**National Security: The Silk Road Region**

***"The Great Game of the New Silk Road"***

**Course Summary**

The Executive Education National Security: The Silk Road Region course comprises 16 class hours over 2 days. The course seeks to provide professionals and students with an in-depth understanding of the Silk Road region from a policy-oriented practitioner’s perspective with a focus on threats and challenges to National Security and opportunities to investors. The course uses proven Brookings executive education teaching methodology which includes a combination of lecture, case studies, discussions, experiential group exercises, guest speakers, self-assessment, peer feedback and social and professional networking.

The courses is intended for students with an interest in national security, diplomacy, public policy, security, economics and international business who work or expect to work in government, military, international organizations, NGOs or international private sector firms. It is not necessary but some level of familiarity with either politics, geography, security or economics is recommended. The course may thus also be relevant to an extent for those interested in the Middle Eastern studies.

**Course Description**

The complex threats, challenges and opportunities of the strategic Silk Road region has elevated it to a major national security issue for the United States and the West. The “Silk Road” region covers a broad geographic area. For the purposes of this course, we will concentrate from China to Iran including India (with major emphasis on Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan). Despite the war on terror in Afghanistan, the Iranian nuclear crises, weak regulatory governance the emerging economies of China and India continue to grow at rapid rates and with the discovery of extraordinary natural resources in the region the frontier markets of Central Asia are on the verge of “taking-off”. The opportunities for energy and trade are truly unprecedented today, reviving commercial relations along the fabled Silk Routes of an earlier era. At the same time, decades of violent conflict, religious extremism, tribalism, ethnic conflicts, corruption, border and water conflicts continue to be a source of tension and instability for the wider region and a major National Security concern. The course will look at the whole range of threats, challenges and opportunities that the Silk Road region faces and National Security it imposes for the United States. The course will have a special emphasis on war on terror and the US policy and National Security challenges.

This course is designed to give professionals a working and practical knowledge of this strategic region and its implications on national security based on a policy-oriented practitioner’s perspective. The program begins by understanding the growing global importance of Silk Road region and how, in particular, this increasingly influential region affects the global economy and national security of the United States and the West.

On the first day, the course analyzes the root causes of conflict, examine impediments to change and peace, and examines why the region has become such a high priority for the United States national security. An in-depth analysis of the War on Terror in Afghanistan is taken to understand the nature of conflict and lessons learned. The day ends with asking the question will Iran play a positive role in stabilizing the region or will it play a spoiler.

The second day of the course begins with understanding each Central Asian counties individual national interests. To understand the Silk Road region and US policy the course introduces the Case Study of the New Silk Road Initiative. The afternoon half of the second day focuses on the vast investment opportunities of the region focusing on the energy, transport and mineral sectors. The course will also assess the economic impact analysis of key Silk Road investment projects. The course ends by discussing a range of pragmatic solutions and approaches to the threats, challenges and opportunities of the Silk Road region.

The overall objective of the National Security: The Silk Road Region is to provide a strategy policy oriented practitioner’s approach executive educational experience in order to prepare students and professionals to have an in-depth understanding of Silk Road region in order to be more effective contributors in the decision-making process of any company, non-government organization and government engaged in this vital region.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

* Improve the student’s strategic decision-making ability for effectiveness, and impacts in the increasingly complex world
* Define the “Silk Road Region” and comprehend the basic history, current economic, social, political, and security trends in the region;
* Familiarize with key geopolitical terms and concepts; security, social, economic, cultural and historical trends (issues) in the Silk Road region, as well as underlying reasons of conflict
* Identify the threats, opportunities and challenges of the region with emphasis on expanding U.S. businesses in the region
* Understand what stability, economic integration, and growth opportunities in the region mean for the global economy and the United States

**Goals for the course**

1. To develop a theory of practice of how to create organizations, units and jobs that foster

excellence

2. To enrich your portfolio of practical tools and ideas for putting theory into practice

3. To create opportunities for you to learn about these ideas and tools from: (1) case studies;

(2) personal reflection; (3) readings; (4) in-class activities, (5) videos, (6) class discussion,

and (7) applications.

4. To create a classroom climate where we model and experience the positive organizing

dynamics that we study.

