involved, but doubts that high level government officials were made aware of the plan.

Bumiller also raised the issue of whether Israel is likely to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. Feinstein replied that based on her meetings with Israeli government officials, she believes that Israel is ready to act. She thinks that this would be a big mistake. In her opinion, sanctions have been effective and Israel needs to be patient.



Senator Feinstein and WFPG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs

However, the US must also begin negotiations with Iran, as silence has had negative consequences. She also encouraged Israel to relieve tension through coming to an agreement with Palestine.

Senator Feinstein says what currently keeps her up at night is the incredibly polarized situation in the Congress and the Senate of the United States, which makes compromise on budget cuts very difficult. Feinstein does not think that cuts will have a negative impact on intelligence. Since 9/11, the quality of intelligence has increased

greatly and there is better communication between agencies. She is however resistant to decreasing foreign aid, which accounts for only 1% of the budget.

The Senator was asked to reflect on the challenges she faced early in her career. When she first ran for office in 1969, it was unusual for women to enter politics and she did not feel supported by other women. Happily, she feels that this is no longer the case today, and "that's one of the greatest things because it may be up to us to right this world, and I really think we can."



Senator Feinstein and Elisabeth Bumiller during the discussion



Senator Feinstein and Elisabeth Bumiller with WFPG Board Members Ann Korologos, Theresa Loar, Patricia Ellis (President), and Maxine Isaacs (Chair)



Board Member Diana Negroponte, Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, and Corporate Advisory Council Member Janet Howard of The Coca-Cola Company after the program



Ambassador Sameh Shoukry of Egypt, Patricia Ellis, and Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Esther Brimmer

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Embassy Series

France's Role on the International Stage



Dec 15 – WFPG closed its 2011 program year with an Embassy Series event hosted by French Ambassador François Delattre at his residence. Elaine Sciolino, Paris correspondent for *The New York Times*, moderated the discussion on France's Role on the International Stage. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Delattre gave an overview of French-American relations, the situation in France and the eurozone, and French policies towards the Middle East, especially Syria, Iran and Libya.

According to the Ambassador, French-American relations have never been closer. They are allies in the fight against terrorism, in Afghanistan, and in combating radical Islamist networks in the Middle East. The partnership and leadership of France and Britain in the NATO operation in Libya also strengthened the US-French relationship and showed the US that the French could be counted on. Delattre also addressed how the US and France are in the forefront of supporting democratic movements in the Arab world and in combating WMD proliferation. They have also been working through the G-20 and the G-8 to promote growth in the Middle East, through efforts such as the Deauville Partnership, which was launched during the French G-8 presidency. Delattre also asserted that they need to make sure that rising powers such as China, India and Brazil are part of these efforts and are more involved and responsible.

The Ambassador specifically addressed policy towards Iran and Syria. Delattre explained that unlike Libya, there is no consensus in the Security Council for decisive diplomatic or military action due to opposition from Russia and China. While one cannot give up, he recommends examining

other options, including implementing tough sanctions, which Turkey and the Arab League have already agreed to. Additional steps include supporting opposition movements and sending in human rights experts. Turning to Iran, Delattre asserted that France believes that it is unacceptable for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. It would threaten the security of Israel and the weapons would quickly spread throughout the region. Short of military action, the only options are sanctions or banning all Iranian oil exports, which might provoke a split within Iran.

In discussing Europe and the eurozone crisis, Ambassador Delattre spoke about how France had taken the lead in the area of structural reforms by shrinking the government and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, while simultaneously emphasizing innovation and structural reform. This connection, he said, is what is lacking in the eurozone. To Delattre, the three main challenges for the eurozone are “fiscal discipline, structural reforms, and most importantly, the creation of the governance of the eurozone” which have to be tackled together. Though this is a lengthy process, he is optimistic of its success due to the strong leadership of the “two couples in Europe: the Franco-British couple on the defense issues, and the Franco-German couple on the Euro issues”. The French and the British account for 50% of the EU's military spending, but Delattre emphasized that the EU needs the UK as a full member, noting that they “really have to choose—in this time of crisis, we need stronger, strong partners and not countries within and without.” The Ambassador underlined France's strong partnership with the UK and expressed hope that they will be “on board.”

