



Professor Michael Cox
Director, LSE IDEAS

IDEAS—on to the next ten years

It is now some time since our last Newsletter and as you can imagine much has happened since I last wrote to you.

Perhaps the most important change has been the appointment of an outstanding new Director: Professor Christopher Coker. With over forty years of teaching and research in the field of IR, Christopher brings enormous experience and wise counsel to the leadership of IDEAS.

IDEAS also continues to play a key role in the Think Tank world. Indeed, all our hard work in this vital area was rewarded once again with IDEAS coming second worldwide out of nearly 100 university affiliated Think Tanks for 2018. A great team effort.

Meanwhile, the Executive Masters' itself goes from strength to strength, and this year's cohort has proven to be every bit as talented and engaged as all those which have been taught since the programme was first launched in 2011. Incidentally, we can now boast nearly 250 Alumni!

Other initiatives continue to flourish as well, with IDEAS playing a key role in furthering public debate at the School—we now work closely with several student

societies—as well as undertaking vital research in a host of key areas from the UN to Brexit, from UK Strategy to the role of the Global South.

IDEAS is also pleased to announce the appointment of a number of new Visiting Professors who will take our work forward—so a very big welcome goes to Linda Yueh, Lutfey Siddiqi, and very soon Inderjeet Parmar from the City University.

We are equally delighted to welcome two new initiatives: one funded by the Ratiu Foundation in Romania which will look at the prospects for democracy in South East Europe, and the other a new Engelsberg Chair generously funded by the Ax:son Johnson Foundation in Sweden.

Finally, at the end of last year IDEAS celebrated its 10th anniversary with the publication of a 'Short History of IDEAS' authored by Dr Aaron McKeil. This was quite a milestone in our history.

We look forward to another successful decade of informed public engagement in the field of international affairs. There has never been more need for IDEAS than now. ■

A SHORT

HISTORY of IDEAS



BY A.C. MCKEIL
PREFACE BY MICHAEL COX

10 years
LSE Ideas

Above:
Publication launched in November 2018.
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Practitioner interview:
Sir Malcolm Rifkind
p.2

Alumni interview:
Susan le Jeune
d'Allegeershecque
p.4

Upcoming Events and
Announcements
p.5

PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW

Sir Malcolm Rifkind

**Former Secretary of State for Scotland,
Defence Secretary and Foreign Secretary**



Sir Malcolm, you are a practitioner on the Executive Programme. How did you find your involvement in the Programme, thus far?

My contribution to the programme has been ongoing for the past three years. I have found this experience highly stimulating. When I was kindly asked to participate in the Programme I stressed that I didn't have an academic background and the reply I received was – 'that is exactly why we want you!' As Secretary of State, I was in my 30s, the world was changing in the positive direction, I was a part of this in my small way. I was, for example, involved with the Gorbachev visit, and his meeting with PM Thatcher. Such highlights, incredibly exciting as well as significant, make me reminisce now and allow to bring to the forefront with the students, whose backgrounds are diverse and rich in experience, already. Both the lecture and seminar have facilitated a constructive interplay, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

What is the future of diplomacy?

People often think of diplomats as grand ambassadors, extraordinary and plenipotentiary, in very fine uniforms at the Congress of Vienna, Congress of Berlin and so forth, but that's a historical phase of diplomacy. Diplomacy started long before then and will continue as long as there is

mankind. Diplomacy in its own right is not specific to a particular phase. The way it operates will change, because the world has changed – aviation and the internet have profound impact. Interestingly, it has not led to the disappearance of traditional diplomacy. There is no substitute for personal relationships. Technology has led to far more physical contact, due to ease of travel. We have all discovered you create a bond of trust, understand where other parties are coming from, what their prejudices and aspirations are. Whilst in theory you could read about that, it does not parallel the value of direct contact which cannot be replicated simply by technology.

Does grand strategy exist, and do we need it?

There is a constant inquiry as to why various governments cannot have a grand strategy. This is a great problem. The moment you begin questioning what exactly is the strategy a government should have, there is hesitancy, silence, or uncertainty – and that is not a criticism but the very nature of the problem. You can only sensibly develop a strategy if you know all the facts. The world is constantly changing, however, the problems you have to deal with are continuously altering – sometimes different to the margins and sometimes fundamentally divergent.

Take 1980s, for example - with the ongoing conflicts between the Soviet Union and the West, Cold War, potential threat of nuclear war. If you tried to develop a strategy in 1987, it would have never occurred to you that the Berlin Wall would collapse, Communism would be banned and the Soviet Union would have disintegrated into separate countries within mere few years.

Official governmental documents are called 'strategies', to indicate the best predictions and policy plans you can with the facts available at that time – yet, with health warnings accounting for the inevitable changes to come.

