Entangling the Pacific & Atlantic Worlds Past & Present

A Symposium Commemorating Helmut Schmidt

March 25-27, 2019 | UC Berkeley

About

This symposium addresses one of today’s central geopolitical developments: the shift from an international order centered on the Atlantic to one in which the Pacific claims its weight. Helmut Schmidt was a pioneer among Western political leaders in recognizing this transformation and, in particular, the implications of China’s growing economic and political influence. The German chancellor strove for a respectful dialogue and a partnership of equals at a time when the world was still divided into communist and capitalist camps. Building on Schmidt’s reflections about the remaking of the global order, this symposium will analyze the unfolding situation and its historical background. Scholars, policy experts, and journalists will discuss the changing relationship between the Atlantic and Pacific regions, and the growing complexity of a world with multiple and competing poles.

The Atlantic and Pacific worlds have always been separate yet simultaneously interconnected spheres. Linked by ancient trade networks – most prominently the Silk Road – Eastern and Western civilizations exchanged goods, technologies, knowledge, and people. With the rise of European imperialism, transfers became increasingly imbalanced and dominated by the West. At the turn from the nineteenth to the twentieth century, the Pacific became an arena of global conflicts, not least during the Second World War. The postwar decades were marked by decolonization and the Cold War, whose major proxy wars were fought on shores of the Pacific, as well as by the economic rise first of Japan, then of the “Four Asian Tigers.”

With China’s ascent and the end of the Cold War, the gradual shift of power from the Atlantic to the Pacific gained momentum. Under Donald Trump, America’s “Pacific Century” has taken quite an unexpected turn. The line between friend and foe has been blurred, and international trade tensions are brewing. Beijing’s increasingly bold military activity, Pyongyang’s nuclear aspirations, and territorial disputes in the South China Sea and beyond further aggravate the tense atmosphere in the Pacific. Economic and military confrontations in the region increasingly threaten the global order.

This symposium in commemoration of Helmut Schmidt aims to enrich the ongoing discussion of the ascendancy of the Pacific by revisiting the multifaceted history of Atlantic-Pacific interconnections. Interdisciplinary in approach, the symposium is envisioned as an opportunity for dialogue and exchange across professional boundaries.

Conveners
Sarah Beringer
German Historical Institute Washington
Wencke Meteling
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Sören Urbansky
German Historical Institute Washington

Registration

All events are open to the public. Due to limited space, please register to attend the keynote lecture (March 25) and fireside discussion (March 26) at events.west@ghi-dc.org
For more information contact Heike Friedman
friedman@ghi-dc.org

Monday, March 25

David Brower Center

18:00 Welcome
Simone Lässig
German Historical Institute Washington
Michael Göring
ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius
NN
German Federal Foreign Office

18:30 Shifting Tides: Rise, Resurgence, and Deep Histories from the Atlantic to the Pacific
(Registration Required)
Keynote Matt Matsuda
Speaker Rutgers University
**Tuesday, March 26**

**Alumni House, UC Berkeley**

**9:30** Imperialism, Decolonization, and the Cold War in the Pacific Theater

**Panel 1**

Sarah CM Paine  
U.S. Naval War College

David Wolff  
Hokkaido University

Wen-hsin Yeh  
UC Berkeley

**Moderator** Lok Siu  
UC Berkeley

**11:30** The Japan and China Shocks: Atlantic Debates on Emerging Pacific Competitors

**Panel 2**

Mario Daniels  
Georgetown University

Amy Studdart  
German Marshall Fund of the United States

Franz Waldenberger  
German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo

**Moderator** Wencke Meteling  
Johns Hopkins SAIS

**15:00** The Power of Interpretation: Transformations of China Expertise in the West

**Round Table 1**

William C. Kirby  
Harvard University

Shi Ming  
Freelance Journalist

Angela Stanzel  
Institut Montaigne Berlin

**Moderator** Sören Urbansky  
German Historical Institute Washington

**Alumni House, UC Berkeley**

**18:00** Helmut Schmidt: The Global Statesman  
*Registration Required*

**Fireside Discussion**

Ronnie C. Chan  
Hang Lung Properties

Manfred Lahnstein  
ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius

Theo Sommer  
Former Editor-in-Chief, DIE ZEIT

Kristina Spohr  
Johns Hopkins SAIS

**Moderator** Christoph von Marschall  
Der Tagesspiegel

**Wednesday, March 27**

**Anthony Hall, UC Berkeley**

**9:30** The World Economy in a Shifting International Order

**Round Table 2**

Vinod Aggarwal  
UC Berkeley

Shihoko Goto  
Wilson Center

Steffen Kern  
European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)

Eberhard Sandschneider  
Free University of Berlin

**Moderator** Sarah Beringer  
German Historical Institute Washington

**11:30** The Global Reach of Security Politics in the Pacific Region

**Round Table 3**

Ulises Granados  
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo México

Tanh Hai Do  
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Anna Hayes  
James Cook University

Andrew Wilson  
U.S. Naval War College

**Moderator** Lukas Danner  
Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence & Bond University

**15:00** The Future of Transatlantic Relations in the Pacific Century

**Round Table 4**

Karen Donfried  
German Marshall Fund of the United States

Peer Steinbrück  
Former Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Germany

**Moderator** Jeroen Dewulf  
UC Berkeley

**17:00** Storm Clouds of a New Order? An Outlook in the Age of Trump

**Keynote Speaker** Ann Lee  
Coterie New York