



"Human history more and more becomes a race between education and catastrophe"—H.G. Wells

OUR UPCOMING MEETING



The son of a political exile, Sánchez de Lozada spent his early years in the United States, where he attended boarding school at Scattergood Friends School and studied literature and philosophy at the University of Chicago. He returned to Bolivia in 1951, on the eve of the 1952 revolution led by the MNR political party, which transformed Bolivia from a semi-feudal oligarchy to a multiparty democracy by introducing universal suffrage, nationalizing the mines of the three Tin Barons, and carrying out a sweeping agrarian reform. Sánchez de Lozada pursued film-making, including early footage of Bolivia's 1952 Revolution,

and participated in several cinematic projects in the 1950's and founded Andean Geoservices in the 1960's. In 1962 he founded the mining company COMSUR, later becoming one of the most successful mining entrepreneurs in the country.

BOLIVIA AND LATIN AMERICA ISSUES GONZALO SÁNCHEZ DE LOZADA, Former President of Bolivia

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, March 18, 2008,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

In 1985, on the return to democracy after 18 years of military dictatorships, Sánchez de

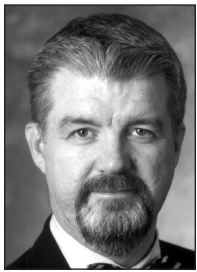
Lozada was elected senator from Cochabamba and became President of the Senate. Soon after, President Víctor Paz Estenssoro named him Planning Minister. As Planning Minister, Sánchez de Lozada oversaw a series of economic and structural reforms that steered the country away from state capitalism, towards a mixed economy. He describes himself as a fiscal conservative and social progressive.

Sánchez de Lozada was twice elected President of Bolivia, both times on the MNR ticket. During his first term (1993-1997), he initiated a series of landmark social, economic and constitutional reforms. Elected to a second term in 2002, he resigned in October 2003 and left the country after violent protests in which at least 49 armed protesters, unarmed civilians and security force members died. In March 2006, he resigned the leadership of the MNR - Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario. ■

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FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW

By Travis McStaw, Sophomore at Golden High School and FIF Guest Editor



The World Affairs Council meeting was fortunate enough to have a very knowledgeable William O'Grady speak on February 19, 2008. After a number of personal stories and a few political jokes, he explained that he is the Chief

Global Investment Strategist for AG Edwards, author of International Financial News and Geopolitical Report, and a longtime Libertarian. Mr. O'Grady explained that the United States has historically followed four distinct foreign policy models and he interjected his predictions for the foreign policy of the current top three presidential candidates. According to Mr. O'Grady, the four major models.

The isolation model has its roots in President Washington's Farewell Address in which he warned the nation not to become entangled in foreign affairs. Isolationism occurs when the country attempts to prevent war and isolates itself from the rest of the world. Many Americans were isolationist following the First World War, but the rise of fascism and the dawn of World War II pulled the United States into a new era of foreign policy.

The realist model recognizes that national interests and maintaining a balance of international power can require diplomatic cooperation and compromise. For example, while Richard Nixon was a staunch anti-communist, he is also responsible for opening trade with the People's Republic of China.

The multinational model rejects the notion that the United States should lead the world as a moral authority and creates alliances with other countries to secure international safety. This model was popular during the Cold War as multinational bodies formed broad coalitions to prevent the threat of nuclear war. After the

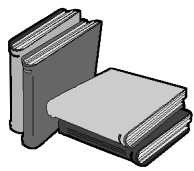
break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, these coalitions no longer appeared necessary and nations lost interest. Given the current threat of terrorist attacks, coalitions seem too slow to form an organized and meaningful response.

The final model of imperialism assumes America has a moral obligation to save those who can't save themselves. Imperialists believe the world will be a better place once America has intervened. Both Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson exemplify this model. The current policy of pre-emptive warfare exercised by the administration of George W. Bush illustrates the self-reliant nature of this model.

O'Grady then went on to fit the three main presidential with one of these models. O'Grady believed that Clinton would most likely fall into the realist rather than the imperialist foreign policy category. She has claimed that she still wants to stay in the war as long as there is a clear purpose. Obama seems to fall into different

parts of imperialism, realist, and multinational models. O'Grady explained that while Obama is open to negotiations with North Korea, Iran, and Cuba, he has also indicated a willingness to use unilateral military force against terrorist groups. O'Grady believes that John McCain, who supported the surge in Iraq, would follow an imperialist policy. However, having been a Prisoner Of War, McCain would be cautious in the use of force.

The question and answer session after the speech was filled with curiosity. Many wanted to know how each candidate would react to specific situations including whether they would send troops into Darfur or Palestine. O'Grady believed that none of the candidates would send troops into Darfur because of the problems we were faced with in Iraq. He ended his speech with the question, "Does society shape our leaders, or do our leaders shape society?" ■



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Madeleine Albright, with Bill Woodward, *Memo to the President Elect*, HarperCollins Publishers, 2008. According to the authors and the publisher, the office of the American President will be at an all-time low after eight years under George W. Bush. The new commander in chief will have to recover quickly and rebuild completely. In this book, the former Secretary of State offers a persuasive, wide ranging set of recommendations to the prospective winner of the 2008 election. The author explains how to select a first rate foreign policy team, how to avoid the pitfalls that plagued earlier presidents, how to ensure that decisions, once carefully made, are successfully implemented.