**Student Assessment**

**Course Outline**

**Day One**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Program Registration and Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**

**9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Defining the Silk Road region and why is it important to the United States National Security**

As the major economies of China and India continue to grow, South-East Asia, Central Asia and Iran or the Silk Road Region has dramatically changed in the last decade with the war on terror in Afghanistan, religious extremism and discovery of extraordinary natural resources presenting new threats, challenges and opportunities.

**9:45 – 10:15 a.m. Examining the National Security threats and challenges**

This session will explore the broad national security implications of the Silk Road region for the US and how has the US responded. We will also explore the impact of globalization on the region.

**10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:30 – 12:00 a.m. Exploring the root causes of conflict and extremism**

In this session we will take a comprehensive approach to understanding the root causes of conflict and how Islamic extremism took a foothold in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We will examine how regional water issues or Water Wars have kept the countries apart from regional economic cooperation. We will end the session by understanding the historical, tribal and ethnic issue and how each has contributed to the ongoing conflicts and tensions.

**12:00 – 1:00p.m.Lunch with Guest Speaker – Professor Frederick Starr, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS – Author of *The Key to Success in Afghanistan: A Modern Silk Road, Finish the Job* and NY Times Bestseller *Lost Enlightenment***

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Are we winning the War on Terror in Afghanistan and what are the Lessons Learned?**

Is the United States winning it longest war in its history?Are we repeating the former Soviet Union’s mistake? We will take an in-depth look at the war in Afghanistan and the lessons learned. Can Afghanistan be stabilized and peace process work?

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break**

**3:30 – 4:15 p.m. The Geopolitics of Regionalism - can regional cooperation work?**

One of the main concerns is that this region is simply not able to cooperate with each other. We will explore the geopolitics and impediments of regional integration. Why has it not worked and is there any room for optimism. We will also examine regional cooperation organizations such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its impact on US National Security. How will China’s pivot west impact US national security policy?

**4:15 – 4:50 p.m. Will Iran play a positive or negative role?**

With agreeing on a nuclear deal allowing for the lifting of sanctions Iran can either play a positive or a negative role in the reginal stability and cooperation. The geostrategic location and influent of Iran is vital for any meaningful regional cooperation.

**4:50 – 5:00 p.m. Review and Reflection**

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Day One

**5:00 p.m. Adjournment**

**5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Post-Program Networking with Colleagues and Faculty** *(optional)*

**Day Two**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Networking**

**8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Review of Learning Outcomes from Day One 1**

**8:45 – 10:15 a.m. In-depth Central Asian Country Analysis**

This session seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the Central Asian to better understand the national interests of each individual country. Usually these countries are clumped together but it is important to understand the threats, challenges and opportunities of each country.

**10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:30 – 12:00 a.m. Case Study: The New Silk Road Initiative**

To respond to the growing influences of China and Russia and to win the war in Afghanistan, U.S. officially adopted the New Silk Road Initiative has its policy for the Silk Road region. We will understand exactly what the policy entails and has it succeeded. We will hear from the first-hand account of the policy-makers and their perspective. We will assess the impact of the Northern Distribution Network (NDN)

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch with Guest Speaker –**

**1:00 – 3:15 p.m. What are the opportunities and** **The Future of the Silk Road region?**

The region has become vital because of its geopolitical strategic location and economic opportunities with a recent McKinsey study shows that the global economic center of gravity is gradually shifting from Europe towards the center of the Eurasian landmass. This session seeks to explore the investment opportunities that the Silk Road region has to offer. We will focus on the energy, transport and natural resource sectors. Afghanistan alone has over 1 trillion dollars of proven minerals. Turkmenistan has one of the world’s largest natural gas deposits. We will also explore how will the South Asia starved energy countries of Pakistan and India will benefit from the energy trade. We will also examine the economic impact analysis of key Silk Road projects such as the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) Pipeline.

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break**

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Application and** **Facilitated Team Problem Formulation**

More advanced facilitation and problem solving techniques will be introduced in this segment.

