

RLF and 21st Century Leadership

Since its founding some 22 years ago, SIM's unique Regional Leadership Forum (RLF) program has approached leadership development from an unwavering foundation of core values and principles wrapped in an ever-increasing body of knowledge and experiences tempered by today's business realities and challenges.

As you may have read in a recent SIM Leadership Nugget publication, on September 9 Henry Kissinger; elder statesman, politician, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, loved by some and reviled by others; released his new book [World Order](#). Whether or not you agree with Dr. Kissinger's views, politics, and policy influence; he has an undeniable depth of experience and knowledge about recent world history – and a unique perspective from which to view current events and assess their historical and political underpinnings. In the book and related essays, he makes the case that America and its leaders must merge both idealism and realism into an **active world leadership** through which he says "...**the affirmation of America's exceptional nature must be sustained.**"

Even more recently, on September 28 in a [60 Minutes](#) interview, President Obama responded to a question about America's leadership role in seemingly every international conflict by saying:

That's always the case. America leads. **We are the indispensable nation.** We have capacity that no one else has. ... And when trouble comes up anywhere in the world, they don't call Beijing. They don't call Moscow. They call us. ...**That's how we roll. And that's what makes this America.**

Two **very different** people with very **similar** views on America's leadership role in the world.

What does this have to do with leadership at a corporate level? With globalization, 24x7 business and connectivity, outsourcing, and teams spread across the globe; today's leader needs cultural and political awareness and skills unheard of a generation ago.

This is not a new concept for RLF. The curriculum has long recognized this need and included books and topics devoted to the unique and evolving challenges of the modern business world. For **several years** the RLF reading list has included [The Post American World](#) by Fareed Zakaria to promote discussions about America's unique place in the world and how that relates to business leadership. Contrary to what some may think, the book is most definitely **not** anti-American. Rather, it is about the "rise of the rest" – the growth in power and influence of emerging nations such as China and India and others – and how America can adapt to and with them in order to preserve its **world leadership position**.

Each year and in every forum, books like [Post American World](#) contribute to deep RLF discussions, sometimes even arguments, about leadership challenges and opportunities in today's global business world. That's how we roll. That's what makes RLF what it is.

Registration for the 2015 RLF program is now open. To learn more about the program or register click [HERE](#).