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Young China Watchers

cordially invite you to:

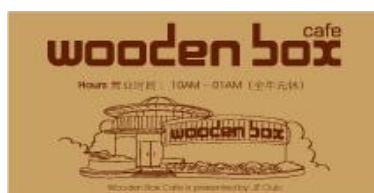
Lessons of History not Learned: The Rise of the Far Right in Europe

Rob Riemen

Founder and President
The Nexus Institute

Wednesday, April 30th, 2014

16:30pm – 17:45pm



9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road)
青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

Admission: 50RMB

16:15 – Doors Open

16:30 – Lecture

17:15 – Q&A

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of Hopkins China Forum by writing to editor@shanghai-review.org.

In [The Eternal Return of Fascism](#), Rob Rieman contends that fascism is a constant presence in our societies, and that it inevitably leads to despotism and violence. To combat it, we must first acknowledge its presence. Expanding on the ideas of Thomas Mann, Nietzsche, Albert Camus, Primo Levi, and Spinoza, Rieman describes how conditions in modern society allow for fascism to live on. He illustrates how increasing aggression towards others and the weakness and cowardice of resentful people lead to a deep-seated fear of freedom and need to conform to the masses. As Albert Camus once wrote, "...the secret of Europe is that it no longer loves life." Only in such a society can fascist politics blossom once again. Only once we discover our love for life and decide to devote ourselves to what truly gives life – truth, goodness, beauty, friendship, justice, compassion and wisdom – only then will we be resistant to fascism.

[Rob Rieman](#) is a Dutch author and public intellectual, and the founder, president, and CEO of the [Nexus Institute](#), a think tank in the Netherlands that studies the European cultural heritage in its social, philosophical, and artistic context, and aims to provide insight into contemporary issues and shape our cultural and philosophical debate. Rieman's recent books include [The Eternal Return of Fascism](#) (2011) and [Nobility of Spirit: A Forgotten Ideal](#) (2008), among his many other books and publications, and he has been lecturer at the *Aspen's Institute's Festival of Ideas*.

About Hopkins China Forum: Hopkins China Forum events are organized by The Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Johns Hopkins events in Shanghai, please contact Frank Tsai at the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association – Shanghai at editor@shanghai-review.org.

About Young China Watchers: Young China Watchers is an informal group of professionals living in and working on China. Through regular roundtables and talks, it provides a chance for dynamic individuals of all nationalities and employment backgrounds to interact, broaden their professional networks, and discuss the most pressing political, economic, and foreign policy issues relevant to China today. Please contact younqchinawatchers@gmail.com.