How do you make sense of current changes in the UK Foreign Policy, Transatlantic Relations, or such trends as the rise of populism?

In the context of Brexit, it is crucial to acknowledge that issues which led to this decision were not within the area of Foreign Policy. In fact, the United Kingdom has been one of the most involved countries. Many issues Mr Trump has neglected, UK has taken on – from Iran nuclear deal, Middle East, climate change, free trade. Simply taking a historical overview of the relations between the UK and Europe, not EU, over the last two hundred years exposes we have never been isolationists. We have always

I am an incurable optimist -and whilst pessimists think things could not be worse, optimists know they could be. It is however important to look at things from a historical, and objective perspective.

been on the side of resisting threats posed to stability of Europe— from Napoleon, Kaiser, to Hitler. We have always taken the view that it is a threat to our security and geopolitical interests if any single European country, particularly overruled by a dictatorship, was to dominate Europe.

And this is as true now. People can speculate about precise reasons— from internal market, migration, growing supranational state membership created by the European Union, self-governance, but not Foreign Policy. It is the very same issues, among others, which explain the reasons why Switzerland has never joined the EU. The challenge now for Britain and EU countries is to resolve how on issues of Foreign Policy we can speak to the rest of the world as a single, united voice. We will not be on the Foreign Affairs Council, however it is always possible to devise a structure, not a separate institution, but a method giving the opportunity for Europe and the UK to reach a solution on major Foreign Policy issues, such as Russia, Crimea, China, Middle East. There can be a 'EU +1', like there was United Nations Security Council P5+1. It was when Germany was recognised to be a powerful country and consequently adjoined as an important voice on the Iran nuclear deal, being the key trading partner of Iran.

I am an incurable optimist—and whilst pessimists think things could not be worse, optimists know they could be. It is however important to look at things from a historical, and objective, perspective. Brexit is conducted peacefully, no army is being called in. It is not a bankrupt system collapsing, but a parliamentary democracy in action. Some countries would see EU membership worth supporting as an insurance policy against ever going back to previous regimes, like in Eastern Europe, or Franco-Spain. We see things differently. Britain has not been invaded since 1066—again, similarly to Switzerland.

The rise of populist politics is just a phase. With the rise of leaders like Trump in the United States, Bolsonaro in Brazil, Áder in Hungary, Erdoğan in Turkey—the idea of a strong leader that breaks novel conventions is rising. It is a phase we are going through. It may be a long phase. It is hard to say—a phase, nevertheless.

Historically, events since the 1990s led to an extraordinary increase in the number of countries which adopted genuine democratic system and rule of law - both applied in letter and spirit. This is not just in Eastern Europe, but the Far East – for example, South Korea, Philippines, Indonesia – countries which transformed themselves from dictatorships to democracies. I only see populist politics as a little push back in the other way. Similarly, as we had Reformation and Counter Reformation – it didn't lead back to the old order, it was simply a reaction. This phase is simply a retreat but there is no evidence to think it will fall back into dictatorship.

Is there a region we should fear, and should we use the word 'fear'?

I think we are moving toward China in this discussion. There are only two things that are inevitable –death and taxes– but there is no point fearing them. China is not in that category, but could be if things went badly.

China is emerging as a superpower with a growing economy. We have always known that the Chinese, if given the opportunity, are extremely good capitalists, and we know that because of Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong. Capitalism in China is capitalism with Chinese characteristics and the state is still highly involved in the private sector. However, we have to move beyond the assumptions of subjection to communism of these communities. South Korea and Taiwan both achieved the same economic achievement and rule of law.

China as a rising superpower is a challenge rather than a fear – however, it also depends how China uses its power. It currently seems to be a great power, throwing its weight around, in the South China Sea, in particular. In various ways China at the moment is using its new power in a pretty immature fashion and that is disturbing. I wouldn't say I fear it but I worry about it. ■



Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque

High Commissioner
British High Commission, Canada

Could you say a few words about your professional career before and after the Executive Programme?

Before the Programme I had served in Asia, Singapore, Latin America (Venezuela and Colombia), U.S. for a couple of years. During the Programme I was Human Resources Director for the Foreign Office, which involved looking after our 14,000 staff and anything that concerned them, across the globe. Immediately after the programme I went to Vienna, where I was the Ambassador for Austria. I was briefly in Paris and I have been in Canada since 2017.

You have been both a student and later a lecturer on the Programme – what was it like returning to LSE IDEAS as a lecturer?

It was very interesting for me. Particularly because I wasn't for a minute expecting when I went to Vienna, subsequently after the Programme, that I would be heavily involved in the Iran nuclear deal, which was also a study we had done on the Programme. I was then able to come back and talk about it. I enjoyed receiving well-informed and quite tough questions from the students. I found it really stimulating to have my beliefs challenged.