Beyond the Headlines

Covering Libya: A View from the Front Lines



Dec 7 – WFPG hosted a Beyond the Headlines Series program on Covering Libya: A View from the Front Lines, with Reuters correspondent Missy Ryan and Mary Beth Sheridan of *The Washington Post*. Sheridan and Ryan

provided detailed accounts of their on-the-ground coverage during the Libyan revolution.

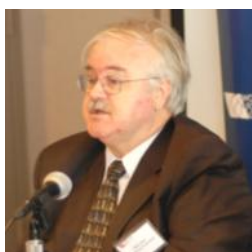
Sheridan discussed her reporting during the war's final phase, first in Misrata and Sirte, and later in Tripoli. When Libyans learned that Sirte had fallen, and later that Qaddafi was dead, Tripoli erupted in celebration. "It was the most amazing joy I'd ever seen," Sheridan said. "People were honking horns, waving flags, and firing off every sort of armament you can imagine." She noted that the scene stood in sharp contrast to Baghdad eight years earlier. Unlike Iraq, Libyans felt ownership of the revolution and a sense of hope emanated in the streets.

Ryan spent most of her time reporting from Qaddafi-controlled Tripoli, where Qaddafi's forces held her and her fellow foreign journalists as hostages at a five-star hotel. During this time, the government bussed them to tightly choreographed pro-Qaddafi rallies. When they were able to venture out they were accompanied by interpreters or "minders", who often coached interviewees. Ryan noted that "if we had taken the Qaddafi government's line, every single person in Tripoli would have considered the rebels, as they called them, the rats."

When asked about the dangers of reporting from a war zone and the training they received, both Sheridan and Ryan agreed that while news organizations do provide hazardous environment training, most of the skills are gained from experience over time. Sheridan added that war correspondents, while still competitors, often become allies and friends. Ryan admitted that despite the best preparations, even experienced correspondents make decisions that can result in injury or death to themselves or their colleagues.

Both Sheridan and Ryan gave their perspectives on the challenges facing post-revolution Libya, including the lack of a unified vision for Libya's future, the role of religion, and role women will play. Islamists are a very important group in Libya, especially militarily. Sheridan explained that after years of corrupt governance, there is a tendency for people to side with the Islamists, who are seen as uncorrupt. The role of women in Libya is complicated by the influence of religion. Women feel that they can move throughout the country more freely now than before the revolution because they don't have to worry about Qaddafi officials who operated outside of the law. In post-Qaddafi Libya, Sheridan found that women feel more empowered; however, they are still not represented in the government. The main issue facing women is whether or not the country will adapt a more Islamist legal code which could impact the freedom of women. As Ryan said, "from a Western perspective we would like to see women have the freedom to choose."

Famine in the Horn of Africa



Aug 8 – Allan Jury, director of the US relations office for the World Food Programme, gave a detailed account of the dire situation on the ground in Somalia, the obstacles WFP faces to distributing food quickly, and the impact of the

famine on neighboring countries.

Looking forward, Jury emphasized the need for comprehensive aid approaches and long-term resilience programs, noting that we have successful examples in Ethiopia and Kenya and parts of northern Somalia. He asserted that "the immediate need is emergency assistance, but we cannot forget the need to build into the recovery process programs to deal with resilience for these populations."

Embassy Series

A Conversation on US–Turkish Relations



Nov 16 – The Ambassador of Turkey hosted a conversation on US-Turkish relations at his residence. The discussion was moderated by Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Senior National Security Correspondent. In his remarks, Ambassador Tan gave an overview of Turkey's relations with the US and its foreign policy toward the Middle East, as well as Turkey's pivotal role in the region.

