



FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

FEBRUARY, 2006



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

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III was named Presidential Envoy to Iraq on May 6, 2003 and in that capacity was the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority until June 28, 2004 when the CPA turned over authority to the Iraqi Interim Government.

During his 23-year State Department career, Ambassador Bremer served as Special Assistant or Executive Assistant to six Secretaries of State. His overseas assignments have included service at the Embassies in Afghanistan and Malawi and service as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Norway. President Reagan named him as Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1983 where he served for three years. Ambassador Bremer also served as Executive Secretary of the State Department and was President Reagan's Ambassador at Large for Counter Terrorism.

Ambassador Bremer is one of the world's leading experts on crisis management, terrorism and homeland security. In September 1999, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert, appointed him Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorism. In June 2002, President Bush appointed Ambassador Bremer to the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council. He has also served on the National Academy of Science Commission examining the role of Science and technology in countering

MY YEAR IN IRAQ: THE STRUGGLE TO BUILD A FUTURE OF HOPE

AMBASSADOR PAUL BREMER

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, February 21, 2006, 7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

terrorism and chaired a Heritage Foundation study, "Defending the Homeland".

During his career, Ambassador Bremer has received the State Department Superior Honor Award, two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards and the Distinguished Honor Award from the Secretary of State. He is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and The Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior to being in Iraq, Ambassador Bremer was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Marsh Crisis Consulting Company, a crisis management firm owned by the financial services firm Marsh & McLennan. From 1989 to 2000, he was Managing Director of Kissinger Associates, a strategic consulting firm headed by former

Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.

Before rejoining government, Ambassador Bremer had been a director of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Akzo Nobel NV, the Harvard Business School Club of New York and The Netherland-America Foundation and a Trustee of the Economic Club of New York.

Ambassador Bremer is the Founder and President of the Lincoln/Douglass Scholarship Foundation, a Washington-based non-profit organization that provides high school scholarships to inner city youths.

Ambassador Bremer received his BA from Yale University, a CEP from the Institut D'Etudes Politiques of the University of Paris, and an MBA from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. His languages are French, Dutch, and Norwegian. ■



JANUARY MEETING REVIEW

By Mary Hendrix, Senior Editor



No god but God: the Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam by Resa Aslan

The presentation was focused on the future of Islam and the Islamic Reformation which has been underway for some time.

Reza Aslan used the word reformation for two reasons. The first was to emphasize that the violence and blood shed are primarily internal within the Muslim community and not a conflict between Islam and the West. The second reason for the term Reformation was to show that the major conflicts taking place within Islam are the same that all major religions endured. The Christian reformation was about who could define faith and resulted in a long and bloody war affecting all of Europe. In Islam, there is no centralized authority as was the case in catholic Europe during the Reformation, but rather a host of smaller competing and powerful clerics overseeing the meaning and message of Islam. Clerical authority in Islam is self conferred and without divine ordination.

On July 6, 2005 a historic collaboration occurred when about 170 Muslim leaders and scholars gathered in Amman, Jordan to issue a joint legal ruling denouncing all acts of terrorism in the name of Islam. Never before in history have scholars of every major sect gathered as a body and come to terms with issues of mutual

interest. Many declarations condemning terrorism have been made by Islamic clerics and scholars after 9-11. Muslims are speaking out against terrorism, but it is not reaching the American public. The declaration in Jordan was to restore the clerics' authority in the conflict.

Due to the modernizing and westernizing of nations, many Muslims feel that they are less a member of a world community of faith but citizens of individual nations. These changes are creating a new culture affecting their worship practices and relation to the Koran. Islamic people are actively interpreting their religion based on their own changing needs which results in a deeply fractured faith.

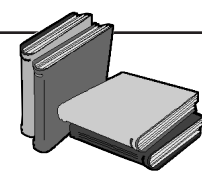
For instance, Jihad is a puritan ideology shared only by true believers and Bin Laden is considered an imposter when it comes to Jihad. In direct opposition to the religious interpretation, Bin Laden wanted to goad the United States into a Jihad to rally people to his cause. The plan partly worked when the United States entered into the conflict, and Bin Laden managed to make it look like it was against Islam rather than terrorism. Many Muslims joined him in this battle even though his interpretation was in direct opposition to the traditional interpretation of Jihad. He transformed the meaning from a collective duty waged in the confines of a political order by a qualified cleric to a radical individualist obligation divorced from Islam. According to Islamic law, Osama Bin Laden doesn't have any authority to declare any conflict against the United States.

The Islamic reformation has a long way to go and it will only be resolved when Muslims find a balance between their old values and the values and traditions of modernity. ■

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Foothills International Forum is a generous organization inviting guests, students and visitors to attend meetings free with FIF members shouldering all costs. The February meeting is no exception. However, in an attempt to provide a complete program for the members, the Board decided on priority seating for members if seating non-members will exceed the capacity of the meeting room.

Non-members of FIF have openly indicated that they believe a dinner reservation will guarantee them a seat at the meeting. This will not happen! The seating for the program is: *All Paid Forum Members seated First, Students Second, Guests last.* Because of this problem, many people have already reserved seats for dinner 2/21. Members are advised to call in their dinner reservation **ASAP**. For questions, please call President Larry Hendrix 303-463-4690.



