

SEMINAR SERIES



Philip Gordon

Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies,
Director of the Center on the United States & Europe, Brookings Institution

Chair

Lee Chung Min

Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Topic : The Rise & Fall of the Bush Doctrine
Date : 1 June 2006, Thursday
Time : 12.15 pm-1.30 pm
Venue : MPP Classroom, Level 7
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

About the Speaker

Dr. Philip Gordon is a Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies and the Director of the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution. Prior to coming to Brookings in 2000, he was Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council where he was responsible for a range of issues including NATO, Western Europe, Turkey and the Balkans. From 1994-98 he was Senior Fellow for U.S. Strategic Studies and the Editor of *Survival* at the IISS in London. He has previously held teaching and research posts at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC; INSEAD, in Fontainebleau, France; and the German Society for Foreign Affairs in Bonn.

Dr. Gordon has a Ph.D. and M.A. from Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) and a B.A. from Ohio University. He is a regular commentator in international affairs and U.S. foreign policy for major television and radio networks and a frequent contributor to the op-ed pages of major newspapers such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Financial Times* and *Le Monde*. His latest books include *Crescent of Crisis: U.S. and European Strategies for the Greater Middle East* (Brookings, 2006); and *Allies at War: America, Europe and the Crisis Over Iraq* (McGraw-Hill, 2004). He is currently directing a project on the United States, Europe and the Rise of China.

Dr. Gordon speaks French, Italian, German and some Spanish. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of the U.S. Committee on NATO, and the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Synopsis

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, President Bush adopted a very specific set of foreign policy principles that have come to be known as the "Bush Doctrine": the United States is fighting a war on terrorism; must remain on the offensive and ready to act alone; U.S. power is the foundation of global order; and the spread of democracy and freedom is the key to a safer and more peaceful world. This Doctrine won widespread American support because at the start of the 21st century Americans felt uniquely vulnerable (after 9/11) and uniquely powerful (after a decade of spectacular economic, military, and technological growth and the end of the Cold War). Yet while the Bush Doctrine is still the rhetorical basis for U.S. foreign policy, the pillars that support it are weakening. Growing economic difficulties, international opposition, waning support for the administration at home, and the costs of the war in Iraq are pushing Americans away from the core principles of the Bush foreign policy. As so often in the past, a period of extraordinary American expansiveness is likely to be followed by more cautious efforts to align ends with means.