Ambassador Tan emphasized Turkey's unique role as the only country in the world that successfully synthesizes Islam with modernity, singling it out as the most powerful Muslim majority country. According to the Ambassador, Turkey's geographic location has also greatly influenced the important role it plays in providing stability to the Middle East since its neighbors include Syria, Iran, and Iraq. In terms of the US withdrawal from Iraq, Tan voiced concerns and addressed Turkey's goal to engage each of the myriad ethnic groups in Iraq with the hope of preventing potential violence. Also, Syria's deteriorating situation over the last year has forced Turkey to shift its long-standing policy of non-interference in the domestic affairs of its neighbors in order to show support for the Syrian people who have been facing harsh government oppression.

The Ambassador also believes that the Arab Spring has positively influenced US-Turkish relations. Not only has it provided credibility to the regional assistance provided by the US and NATO, but it has also reinforced the US and Turkey's shared commitment to promoting a peaceful neighborhood in which states provide their people with the freedom and democracy that they demand. Tan explained that the Arab Spring further solidified the existing trust between Turkey and the United States.

As a G20 member and the 16th largest economy in the world, Turkey has experienced an incredible growth rate of 11.6% over the last decade, a factor that Ambassador Tan attributed to Turkey's secular democracy, parliamentary system, and free market economy. Negotiations continue on Turkey's ascension to the European Union and Tan reaffirmed Turkey's commitment to join, emphasizing its shared values with the current members.

Ambassador Tan also asserted Turkey's dedication to encouraging entrepreneurship and highlighted the upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Summit, which Turkey will be hosting. While historically entrepreneurship has not existed in the Islamic world, Ambassador Tan reiterated that it is an important concept that should be incorporated into each country's economic system in order to encourage innovation, enhance democratic values and support further growth. This is just one of the many reasons why Turkey will continue to be an important economic and political bridge between East and West, and why the US-Turkish relationship will continue to be significant.



Embassy Series

Brazil's Role in Global Decision-Making and the Economy



Nov 29 – WFPG members and guests gathered at the residence of Ambassador Mauro Vieira of Brazil for a discussion moderated by former Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky.

differences on some issues, noting that, this only proves that we are good partners because a good partner is one that's free to say yes or no. Noting that it would be "it would be monotonous to have only the same opinion."

In his remarks, Ambassador Vieira discussed Brazil's remarkable growth in a historical context, citing the return to a democratic government and the macro-economic stability as two major reasons for Brazil's success. He attributes Brazil's economic growth to the introduction of the new Real in 1994, a favorable environment for investment, a free market, and a more active role played by the state. Vieira highlighted historic achievements in Brazil's social programs, including, the creation of the Bolsa Familia under President Lula, which provided financial support for 12 million families and lifted 28 million Brazilians out of poverty. Under Lula, Brazil has also expanded its presence internationally. It has opened 50 new embassies and was also the leader in the Haitian earthquake relief efforts.

The main focus of the evening was Brazil's role in the global economy. Ambassador Vieira pointed out the shift from 20th century bipolarity to the incorporation of developing countries, like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in foreign policy. The 2008 financial crisis amplified this change. Vieira explained that the financial crisis started in developed countries. Brazil was one of the last affected and may be the first to recover. This global economic crisis further signaled the necessity to reform global governance. Ambassador Vieira explained that the creation of the G20 leveled the playing field between wealthy and developing countries and Brazil's participation in the G20 has enhanced its influence. Brazil is also working hard to reform the UN Security Council so that it reflects the current world and not the world as it existed after World War II.

The Ambassador addressed Brazil's relationship with the US, noting that the countries have a long and important alliance. The US was Brazil's number one trading partner for a century and was only recently surpassed by China. Although Presidents Rouseff and Obama meet regularly, Ambassador Vieira explained that Brazil and the US have

In terms of the International Monetary Fund, the Ambassador explained that Brazil was once a debtor nation and now is a creditor nation. For this reason, they were asked by the IMF to assist Europe with the Euro crisis. He indicated that Brazil would be glad to work with the IMF to find a solution, but only within the Fund's framework.