**4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Course Overview and Wrap-Up**

***One Minute National Security: The Silk Road Regional Elevator Pitch***

**5:00 p.m. Adjournment**

**5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Post-Program Networking with Colleagues and Faculty** *(optional)*

**============STOP===============**

**Class Notes:**

**Regional Cooperation for Economic Development, Sustainability and Security**

* The Challenges and Opportunities
* Promote Trade and Investment
* Natural Resources: Energy, Minerals and Water
* Dealing with Major Threats:
  + Terrorism
  + Religious Extremism
  + Tribalism
  + Crime and Drugs
  + Just plain politics – “jealousy and envoy”

**The “Heart of Asia” – Afghanistan and the War on Terror**

* Regional competing interests
* Geopolitical value of Afghanistan
* Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Economic Development
* Counterinsurgency
* Narcotic Trafficking

**Central Asia**

* Legacy of former Soviet Union
* Landlocked and Water Conflicts
* Kazakhstan
* Turkmenistan
* Uzbekistan
* Tajikistan
* Kyrgyzstan

**South Asia**

* Pakistan
  + War on Terror
  + Strategic Depth
* India

**The New Silk Road Initiative: Shared Prosperity**

* United State Government Policy
* Kinetic vs Non-Kinetic

**Geopolitics of Regional Integration and Cooperation**

* The Chinese Silk Road Economic Belt
* Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
* South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
* Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
* Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)
* Heart of Asia Process and Regional Economic Cooperation on Afghanistan (RECCA)
* ASEAN

**The Geopolitics of Energy Security – Energy Corridors**

* What is the “geopolitics of energy security”?
* Russia, China and India
* Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) Pipeline
* Iran, Pakistan and India (IPI) Pipeline
* CASA-1000
* Afghanistan Mineral Opportunities

**Strategic Resource Corridors and Major Infrastructure Projects**

* Natural Resource Opportunities
  + Natural Gas
  + Mining
    - Case Studies
* East-West and North-South Corridors (Road and Rail)
  + Case Studies
* Strategic Ports
  + Chahabahar Port
  + Gawadar Port
* Multimodal Logistics

The course on the Silk Road region will offer students an intensive introduction on the growing global importance of South-Central Asia-Iran and how, in particular, this increasingly influential region affects the global economy, Europe and the United States.

**DHP D265: The Globalization of Politics and Culture for Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan**

This course explores the consequences of accelerated technological change in the geopolitically important region of Southwest Asia that includes the modern states and societies of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Each of these states protest their current position. For Iran the dispute with the outside world is that Iran does not occupy a position in the region commensurate with its power. With Afghanistan the difficulty with modernity is that external interference has not enabled it to consolidate power in the face of internal and external forces. In the case of Pakistan the sudden establishment of the state in 1947 in a world dominated by Western powers has left the country in a competition with an external power, India, under condition of great inequality. A special effort to understand this region’s problems of transition from pre-modern practices will also concentrate attention on the difficulties of building new institutions in radically new contexts. This effort will include a more detailed approach to the commercial linkages between the three states and especially to the exportation of petroleum and other products from Southwest Asia to India and China. Specific topics studied are the nuclear dispute between the United States and its allies and Iran, ethnic and sectarian violence, modern educational change, social and cultural reaction to radical urbanization, creation of a modern legal system, transfer of modern technology, religious fundamentalism, terrorism, and foreign policies of major state and non-state powers. Fall semester. Andrew C. Hess

**DHP D267: The Globalization of Central Asia and the Caucasus**

The course establishes a basis for understanding modern political and cultural changes in Central Asia and the Caucasus from a global point of view. There are three major reasons for taking on this task. The first deals with the political instability that took place in Eurasia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. That event brought on a period of political weakness that is not over by 2015. This increased the threats to the production of oil and gas from a region of the world that contained about seventy percent of the world’s supply of oil and gas. The third development generating Eurasian insecurity is a consequence of the near joint decision by India and China to engage in rapid economic development during the last decade of the twentieth century. This placed the two countries containing near a third of humanity in need of major imports of oil and gas. In turn this erected a major security problem in Eurasia because two very large states had to secure their sources of fuel rapidly under conditions where the nearby sources of supply were located in high risk areas of the Middle East and Central Eurasia. Then there is a high possibility of major state competition over energy resources. We will examine how diplomacy might forestall conflict based upon the idea that all parties to the economic livelihood of Eurasia have an interest in preserving the global economy. Here we will devote particular attention to the multi-lateral efforts to provide protection to the Indian/Pacific ocean maritime lines of supply. Other topics studied are: economic development; impact of modern petroleum technology and its environmental impact; ethnic politics; terrorism in Central Eurasia; and the new ‘Great Game’ in Central Asia. Fall semester. Andrew C. Hess