

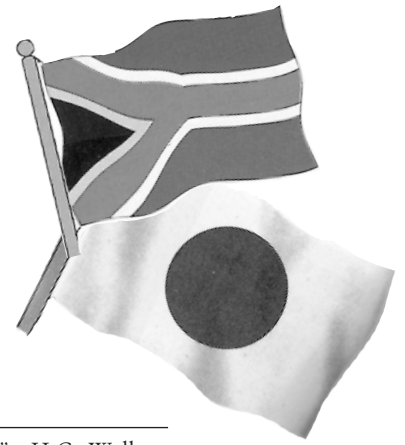


# FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

APRIL 2006



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

## OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Andrew Price-Smith joined the faculty of Colorado College in 2005. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto in 1999, where he also served as Founding Director of the Project on Health and Global Affairs at the Munk Center for International Studies. Prior to that he received his M.A. from the University of Western Ontario, and a B.A. (Honors) from Queen's University. From



### INFLUENZA PANDEMIC: IS THE U.S. PREPARED? ANDREW PRICE-SMITH, AUTHOR OF *THE HEALTH OF NATIONS*

**TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, April 18, 2006,  
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

1999-2000 he completed a post-doctoral appointment in the Earth Institute of Columbia University. Following that he taught at the University of

South Florida in the departments of Government and Environmental Sciences.

He is author of *The Health of Nations* (MIT Press, 2002), which was short-listed for the Grawemeyer Award, co-author with John L. Daly of *Downward Spiral: HIV/AIDS, State Capacity, and Political Conflict in Zimbabwe* (USIP Press 2004), and editor of *Plagues and Politics: Infectious Disease and International Relations* (Palgrave 2001) as well as various chapters, articles, papers and book reviews. He is a specialist in international health and development and biosecurity issues. He is a member of the International Studies Association, and the American Political Science Association. Andrew was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. ■

## MARCH MEETING REVIEW

By Mary Hendrix,  
Senior Editor



### Hamas Sweeps Palestinian Elections—What Can the Future Hold?

Wadi Muhaisen, a Honorary Professor of International Law and Political Science at the University of Colorado at Denver, served as an International consultant during the Middle East Peace Process. He has given many commentaries on the legal and political affairs of the Middle East and found no shortage of issues relating to the Arab-Israeli problems.

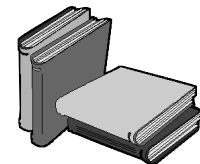
Wadi Muhaisen's presentation focused on the future of the Middle East and the many difficult issues. He feels it is important to acquire in-depth knowledge of world affairs in order to understand the controversies that affect the people living in the Middle East. Part of the conflict goes back to 1948 when Israel came into existence. Around that same time, allied countries took over various parts of the Middle East with the goal of preparing these countries for independence and sovereignty. The emergence of Israel forced the Palestinians from their homeland and they became the largest refugee group in the Middle East. They left due to ethnic strife and settled in surrounding countries, largely in refugee camps. The Israeli position was that the Palestinians left of their own free will, but many were forced out by Jewish organizations.

There have been many controversial issues in the Middle East since the beginning of the last century. Many of today's problems facing the Arab world are not directly related to these earlier issues, but stem from more recent devel-

opments. During the 1967 war, Israel seized the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and has occupied that territory ever since. According to International Law in effect after World War II, no country can legally seize a territory by force and hold that area. However, Israel did just that and subsequently colonized the territory. There has been a vigorous debate about the legality of that move. Israel always maintained the settlements were necessary for their survival and security. This theory became questionable when the occupied territory was settled by civilians, thus providing a buffer zone between hostile neighbors. After 1972 many reports questioned the validity that the Israelis were in danger. Whether or not refugees left their homeland by force or of their own free will is irrelevant as to the legality of the Israeli settlements. Memos exist that prove the Israelis knew that the settlements offended International Law.

During the Oslo Peace negotiations, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) recognized the right of Israel to exist, renounced violence as a way of liberation and formed security arrangements. The PLO broke off the peace process and sent people to different places within the occupied territories to set up a National Authority. Their goal is to establish a final status agreement with the American Mediator which will include the issue of Jerusalem, refugees, final borders and water rights. Israel's vision was to keep colonizing the West Bank, but get rid of Gaza which had become a liability. Instead, they wanted to strengthen and bolster the settlements around Jerusalem. Many agreements between Israel and Palestine were implemented; however, they could not agree on the totality of the proposals of the Oslo Peace accord which ultimately resulted in a breakdown.

