



21st CENTURY GEOPOLITICS

TOWARDS NEW PARADIGMS FOR DIPLOMACY ?



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF

Mr. Jamie Shea

Professor of Strategy and Security at the University of Exeter
Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Security at the Free University of Brussels
Former NATO Dep. Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges

**THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN SHAPED FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT,
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS AND THEIR EXPERTS**

Our World is evolving at a high speed and visions and forecasts are constantly challenged by an ever-changing and unpredictable reality.

Everything is impacted by the Global Information Society and new methods of intelligence and influence when the global leadership is creating every day new surprises.

At all levels of decision-making, it is now difficult to effectively shape and implement the policies required by a proper conduct of public and private affairs.

In the diplomatic world, there is a growing need to be informed in real time, to better understand the changing reality of this elusive World, to share the experiences of other actors and to expand one's own knowledge and influence networks at the regional and international levels.



PROGRAM

THE NEW WORLD DISORDER : WHAT ARE WE HEADING TOWARD AND HOW MUCH MORE DANGEROUS WILL IT BE?

Thirty years on from the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, what have been the main developments that have shaped today's global order ?

Is the tide of globalisation now in retreat and have international organisations and multilateral arrangements become less effective ?

Does the emergence of new power centres and rivalries make major conflict more likely ? What is needed to give the new order more stability and predictability ?

If the world is now revolving around 4 power centres - the US, China, Russia and the EU - what are their respective strengths and weaknesses ? What are the prospects they can work together to tackle global challenges or will the world become divided into new spheres of influence ?



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Has the United States turned its back durably on multilateralism and its commitment to its traditional alliances and values?

Will the increasing use by Washington of sanctions and extra-territorial applications of US law prove successful in the long run in inducing states to change their behaviour; or will unilateralist approaches lead others to de-link from the US system and produce a decline in American power and influence?

This module will analyse the capacity of the US to maintain its status in terms of economic and military power, technology and political cohesion



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Will China overtake the US as the leading world power in the next decades ? What are the factors - domestic and international - that will increase or limit China's global role and influence ?

How will China's rise re-shape the international order and which opportunities and risks does it present for China's neighbours in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Africa ?

How can China play a broader leadership role in upholding the multilateral, rules based order and promoting its national interests?

This module will examine the current friction points in China's integration into the global order and suggest ways they could be overcome.



FEDERATION OF RUSSIA

Why have relations between the West and Russia deteriorated sharply and what is the truth in the Western and Russian narratives that seek to explain and justify the return to competition and even hostility ?

How can a sense of partnership between Russia and the US, NATO and the EU be restored and under which conditions ?

To what extent can Russia be considered as a great power and does it have the economic and socio-political basis to maintain this status in the 21st century ?

Are Russia and China likely to form an alliance and global influence around different norms to traditional Western liberalism ?

This module will look at Russia's regional and global role, internal drivers and foreign policy choices.



EUROPEAN UNION

The EU is not a nation state but a grouping of 28 member countries (soon to be 27 after Brexit). To what extent does this composition constitute a strength or a weakness in enabling the EU to be one of the 4 power centres of the international order ?

Can the EU be a status quo power upholding traditional multilateralism when the other 3 power centres are revisionist in seeking to change the global order ?

How can the EU acquire a diplomatic influence and an autonomous military capability to defend its interests and counter security threats ?

How viable is the European project at a time when its legitimacy is also being challenged at home by populists and nationalists ?

Is the vision of "an ever closer union" still valid ?

This module will look at the quest for European strategic autonomy and analyse what is required to make it happen and how politically realistic it is to expect it



AFRICA

More attention is now focused on Africa. It is a continent with enormous human capital and economic potential as well as a key supplier of resources.

Yet it also faces major challenges from climate change, population growth, political governance, political extremism and enduring internal conflicts, and the failure of many development models.

It is also a continent experiencing more involvement from outside powers such as China, Russia, the EU and the Gulf states.

Will the 21st century be the African century and how will African developments impact upon the broader global order ?



Towards which partnerships for security and economic development should we aspire and how can outside powers best help rather than hinder African development ?

This module will see also how the global trends are important from an African perspective.



CONCLUSION

Crises, turning points and opportunities.

What do we need to look out for in the months ahead?

Even in an imperfect world which solutions could help us to move away from confrontation, reduce the risk of inadvertent conflicts and re-establish some basic rules of the road in military, security and economic relations?

How to promote the joint management of the global commons on land, sea, air, space and cyberspace on which the global economy and society depend?