

MAPPING THE MEGA-REGION: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE U.S.-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

WORKSHOP ON THE INDO-PACIFIC

Hoover Institution Office

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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.



David Calhoun, Director, Baron

David Calhoun is a director at political risk firm, Baron, where he leads work for clients in the critical minerals, energy, and technology sectors, including China-focused work for the Department of Defense's Office of Net Assessment. He has deep expertise in China's seabed minerals sector and led Baron's March 2024 report, "Deep-Sea Minerals: The Next Arena of U.S.-China Competition." His broader work focuses on cross-Strait relations, strategic supply chains, and U.S.-China trade. He previously lived in Taiwan, is proficient in Mandarin, and holds a B.A. in political science from Grove City College.



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.





Rear Admiral Shaul Chorev (Ret.) Director of the Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy

Prof. Shaul Chorev is a Rear-Admiral (Ret.) and former Head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, currently serving as the Director of The Institute for Maritime Policy & Strategy at the Israeli Center of Blue Economy and Innovation in Haifa, Israel. He previously served as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations in the Israeli Navy and held several senior defense positions. Chorev holds a B.A. in Economics and Political Sciences from Bar Ilan University (1985), an MSc. from the United States Naval Postgraduate School (1989), and a Ph.D. from Bar Ilan University in Science Technology and Society (2005). Chorev lectures on maritime strategy, Israel's defense policy, international security, arms control technology transfer, and innovation.



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.



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.



Arun Kumar, Managing Partner, Celesta Capital

Arun Kumar is Managing Partner at Celesta Capital, a Silicon Valley based deep tech venture fund that invests in the U.S., India, and Canada. He previously was Chairman and CEO of KPMG in India and was a member of KPMG's global board of directors. Prior to that, he served in the Obama administration as Assistant Secretary

of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, where he led global efforts to promote U.S. exports, investment, and market access. Earlier, he was a partner and board member at KPMG LLP in the United States, leading the firm's management consulting practice from Silicon Valley. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of *The Global Trade Paradigm* as well as two books of poetry.



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

Vivek Lall is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution 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

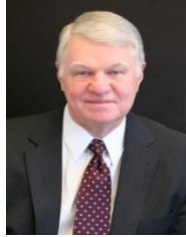
Dinsha Mistree is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, as well as a lecturer and research affiliate at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and at Stanford Law School, where he teaches classes on state-building and economic development. His scholarship focuses on governance 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.



Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt (Ret.), Senior Managing Director, McLarty Associates

Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt (Ret.) is Senior Managing Director of the Energy and Critical Minerals practice at McLarty Associates and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center. A career U.S. diplomat for 35 years, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, U.S. Ambassador to Greece, and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. He has led U.S. diplomacy on energy security, Ukrainian energy resilience, and critical minerals partnerships with allies. Nominated to the rank of Career Ambassador, he also serves in several

corporate advisory roles, including with the U.S.-India Business Council and Excelerate Energy.



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.



Arzan Tarapore, Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution

Arzan Tarapore is a visiting fellow whose research focuses on Indian foreign and defense policy, military strategy, and Indo-Pacific security. In 2025–26, his policy work will examine how Quad members can deepen strategic cooperation, alongside completion of his first book on Indian military strategy. His scholarship and commentary have appeared in leading academic journals and policy outlets, including *Foreign Affairs*, *War on the Rocks*, *The Hindu*, and *The Indian Express*. He previously held roles at the U.S. Army War College, Georgetown, RAND, and Australia's Defence Department, and holds a PhD in war studies from King's College London.



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.



Seaver Wang, Director, Breakthrough Institute

Seaver Wang is Director of the Climate and Energy team at the Breakthrough Institute, where he leads research on energy, decarbonization, and climate science. His work has appeared in leading journals and outlets including *Joule*, *Reviews of Geophysics*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. His current research focuses on minerals and manufacturing supply chains, heavy industry decarbonization, East Asian climate and energy policy, and future climate impacts. He holds a PhD in Earth and Ocean Sciences from Duke University and a BA in Earth Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania.