

## **Panel I: Russia & Central Asia | Moderator: William Pomeranz, Kennan Institute**

**Jeffrey Mankoff** is deputy director and fellow with the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program and a visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York City. He was a 2010–2011 Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow based in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. From 2008 to 2010, he was associate director of International Security Studies at Yale University and adjunct fellow for Russia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Previously, he was a John M. Olin National Security Fellow at Harvard University, a Henry Chauncey Fellow in Grand Strategy at Yale University, and a fellow at Moscow State University. His areas of expertise include Russian/Eurasian affairs, great power relations, foreign policy decision making, ethnic conflict, and energy security. Dr. Mankoff also teaches courses on international security, Russian and Central Asian affairs, and modern diplomatic and military history. He received his Ph.D. and M.Phil. in diplomatic history, as well as his M.A. in political science from Yale.

**Stephen Blank** is an internationally known expert on Russia and the former Soviet Union, who comes to AFPC from the US Army War College where he spent the last 24 years, 1989-2013, as a Professor of National Security Studies at the Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College in Carlisle Barracks. Dr. Blank's expertise covers the entire Russian and post-Soviet region and has also written extensively on defense strategy, arms control, information warfare, energy issues, US foreign and defense policy, European, and Asian security. He is currently writing a book on Russian policy in East Asia and is the author of over 900 publications, books, monographs, scholarly and popular articles and has appeared frequently on television and radio and at professional conferences in the US, Europe, and Asia. Prior to joining the Army, Dr. Blank taught at the University of California, University of Texas, and was a Professor of National Security Studies at the US Air War College's Center for Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Russian History from the University of Chicago.

**Rensselaer W. Lee III** is an authority on international crime and narcotics and nuclear security issues. A Stanford Ph.D., he is president of Global Advisory Services, a Virginia-based consulting firm. He is the author of *The White Labyrinth: Cocaine and Political Power* and *The Andean Cocaine Industry* (with Patrick Clawson) and *Smuggling Armageddon: the Nuclear Black Market in the Former Soviet Union and Europe* and of numerous scholarly articles. Dr. Lee has performed overseas contract assignments for the State Department, the Department of Energy, the World Bank, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and other agencies, which have encompassed Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caribbean, and much of South America. During 2002-2003, he worked as a research analyst at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, where he produced major reports on terrorist finance, nuclear smuggling and Afghanistan's opium-heroin trade. In 2009, he was a Title VIII-supported short-term scholar at the Kennan Institute of Advanced Russian Studies. He currently is writing a book on drugs, organized crime and the politics of democratic transition in Cuba.

## **Panel II: China, the EU & Central Asia | Moderator: Robert Daly, Director, Kissinger Institute on China and the U.S.**

**Volker Jacoby** just finished a tour of roughly fifteen years with various international organizations – mainly the United Nations and the OSCE – in Central Asia, Afghanistan and the South Caucasus. Among other things, he was a Human Rights Officer with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, Deputy Head ad interim of the OSCE in Kyrgyzstan; Advisor to the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on capacity development for local councils in Afghanistan; and Political Affairs Officer with the UN Peace Building Support Office in Tajikistan (UNTOP). Volker has a PhD in Political Science from Frankfurt University. His thesis was on the national movement in Armenia in the time of the break-up of the Soviet Union.

**Alexander Cooley** is Professor of Political Science at Barnard College. He is also a Doctoral Dissertation Sponsor in Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, a Faculty Member of The Harriman Institute, Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies, and teaches at the School of International and Public Affairs. Professor Cooley's research examines how external actors– including international organizations, multinational companies, NGOs, and foreign military bases – have influenced the development and sovereignty of the former Soviet states, with a focus on Central Asia and the Caucasus. Cooley is the author of four academic books: *Logics of Hierarchy: The Organization of Empires, States and Military Occupations*; *Base Politics: Democratic Change and the US Military Overseas*; and *Contracting States: Sovereign Transfers in International Relations*, co-authored with Hendrik Spruyt of Northwestern University. Cooley latest book examines the multipolar politics of US-Russia-China competition for influence in Central Asia- *Great Games, Local Rules: The New Great Power Contest for Central Asia*. Cooley's opinion pieces have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs* and *The Washington Quarterly* and he regularly provides commentary to international media outlets on Eurasia-related topics. His research has been supported by fellowships and grants from the Open Society Foundations, Carnegie Corporation, Smith Richardson Foundation and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, among others. Cooley earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. Cooley is a Faculty Representative to Barnard College's Board of Trustees.

**Alexandros Petersen** serves as Advisor to the European Energy Security Initiative (EESI) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. A scholar of energy geopolitics, he has a decade's experience conducting research across Europe and Eurasia. Dr. Petersen is the author of *The World Island: Eurasian Geopolitics and the Fate of the West* and co-runs [chinaincentralasia.com](http://chinaincentralasia.com). He has been a Senior Fellow for Eurasia and Fellow for Transatlantic Energy Security at the Atlantic Council, a Visiting Fellow with the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and has provided research for the National Petroleum Council's Geopolitics and Policy Task Group. Dr. Petersen regularly provides analysis to publications such as the *Economist*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *National Interest* and the *Atlantic*. He has appeared on the BBC, Sky News, CTV and NPR and has taught classes on energy geopolitics at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute, the U.S. National War College and the American University of Central Asia, amongst many others. He received a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

## **Off-the-Record Keynote | Moderator: Christian Ostermann, Director, Global Europe Program**

**Les Viguerie** is a career foreign service officer who has been the Director for the Office of Central Asian Affairs at the State Department since August 2012. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Viguerie served as the Senior Director for the Interagency Rule of Law Section in U.S. Embassy Kabul from 2011-12. He was Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi from 2008-11. Other assignments have included service in the U.S. Embassy Political Section in Moscow and in the State Department's Pakistan desk and U.N. Political Affairs Office. Mr. Viguerie also served at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka and the U.S. Consulate in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Mr. Viguerie is the recipient of multiple Superior Honor Awards and Meritorious Service Increases. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar Association.