

FROM THE INDO-PACIFIC TO THE MEGA-REGION: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE U.S.-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

WORKSHOP ON THE INDO-PACIFIC

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BIOGRAPHIES

Russell Berman, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution

Russell A. Berman is the Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, where he chairs the Working Group on the Middle East and the Islamic World. A scholar of European and Middle Eastern politics and culture, he has also served as a Senior Advisor on the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. Department of State. He is the author of numerous award-winning books on German literature and international affairs and a recipient of Germany's Bundesverdienstkreuz.

General Dave Berger (Ret.) former Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps

General David H. Berger, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), served as the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2019 to 2023. A Maryland native, he served 42 years, commanding at every level, including deployments to Haiti, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a general officer, he led I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Senior Fellow at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where he advises public and private organizations on strategy and leadership.

Ajay Chhibber, Distinguished Scholar, Institute for International Economic Policy, George Washington University

Dr. Ajay Chhibber is a Distinguished Visiting Scholar, IIEP at GWU and a Distinguished Fellow, Isaac Center for Public Policy, Ashoka University, India. He served as India's first Director General of the Independent Evaluation Office and as UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator for Asia-Pacific. Over a 24-year career at the World Bank, he held senior roles including Country Director for Turkey and Vietnam and led the 1997 World Development Report. He is the author of six books, including *Unshackling India* (2021), an award-winning title.

Seth Cropsey, Founder and President, Yorktown Institute

Seth Cropsey began his career as assistant to the Secretary of Defense and was later commissioned as a naval officer. He served as deputy Undersecretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration and acting assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict in the George H. W. Bush administration. He then became director of the U.S. International



Broadcasting Bureau in the George W. Bush administration. Mr. Cropsey founded Yorktown Institute in 2022.

Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan (Ret.), Board Member APMT, Advisor McNally Capital, Distinguished Fellow, Middle East Institute

Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan, U.S. Navy (Ret.), commanded the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and the 32-nation Combined Maritime Forces leading joint combat, counterterrorism, and maritime security operations across the Middle East. He was also Director of Operations (J3) at CENTCOM. As the deputy chief of naval operations for strategy and planning at the Pentagon, he helped develop U.S. Maritime Strategy and advanced innovation in cybersecurity, AI, and unmanned systems. He is also a national security lecturer at multiple institutions, and Bahrain, France, and Japan have honored him for coalition leadership.

Sumit Ganguly, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution

Sumit Ganguly is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and directs its Huntington Program on Strengthening U.S.–India Relations. He is Rabindranath Tagore Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Indiana University Bloomington. A leading expert on South Asian politics and international security, his work focuses on India-Pakistan relations, nuclear issues, Indian foreign policy, and democracy. He has authored or edited more than 20 books and numerous articles and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Council on Foreign Relations life member.

Shay Khatiri, Senior Fellow, Yorktown Institute

Shay Khatiri is the VP of development, a senior fellow at Yorktown Institute and a fellow at the Rainey Center. His research and commentary examine the Islamic Republic's internal power structure, regional proxy networks, and nuclear ambitions, as well as broader questions of deterrence and democratic governance in the Middle East. An immigrant from Iran and a native Persian speaker, he publishes the Substack newsletter, The Russia–Iran File, where he examines the domestic politics and foreign policies of Russia and Iran.

Vivek Lall, Chief Executive, General Atomics Global Corporation, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution

Vivek Lall is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow and Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation. He held senior leadership roles at Lockheed Martin and Boeing, including serving as its vice president and country head for India, and has worked with Raytheon, NASA, and the United Nations on aerospace, broadband, and cybersecurity policy. Lall has also advised the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and co-founded the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program. He

has received numerous honors, including the President's Lifetime Achievement Award and the World Leader Award from the UK House of Lords.

Dinsha Mistree, Research Fellow, Hoover Institution

Dinsha Mistree is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, as well as a lecturer and research affiliate at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and at Stanford Law School, where he teaches classes on state-building and economic development. His scholarship focuses on governance and economic growth in developing countries as well as the U.S.-India relationship. Recent and forthcoming work includes a book on the Indian diaspora in America, an edited volume on the U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement, and a series of academic papers on institutional change in India.

Admiral Gary Roughead (Ret.), Robert and Marion Oster Distinguished Military Fellow, Hoover Institution

Admiral Gary Roughead, US Navy (Ret.), is the Robert and Marion Oster Distinguished Military Fellow at the Hoover Institution and a former Chief of Naval Operations. During his naval career, he held six operational commands and is one of only two officers who commanded both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. He serves on multiple corporate and academic boards, including Northrop Grumman and Johns Hopkins University. He also cochaired the congressional review of the Trump administration's National Defense Strategy and has led high-level policy initiatives on China and U.S. strategic competition.

Admiral Nirmal Verma (Ret.), Professor & Distinguished International Fellow, US Naval War College

Admiral Nirmal Verma, Indian Navy (Ret.), served as Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy from 2009-2012 and concurrently held charge as the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee from June 2011. His afloat appointments include commands of a frigate, a destroyer and aircraft carrier INS Viraat. His assignments as Flag Officer include an operational theater command, and policy formulation on budget management, acquisitions and human resources. Post retirement he served as India's High Commissioner (Ambassador) to Canada.

William Edward Woodhour, CEO and President, Maersk Line Limited

William Edward Woodhour has served as President and CEO of Maersk Line, Limited since 2016 and joined Maersk Inc. in 1991. He has held several leadership roles, including Director of Asia Pacific Services and Senior Director of Transatlantic and Middle East Services in Copenhagen. A native of Woodcliff Lake, he serves as Vice Chairman of the National Defense Transportation

Association, sits on the board of Terma Inc., chairs the Parents and Family Leadership Council at the University of Delaware, and is a member of the Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Committee.