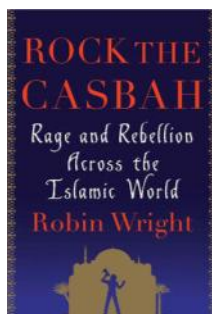
Ambassador Vieira with WFPG Board Members Gail Kitch, Paula Dobriansky (moderator), Diana Negroponete, Patricia Ellis, Carolyn Brehm, Theresa Loar, and Isabel Jasinowski



Ambassador Vieira of Brazil, Ambassador Sebataane of Lesotho, and WFPG Board Member Diana Negroponete

Author Series

Author and Journalist Robin Wright



Sept/Oct – Author Robin Wright discussed her new book *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*, at the home of WFPG Board Member Diana Villiers NegroponTE in DC and at IIE in NY.

An accomplished journalist, Wright has covered the Middle East for the past four decades. She has witnessed extremism, globalization and the rise of new movements in the area. Over the past two years, Wright traveled around the Muslim world and discovered a variety of political and cultural forces that have influenced the changes in the region.

Wright explained that a monumental change has occurred in the Middle East in the decade after 9/11. Wright categorizes this change as a counter-jihad, describing it as “a moment that embraces a lot of different things.” Wright attributes the counter-jihad to three major phenomena: the challenge of the status quo, the rejection of violence as a tactic, and the rejection of Islamist ideologies. According to Wright, people are challenging the old regime due to the increased population of young people, higher literacy rates, especially among women, the emergence of new technology and Muslims rejection of terrorist organizations.

While Wright spent a great deal of time focusing on the political factors that contributed to the counter-jihad, she also addressed cultural changes. Wright admitted that her favorite part of the book is the stories from the young artists, comedians, and writers who supported in the uprisings and used art to protest extremism.

The evening ended with an in-depth Q&A session which focused on the future of MENA after the uprisings. Wright noted that the most important event in the coming months will be the writing of the constitution in Egypt. While the countries of the Arab Spring have overwhelming challenges ahead with high unemployment and limited resources, Wright suggested that Libya may have the best future. She declared herself as “the ultimate pessimist, I’m the one who says not is the glass

‘half full’ or glass ‘half empty’, I’m the one who says ‘Is there really any water in the glass at all?’ For the first time I’ve kind of thought—Oh gosh, something good is happening.”



Patricia Ellis, Robin Wright, and WFPG Board member and host Diana Villiers NegroponTE (DC)



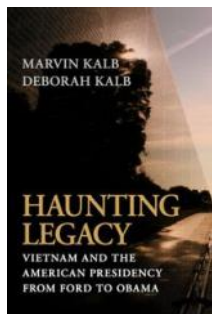
Robin Wright signs copies of her book for Gillian Sorenson and co-sponsor Peggy Blumenthal of IIE (NY)



Robin Wright greets WFPG Board members Ann Korologos and Mary Catherine Toker (DC)

Author Series

Marvin and Deborah Kalb



Sept 27 – Marvin Kalb, a distinguished journalist and one of the fabled Murrow Boys, and his daughter and co-author, Deborah Kalb discussed their book, *Haunting Legacy: Vietnam and the American Presidency from Ford to Obama*, at the home of WFPG Board member Donna Constantinople.

of Afghanistan have increased drastically, Mr. Kalb asserts that it is all about the military—about who’s controlling the weapons, streets, and roads. In his judgment, we’re not doing very well in this regard.

When asked about the impact of the experience of other countries like French in Algeria and the Russians in Afghanistan, Mr. Kalb asserted that these played a limited role in US decision-making.

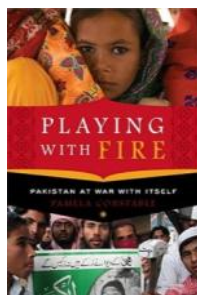
In their remarks, the Kalbs outlined significant presidential decisions influenced by Vietnam including Carter’s policy toward Iran after the 1979 revolution, Reagan’s reaction to the 1983 Beirut bombing of the Marine barracks, and Bush’s reaction to 9/11. They also discussed how much a president’s military experience, or lack thereof, impacted decisions of military intervention.