Overall, I learnt about the theory and techniques of negotiation. The programme has also equipped me with a lot of very useful theoretical backgrounds, which really helped underpin the analysis and the way I approached things subsequently. That has allowed me to be a lot more strategic and authoritative about issues and information I worked on. I also found myself to be a more competent and interesting interlocutor to various counterparts I get to interact with on a day-to-day basis.

With both academic and practitioner streams you have to be prepared to have your own ideas challenged, even changed by other students from different backgrounds. I found that utmost stimulating. That is something there is not enough of in my organisation – to allow people to question and challenge certain ideas and ideals. Having open and heated discussions about issues was really good for me to take back and encourage in my workplace.

Would you mind giving any comments on the realities of working as a diplomat, as a woman with a family?

Working as a woman in the British Foreign Office has never been an issue for me. I have never suffered discrimination of any sort as a female member of staff. Of course, when I joined, in 1985 the world was a different place. There were very few senior women to look up to.

The most difficult for both women and men is combining a family life with a career like this. You have to make compromises. I am very lucky as my husband made a lot of compromises. We decided we didn't want to send our children to a boarding school and so they came with us to the places we were serving in. It is surely not an option available to everybody, however it has worked well for us. I would say it has been rather beneficial for them to live in such diverse places. I have, nevertheless, set some rules from the beginning. When the kids were small, and that was when we were in South America, I told my two ambassadors that I will leave the office at 5.30pm and from 5.30pm–7.30pm I will be home with my children, giving them a bath and reading before bed.

After 7.30pm I am yours, but I will not do anything that is not urgent. Both were very understanding and that has worked really well for us.

From your personal perspective – what do you think is the most pressing global issue, at the moment? Is it something your professional role allows you to influence, or change in any way?

The most pressing is the challenge facing the rules based international systems. The institutions and their practices, which has been fundamental to the way countries have interacted with each other since the end of the Second World War are being questioned. Whilst, they are not perfect, they are surely better than any other options, and people who question them don't really have alternatives.

Working in a country like Canada where Canadians share the commitment to rules based international system, I can make sure initiatives and efforts to reform are shared. For example, freedom of press. We are working with Canadian government and our colleagues in Ottawa toward a launch event in of a big initiative in July on media freedom.

How would you describe the ideal candidate for the Programme?

Somebody who is curious, academically rigorous, prepared to put in the work, open minded with genuine interest in the complex issues discussed. The people who got the most out of it when I did it acted like sponges and took in everything and took it back to their day jobs. ■

EVENTS

Alumni Policy Weekend

Cold War ends: Liberalism Triumphant? False Dawn?

Saturday, 8th June 2019



Save the Date!

Annual Alumni Policy Weekend will take place on Saturday, 8th June 2019, under the theme 'Cold War ends: Liberalism Triumphant? False Dawn?', the event will, yet again, gather some of your favourite speakers, practitioners and lecturers.

[Tickets are now available to purchase.](#)

*if you have changed your email within the past year please email: m.m.kozielska@lse.ac.uk

alumni

Executive MSc in International Strategy and Diplomacy @ LSE IDEAS

LSE IDEAS Global Strategies invites all Alumni to an exclusive event:

Thursday, 6th June 2019, 6.30–8.00pm, Wolfson Theatre, LSE Campus



What would it mean for Britain's economic diplomacy if China becomes dominant in the world economy?



Linda Yueh



Chris Hughes

Linda Yueh, Visiting Professor at LSE IDEAS, Chair of the LSE Economic Diplomacy Commission, and Fellow in Economics, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, will set the context for a new and challenging phase in relations between Britain and China.

Chris Hughes, Professor of International Relations at LSE, will chair the discussion. ■

Please note:

Pre-registration is required.

Please email:

ideas.events@lse.ac.uk your full name and year of graduating.

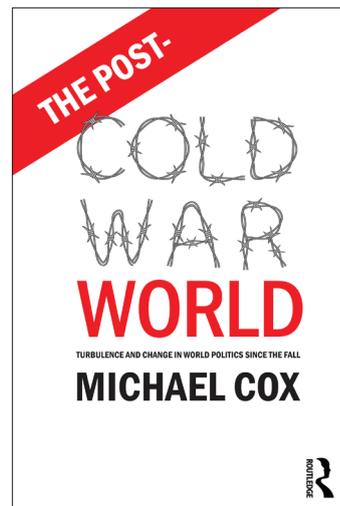
NEW BOOKS

Professor Michael Cox

The Post Cold War World: Turbulence and change in world politics since the fall

Launch event: **From the "End of History" to the Crisis of the Liberal Order: rethinking the end of the Cold War**, including Professor Michael Cox, Professor John Ikenberry, Professor Mary Kaldor, Professor Peter Trubowitz and Professor Vladislav Zubok.
8th May, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, 6.30 – 8.00 pm