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*, Penguin Press, December, 2005. The author is a leading cold war historian and has discussed many issues at length in previous books. In this book, he offers a succinctly argued account of the Soviet American conflict that draws on his previous work. It makes an ideal introduction to the subject. After World War II the Soviet Union ruled half of Europe and commanded the loyalty of millions throughout the world. By the 1950's, two superpowers, bristling with nuclear weapons, stared unblinkingly across an ideological divide. Forty years later, the Berlin Wall came down and then, virtually overnight, the Soviet Union was no more. According to the author, the cold war was much more rational than previously thought, despite its manifest absurdities. The foremost was the race to develop weapons that could never be

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

used. The first of the cold war heroes, according to the author, was Dwight Eisenhower. He was much quicker to grasp the implications of a nuclear future than many of the defense-policy intellectuals who tried to square the circle and make nuclear weapons part of a coherent military strategy. Rather than focusing primarily on nuclear and military strategy, Gaddis notes that the world would observe and judge the two competing and contrasting social systems. He notes that innumerable private perceptions and moral decisions did as much to dissolve the cold war as international treaties or macroeconomic trends. Faced with popular unrest in Poland in 1981, the Soviet leadership blinked. Intervention, it decided, was out of the question. The onetime superpower was powerless, offering one of the key lessons of the cold war: "military strength, a defining characteristic of 'power' itself for the past five centuries, ceased to be that." One reviewer commented, "If you must have a war, make sure it's a cold one." (Source: Review by William Grimes, New York Times, 12/28/05)

Aaron J. Klein, Mitch Ginsburg (Translator), *Striking Back: The Munich Olympics Massacre and Israel's Deadly Response*, Random House Publishing Group, December 2005. According to the publisher, this book is the first full account of the Munich Massacre and the Israeli response. It is based on access to key players who have not spoken before. At the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, Palestinian members of the Black September group murdered eleven Israeli athletes. Prime Minister Golda Meir vowed to track down those responsible, and in Menachem Begin's words, "run these criminals and murderers off the face of the earth." The formation of a

secret Mossad unit signaled the beginning of the Israeli response. This mission unfolded not over months but over decades. According to the publisher, Klein had unprecedented access to Mossad agents and a thorough knowledge of Israeli intelligence. Spycraft, secret diplomacy and detective work abound in the account. The length and full scope of the operations are revealed. The author shows that the Israeli response to Munich was not simply about revenge, but one of the most important counterterrorism campaigns in recent history. The recent movie about Munich by Spielberg is not based on this book.

James Risen, *State of War; the Secret History of the C.I.A. and the Bush Administration*, Free Press, January, 2006. In December 2005, Americans again woke to a New York Times headline about domestic spying. This time the article was written by Eric Lichtblau and James Risen. While Mr. Risen's revelations about the NSA are only one chapter in "State of War," they are the high point in an illuminating and disturbing book focusing on the Bush administration's use of power over the past four years. However, the book has much more to offer. In looking at the CIA's possible involvement in torture, the author found evidence of "a secret agreement among very senior administration officials to insulate Bush and give him deniability" regarding harsh new interrogation techniques. In another instance where the need for critical information on Iran was needed, a CIA communications officer accidentally sent detailed information to the wrong indigenous agent in Tehran that outlined the agency's entire network. The Iranian who received the download was a double agent. With regard to Iraq, Risen writes that it was the hard-line Israelis that Mr. Rumsfeld and his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz were

FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM
www.foothillsforum.org

Executive Board

Larry Hendrix, President
Bob Taylor, Vice President
Bill Anstine, Treasurer
Robin Wallace, Secretary

Members-at-large:
Joe Shaw, Errol McGlaughlin

Standing Committees

Distribution & Mailings Chairperson: Ralph Evans
Editorial Committee Chairperson: Beatrice Szadokierski
Hospitality Committee Chairpersons:
Errol and Sue McGlaughlin
House Management Committee Chairperson: Warren Roske
Membership Committee Chairperson: Errol McGlaughlin
Program Committee Chairperson: David L. Evans
Publicity & Public Relations Committee Chairperson: Kate Daniel
Special Projects Committee Chairperson: Vacant
Ways & Means Committee Chairperson: Randy Huiting
Web Design & Maintenance: George Griffin

listening to, not the cautious CIA. "Israeli intelligence officials frequently traveled to Washington to brief top American officials," he writes, "but CIA analysts were often skeptical of Israeli intelligence reports, knowing that Mossad had very strong—even transparent—biases about the Arab world." After their visits, CIA officials would often discount much of what the Israelis had provided. "Wolfowitz and other conservatives at the Pentagon became enraged by this practice." (Based on a review by James Bamford, New York Times, 1/9/06.)

For those interested in further details on the NSA, James Bamford is the author of "The Puzzle Palace" and "Body of Secrets." His most recent book is "A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies." ■

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

www.foothillsforum.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: 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

The Foothills International Forum is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse any political affiliations. The views and opinions of speakers, Forum members and guests expressed at the Forum presentations as well as the press releases, summaries and reading list included in this newsletter do not necessarily constitute or imply the endorsement, recommendation or favoring of the Foothills International Forum, or any of its officers, or contractors acting on its behalf.

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 or call 303-279-2638.