Mr. Kalb shared his surprise that Vietnam has had such a profound affect on Obama’s foreign policy towards Afghanistan and Iraq since he did not come from the Vietnam generation. He also compared Vietnam and Afghanistan and addressed the military and non-military aspects of the wars. While the non-military aspects, or efforts to win hearts and minds,

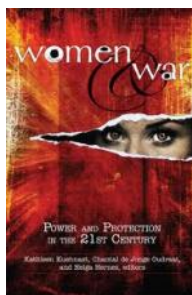


Marvin Kalb, Patricia Ellis, WFPG Board member and host Donna Constantinople, and Deborah Kalb

Understanding Pakistan • Women and War



Oct/Nov – Author Pamela Constable discussed, *Playing with Fire: Pakistan at War with Itself*, at events in NY and DC. After 13 years of covering Pakistan, she chronicled her observations on a country that has struggled with democracy since its creation. Pakistan’s potential, she claimed, is mired in a corrupt political system controlled by a feudal-minded elite. The confluence of religious zeal and the lack of education and opportunity have stalled Pakistan’s progress, made it resistant to improvement, and left its citizens with a sense of hopelessness. Despite these challenges, Constable suggested room for growth in textile exports and accessible education. She also stressed the need for strong central leadership.



Jul 29 – At a brown-bag program on *Women & War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century*, co-authors Kathleen Kuehnast and Chantal de Jonge Oudraat of United States Institute of Peace discussed UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and efforts to promote women’s involvement in peacebuilding, security, education, and international decision-making. Oudraat approached the topic from a “security” perspective, while Kuehnast examined it from an anthropological or “protection” perspective. Both emphasized the need for sex-disaggregated data to better understand the impact of conflict on women. They applauded the US’ recent efforts to implement 1325 through a new National Action Plan.

Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders



Dec 2 – This year, in addition to hosting our annual Mentoring Fairs in DC and NY, WFPG partnered with GW, NYU, and UPenn for our second **NGO, Non-Profit and Government Career Forum** to give students a chance to learn more about the job and internship opportunities.

Deborah McCarthy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, opened the program with remarks on careers in the Foreign Service. McCarthy was then joined by WFPG Board member Dawn Calabria, Paolo Galli of UNDP, and Andrea Koppel of Mercy Corps, for discussion on "Careers in International Affairs: Pathways and Opportunities" moderated by WFPG President Patricia Ellis. They covered the panelists' back-grounds, as well as how their fields have changed, opportunities today, and the importance of work-life balance. The discussion was followed by an expo with exhibitors from NGOs and the government.

Oct/Nov – WFPG also launched a international career lecture series at NYU with Patricia Nicholas, a project manager in Carnegie Corporation's International Program, and Nancy Walker, founding director and senior fellow at Ankara University Center for African Studies.

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Register today to be a mentor at our 2012 Mentoring Fairs! We are looking for mid- to senior-level international affairs professionals to spend an evening with us and give career guidance and advice to tomorrow's foreign policy leaders. Visit wfp.org or call us at 202-8848597 for details.

Washington, DC
February 6, 2012

New York, NY
February 22, 2012

Intern at the WFPG



Interns and staff with Ambassador Delattre of France

Each semester we welcome students and recent graduates into our office to learn valuable professional skills. Our program gives interns with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of NGOs and international issues, play a significant role in our programming, and meet senior-level policy leaders, authors and journalists.

2011 Fall Interns:

Victoria Cwyk, American University, SIS
Mary DiAngelo, Washington College graduate
Reilly Everaert, Linfield College
Anna Littlefield, UMass Amherst graduate
Ann Mangold, American University, SIS

Promote Women in Foreign Policy!

2011 was a banner year for WFPG and we appreciate all of your continued support through your membership, event sponsorship, contributions and participation. We hope that you will continue to join us in 2012 and that if you have not already joined as a member, that you will do so today!

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