The future of the Middle East is still undecided and is unknown. ■



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Robert Fisk, *The Great War for Civilisation: The Conquest of the Middle East*, Knopf Publishing Group, November, 2005. Reaching back into the long history of invasion, occupation, and colonization in the region, the author shows how a history of injustice has condemned the Middle East to war. He discusses the role of the West in the seemingly endless strife and warfare in the region, traces the growth of the West's involvement and influence there over the past one hundred years, and outlines the West's record of support for some of the most ruthless leaders in the Middle East. He chronicles the ever-more-powerful military presence of the United States and tracks the consequent increasingly virulent anti-Western sentiment among the region's Muslim population. Robert Fisk has resided in the Middle East since 1976. As a reporter he has met with many of the leaders in this part of the world including Osama bin Laden and Ahmad Chalabi. Fisk's political stances are sometimes controversial, but his major belief is that "war is primarily not about victory or defeat, but about death and the infliction of death." (Barnes & Noble)

Francis Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy*, Yale University Press, March, 2006. The author's criticism of the Iraq war put him at odds with neoconservative friends both within and outside the Bush administration. The *New*

*(Continued on page 2)*

### MARCH ATTENDANCE

The presentation was attended by 165, of which 64 were guests.

## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

*York Times* review of this book was titled, "Neo No More." He explains how, in its decision to invade Iraq, the Bush administration failed in its stewardship of American foreign policy. First, the administration wrongly made preventive war the central tenet of its foreign policy. In addition, it badly misjudged the global reaction to its exercise of "benevolent hegemony." And finally, it failed to appreciate the difficulties involved in large-scale social engineering, grossly underestimating the difficulties involved in establishing a successful democratic government in Iraq. Fukuyama offers a thumbnail sketch of neo-conservatism and its origins, back to the anti-Communist left at City College in the 1930's and 40's and to the conservative philosophers (Leo Strauss, Allan Bloom, Albert Wohlstetter) at the University of Chicago in later years. From these disparate origins, the neoconservatives eventually generated "a set of coherent principles," which taken together, ended up defining their impulse in foreign affairs during the last quarter-century. They upheld a belief that democratic states are by nature friendly and unthreatening, and therefore America ought to go around the world promoting democracy and

human rights wherever possible. They believed that American power can serve moral purposes. This reviewer finds the overview of interest since Fukuyama and Wohlstetter are former colleagues. (Sources: Publisher's review, and Paul Berman, NYTimes.com, 3/26/06)

Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor, *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq*, Pantheon, March, 2006. Cobra II appears to be a definitive chronicle of the American invasion and occupation of Iraq. From the Pentagon to the White House to the American command centers in the field, the book reveals the inside story of how the war was actually planned and fought. Drawing on classified U.S. Government intelligence, it also provides a unique account of how Saddam Hussein and his high command developed and prosecuted their war strategy. The brutal aftermath in Iraq was not inevitable and was a surprise to the generals on both sides. This book provides the first authoritative account as to why. Daniel Schorr commented, "This model of investigative military history punctures the self-aggrandizing manipulations of commanders and the self-serving hype of politicians..." Michael Gordon is the chief military correspondent for the *New York Times* and Bernard Trainor is a retired Marine Corps general who is highly regarded both by the military services and by academia. (Source: Amazon.com review and personal contact with one author)

Barbara W. Tuchman, *Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1922-45*, Grove Press, 2001 (Paperback). It often pays off to review what happened in China during the first half of the last century and the influence of people and events of that time. The author won

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the Pulitzer Prize for this book. She uses the life of Joseph Stilwell, the Military Attaché to China in 1935-39 and commander of U.S. forces and allied chief of staff to Chiang Kai-shek in 1942-44 to explore the history of China from the revolution of 1911 to the turmoil of World War II, when China's Nationalist government faced attack from Japanese invaders and Communist insurgents. Stilwell wanted to fight the Japanese, but Chiang was more concerned with the Communists. Her story is an account of both American relations with China and the experiences of Stilwell, the cantankerous but level headed "Vinegar Joe." (Source: Personal and Amazon.com) ■

### FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

**Where:** the University of Denver,  
Driscoll Hall

**When:** April 15, 2006, 11am to 5pm

Please come enjoy the entertainment and visit our Forum's booth to enjoy cookies, a quiz, and say hi to our volunteers.

P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [www.foothillsforum.org](http://www.foothillsforum.org)**  
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 FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

**DIRECTIONS** to Mount Vernon Country Club: Exit I-70 at Genesee Park (Exit #254). Go North on Mount Vernon Country Club Road. Staying on the paved road and curving to the right. The Club entrance will be on your left, .1 mile from the I-70 exit.

**DINNER AT 6:00 PM** in the main dining room at Mount Vernon Country Club is optional. Reservations are imperative. 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: Bill Anstine, P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602.

Student memberships: \$5; Individual memberships: \$30; Family memberships: \$45; Supporting memberships: \$75; Contributing

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memberships: \$100; Patron memberships: \$250; Corporate memberships: \$400.

**HAVE YOU MOVED?** Please let the FIF Treasurer, Bill Anstine, know about your move so your mailing information can be updated. Send change of address requests to: FIF Treasurer, P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602.

**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](mailto:szadokierski@comcast.net) or call 303-279-2638.