The scope of this book is quite broad, ranging from minor inter-governmental conflicts to potential international confrontations during the next four to five years. The author made some interesting assumptions about the future

including that America will survive the sillier aspects of the campaign and no disaster such as 9/11 will occur. "I expect the debate over U.S. policy in Iraq will continue with intensity and that the president will announce troop reductions and mission adjustments, but no definitive end point to our deployments there or in Afghanistan. I believe the Middle East will remain turbulent (the safest of bets) and that Al Qaeda will extend its reach further into Africa and Asia. Energy and environmental security will (properly) dominate discussion of global challenges, while Iran's nuclear program though still worrisome will not, as yet, have led to war. Here at home, when U.S. policies go astray, Congress and the White House will blame each other, as will civilians and the military, as will Bush administration officials. The arguments will continue until, finally, everyone agrees to blame the CIA." Henry Kissinger once weighed in concerning how to use his time. He advised that if the problem is "urgent", delegate it to the staff. He wanted to use his time to consider "important" issues. Many of Albright's suggestions bear

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NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

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a similarity to this advice. According to Publishers Weekly, Madeleine Albright is “anything but diplomatic on the subject of President Bush’s foreign policy, especially the invasion of Iraq. Savvy and tart, Albright’s is an unusually interesting presentation of centrist thought.” (Source: Publisher’s Notes, and quotes from the book.)

Laton McCartney, *The Teapot Dome Scandal, How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Steal the Country*, Random House, 2007. Mix hundreds of millions of dollars in petroleum reserves; rapacious oil barons and crooked politicians; under the table payoffs; murder, suicide, and blackmail; White House cronyism; and the excesses of the Jazz Age. The result: one of the biggest of all American political scandals, Teapot Dome. In this book the author tells the amazing complex, and at times ribald story of how big oil hand picked Warren G. Harding, an obscure Ohio senator, to serve as our twenty-third president. Harding and his so-called “oil cabinet” made it possible for the oilmen to secure vast oil reserves that had been set aside for use by the U.S. Navy. In exchange, the oilmen paid off senior government officials, bribed newspaper publishers, and covered the GOP campaign debt. Americans’ confidence in their government plummeted. Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was indicted, convicted, and incarcerated. Others were implicated in the affair suffered similarly dire fates. Stonewalling by members of Harding’s circle kept a lid on the story. Witnesses developed “faulty” memories or fled the country. Important documents went missing, but contemporary records newly made available to the author reveal a shocking, revelatory picture of just how far reaching the affair was. In his review, William Grimes (*New York Times*, Feb 13, 08) has raised a local issue.

“Virtually everyone involved in Teapot Dome was crooked, even the press. The owners of the *Denver Post*, after being tipped off by a disgruntled office worker that the interior secretary was giving away oil leases to his friends like the ‘kisses at a wedding,’ sent their star reporter to delve into Sinclair and Teapot Dome. They then used the information for blackmail, extorting a cool million from their subject.” (Sources: Publisher Notes, *New York Times*.)

Joseph J. Ellis, *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic*, Knopf Publishing Group, 2007. The author provides an ironic examination of the founding years of our country. The last quarter of the eighteenth century remains the most politically creative era in American history, when a dedicated and determined group of men undertook an experiment in political ideals. It was a time of triumphs even though as the author shows, it was also a time of tragedies. Both triumphs and tragedies helped to shape the United States as we know it today. The author explores the decisive issues of the nation’s founding, and throws new light on the emerging philosophies, shifting alliances, and personal and political foibles of our revered leaders – Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, and Adams.

One of the author’s theses is that the American Revolution was really an evolution. What made it so unusual was that the evolution took on a gradual pace and it was brought about by a group of men, rather than a single and powerful autocrat. Washington championed the idea of a strong federal government and this vision was eventually accepted by the majority of American people. They had to be talked into it. At the time, the two-party system was a novelty. Looking back from today’s vantage point, this concept stands as one of the founders’ most

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enduring ideas. On the debit side of the evolution, the author highlights two important failures, at least by today’s standards. The founders clearly did not abolish slavery and did not reach a just settlement with the Native Americans. It is not clear that these failures were inevitable. The political solution to slavery required the kind of robust federal power that the Jeffersonians viewed as a betrayal of their deeply held principles. Jonathan Yardley of the *Washington Post* notes, “This book consists of seven essays....and a brief afterword in which Ellis continues his exploration of the reality, as opposed to the mythology, of the founding.” (Sources: Barnes & Noble, *Washington Post*.) ■

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SEND YOUR IDEAS and articles for the newsletter to the Forum Editorial Committee: Beatrice Szadokierski, Editor in Chief, 1923 Parfet Estates Drive, Golden, CO 80401, email: szadokierski@comcast.net or call 303-279-2638.

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The Foothills International Forum is a non-profit organization which meets to provide a forum for those in our community wishing to keep abreast of developments in international relations and to discuss them on a regular basis with those having similar interests.

For more information, call Larry Hendrix 303-463-4690. ALL FOOHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

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DINNER AT 6:00 PM in the main dining room at Mount Vernon Country Club is optional. Reservations have to be made no later than the Sunday before the event. Call Mt. Vernon Country Club at 303-526-0616 and ask for seating with the Foothills International Forum. Cost of dinner will be collected by the Club.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP DUES: Information can be sent to: Bruce Glenn, P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602.

