

***RETIREED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.***

CHRISTOPHER KING

***VIEWS FROM AN ALLY: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN
THE "INDO PACIFIC"***



The timing of our next presentation could not have been more perfect. President Obama arrived in Beijing on Monday November 10, to begin an eight-day trip that will include China, Myanmar and Australia. It has been three years since the Obama administration announced that it would “pivot to Asia”. Now, after a host of other crises has pulled the administration’s attention away from the region, this trip represents the administration’s best final chance.

President Obama will deal, of course, with improving political relations in the region and human rights issues, but economic considerations will inevitably play an even larger role. He will address the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum of Pacific Rim leaders and, most importantly, will move forward on creating the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an ambitious American led trade pact of eleven nations (that currently does not include China) that would be a central pillar of this “strategic pivot.” Obama’s main commercial program for the Chinese will be a new bilateral investment treaty between the countries leading to a significant opening of Chinese markets to American companies. Cybercrime, and for the United States and China to announce a common position on pollution-reduction measures, and climate change generally, are also on the agenda.

Christopher King has a lifetime of experience in the region. As a diplomat in the foreign service (the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), he has represented Australia in multiple countries and the United Nations. Mr. King was, most recently, First Secretary for Trade and Economics at the Australian High Commission (Embassy) in India and worked in the Office of the Australian Foreign Minister as a foreign and strategic policy advisor on Australia’s relationships with China, India, South Korea, Japan and the region generally. He also served in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet as an adviser on national security issues.

Mr. King will speak to us about the importance of the region to global trade and security, about the U.S. commitment to the “pivot”, and about the difficult balancing act U.S. allies have to strike between a rising China and the U.S. Given his foreign policy background, he will also speak to us on nuclear security and non-proliferation.

Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge, and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558;bgsesq@gmail.com. See our website greenwichrma.org.