In 1989 the Cold War ended. American pundit, Francis Fukuyama, confidently announced the end of history with the complete victory of liberalism world-wide. Globalization and democracy represented the wave of the future. But thirty year later the tide of history appears to have turned. Fukuyama now talks bleakly of the crisis of democracy and the possible demise of the liberal order. Book after book proclaims the return of a 'new' Cold War between Russia, China and the West. And globalisation itself is in question. ■

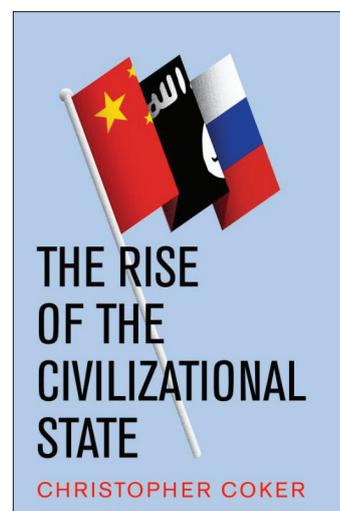


Professor Christopher Coker

The Rise of the Civilizational State: China, Russia and Islamic Caliphate and the challenge to the liberal world order

Culture not ideology is now the primary currency of international politics. As the West struggles to defend the liberal world

order (the product of its own cultural norms) China and Russia have reinvented themselves as civilizational states. Huntington has been vindicated but for reasons very different from those he offered. Civilisations don't clash civilisational states do. China is seeking to revise the world order; Russia challenges it head on; and Islamic fundamentalists seek to throw away the rule book altogether in pursuit of the Caliphate. ■



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the new Executive Programme Team!

It is a great pleasure to introduce the new Executive Programme Team. Welcome to the new Programme Manager and Course Tutor.

Gosia Brown is the Programme Manager of the Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy. She is responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of the programme. Gosia gained a Masters in Political Science from the University of Wrocław, Poland. She also studied at the European Institute at the University of Sussex.

Dr Aaron McKeil is Course Tutor on the MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy programme at LSE IDEAS. He gained his PhD in International Relations from the LSE. He also holds an MSc International Relations Specialist with Distinction from Aberystwyth University and a B.A. Political Science from the University of British Columbia.

Marta Kozielska is the Projects and Research Associate. She holds a BSc in Social Anthropology from the LSE, delivered research for the Polish-American Centre and UC Berkeley, and completed projects for the Civil Affairs Institute and International Studies Conference Fund in Lodz, Poland, LSE IDEAS and the LSE in London. She manages the Alumni Network.



Gosia Brown, Programme Manager



Dr Aaron McKeil, Course Tutor



Marta Kozielska, Alumni Network Manager

A special note of thanks to **Craig Smith** and **Dr Luca Tardelli** for all their hard work and incalculable contributions to the Programme over the years. Congratulations on their promotions!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many congratulations to our newest Alumni-class of 2017/18!



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Final Policy Weekend for the class of 2018/19

The second policy weekend of this academic year was held at Ditchley Park. Students conferred on the topic of the Ukraine crisis and participated in a negotiation and policy memo exercise.



LSE IDEAS Retains Ranking as World's Second Best University Think Tank

In the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index released on 31st January 2019, LSE IDEAS has been ranked the second best university affiliated think tank in the world. It also retains its position as Europe's top university affiliated think tank. Congratulations to all!



LSE IDEAS becomes the main sponsor for the Diplomacy Ball

Professor Michael Cox officially opened **The Diplomacy Ball**, organised in collaboration with the **UN, Amnesty International and Grimshaw LSESU Societies**. Exploring the theme and challenge of **'Navigating International Affairs in an Age of Uncertainty'**, the speech received standing ovation and the night continued with debates, discussion and dance.

Condolences from the LSE Executive Teaching Team

With great sadness we are sorry to inform all our friends that Sergio Obando, student and colleague on the International Strategy and Diplomacy Executive Programme, passed away last month, following a long battle with illness. Sergio delivered high quality work in his studies, including memorable and professional class presentations. Sergio was a very active and highly valued member of the class and will be missed greatly. Members of the team attended his funeral. His colleagues collected contributions to the [leukaemia fund](#).



alumni

Executive MSc in International Strategy
and Diplomacy @ LSE IDEAS

For all Alumni Network enquiries please contact:

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LSE IDEAS is LSE's foreign policy think tank.

We connect academic knowledge of diplomacy and strategy with the people who use it through our projects, publications, events, and executive education.

