



Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

CSBA Book Talk—Safeguarding Democratic Capitalism: U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security, 1920-2015

Event Date: October 30, 2017

Time: **5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Location: Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, 1667 K St, NW, Suite 950, Washington, DC 20006, United States

Related Experts: Thomas G. Mahnken, Eric Edelman, Hal Brands

Safeguarding Democratic Capitalism: U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security, 1920-2015

Princeton University Press

By Dr. Melvyn P. Leffler

Safeguarding Democratic Capitalism gathers together decades of writing by Dr. Melvyn Leffler, one of the most respected historians of American foreign policy, to address important questions about U.S. national security policy from the end of World War I to the global war on terror. Why did the United States withdraw strategically from Europe after World War I and not after World War II? How did World War II reshape Americans' understanding of their vital interests? What caused the United States to achieve victory in the long Cold War? To what extent did 9/11 transform U.S. national security policy? Is budgetary austerity a fundamental threat to U.S. national interests?

Dr. Leffler's wide-ranging essays explain how foreign policy evolved into national security policy. He stresses the competing priorities that forced policymakers to make agonizing trade-offs and illuminates the travails of the policymaking process itself. While assessing the course of U.S. national security policy, he also interrogates the evolution of his own scholarship. Over time, slowly and almost unconsciously, Dr. Leffler's work has married elements of revisionism with realism to form a unique synthesis that uses threat perception as a lens to understand how and why policymakers reconcile the pressures emanating from external dangers and internal priorities.

Speakers

- **Dr. Thomas G. Mahnken**, CSBA President and CEO, and Senior Research Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
- **Ambassador Eric Edelman**, CSBA Counselor, and Roger Hertog Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence at the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies
- **Dr. Hal Brands**, CSBA Senior Fellow and the Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor at the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
- **Dr. Melvyn Leffler**, Edward Stettinius Professor of History, University of Virginia
- **Dr. Erin Simpson**, Director for Strategic Planning in Northrop Grumman's Analysis Center

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