

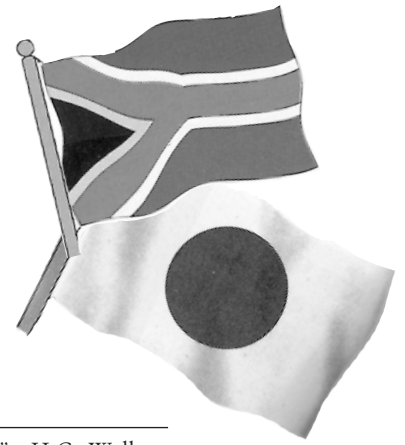


# FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

MARCH, 2006



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

## OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Denver native Wadi Muhaisen is a partner in Muhaisen & Muhaisen, LLC. His legal practice is concentrated in areas including litigation, international law, comparative law, immigration law, criminal defense, constitutional law and civil rights.



He is an Honorarium Professor of International Law and Political Science at the University of Colorado at Denver. His course topics have included: International Law, International Conflicts, Civil Liberties, Comparative Legal Systems, and others.

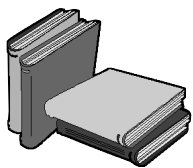
## HAMAS SWEEPS PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS—WHAT CAN THE FUTURE HOLD? WADI MUHAISEN

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

He has served as an international law consultant during the Middle East Peace Process and still provides diplomatic consulting. He also

contributes regularly to various newspapers and online journals on a variety of legal and international affairs topics, including middle-east issues. He often appears on television and radio for commentary on contemporary legal and political issues. He recently wrote "Effective Representation of the Arab Client" for the Colorado Lawyer, published in the December Edition.

He is a graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver (B.A. in History, with distinction), University of Denver College of Law (J.D.), and Notre Dame University (LL.M.), in International and Comparative Law, Thesis - The Basic Law of Palestine - Criticism and Comparison to the South African Constitution). He also has a Certificate in International Arbitration from the Tulane Law School. ■



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

George Crile, *Charlie Wilson's War; The Extraordinary Story of the Largest Covert Operation in History*, Atlantic Monthly Press, 2003. Your reviewer is only about half way through this story, but I thought I was reading a novel. Charlie Wilson was a Congressman from Lufkin, Texas. In spite of being a Representative from the so-called "Bible belt," he was a womanizer, drinker, and playboy. Everyone in the House knew who Charlie Wilson was. "He was impossible to miss, too tall, too handsome, too loud, with too many striking female staffers by his side." The other main character in this story is Gust Avrakotos, a CIA operative who grew up in a steel town. He was street smart, outwardly frank, and an enemy of the CIA elite who came from the Ivy League and often dominated the Directorate of Operations. Charlie Wilson's goal was to find non-US weaponry and transfer it to the Afghan tribes and help them to kill the Russian invaders. Eventually, Wilson and Avrakotos team up to arm the Afghans with all sorts of weaponry. This book also offers insights into how the three branches of the U.S. government interact, particularly when it comes to the intelligence community, its admirers and detractors. Some may find the street-wise conversations and the language offensive.

Other commentary on this book comes from the Washington Post (Thomas Lippman). "The stories George Crile tells in this book must be true—nobody could make them up. This is a rousing tale of jihad on the frontiers of the Cold War, infighting at the CIA, and horse-trading in Congress, spiced by sex, booze, ambition, and larger-than-life personalities." Dan Rather commented. "Americans often ask, 'Where have all the heroes gone?' Well, a lot of them come roaring through in this tour de force of reporting and writing. Tom Clancy's fiction pales in comparison with the amazing mesmerizing story by George Crile."

L. Paul Bremer III, *My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of Hope*, Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group, January, 2006. One of the most startling moments in this book

(Continued on page 2)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

I would like to thank all of you who turned out to see Ambassador Paul Bremer in February. I am especially grateful for the patience you demonstrated as we worked to accommodate seating for all of you at this very popular event. At the end of the day, we did seat all members and then had room for visiting students and all guests (with some seated in the overflow area upstairs). Mount Vernon Country Club was tremendously helpful in adjusting to the expanded crowd by working closely with the Fire Department in setting up the maximum

number of chairs in our meeting room and by arranging for audio speakers to be placed in the overflow area upstairs. We were able to seat 280 in the meeting room and had approximately 70 additional attendees sitting upstairs to hear the Ambassador's speech. We owe Mount Vernon Country Club a hearty thanks!

In case any of you are curious, we were able to accomplish this by focusing on our core loyal membership base. Firstly, it is our mission to provide educational programs for our MEMBERS. Secondly, we want to provide the opportunity for the youth in our area to expand their horizons by exposing STUDENTS to world class speakers. Thirdly, we allow GUESTS to

(Continued on page 2)

## FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW

By Mary Hendrix, Senior Editor



### "My Year in Iraq" by Ambassador Paul Bremer

When Ambassador Bremer arrived in Iraq, he found that the collapse of Iraq was the most dramatic ever and the country went from being ruled by a dictator to freedom in a matter of three weeks. A staff of over 3000 men and women from 25 different countries volunteered to work with Ambassador Bremer to address three issues: 1) get Iraq on the path to democracy; 2) improve the economy; and 3) build up new security forces.

The results of Saddam Hussein's murderous rule quickly became evident. Hussein sent the army out with flatbed trucks sweeping up random people on the street, driving them into the countryside and gunning them down. The first mass grave was the size of three football fields and held 20 to 30 thousand bodies. Survivors sorted through the bones trying to identify family members. Subsequently, an additional 300 mass graves were discovered and it is estimated that more than a half million people were killed and more than a million people are still missing.

Besides inspecting mass graves, Ambassador Bremer also met survivors of the chemical attacks in the North and saw torture chambers and rape rooms at police stations. He saw the human shredding machines used by Hussein on his political opponents. This extended brutality had a huge impact on the Iraqi people.

The economy was in very bad shape and per capita income between 1980 and 2002 dropped from the equivalent of Spain's income to that of Angola. The economic recovery would be a political and economic challenge beginning with rehiring public servants and some former army members, re-establishing a banking system and ultimately replacing the Iraqi currency. Hussein had over the years continuously printed more and more currency and consequently vastly devalued the Saddam Dinar.

In July, 25 governors were appointed who in turn selected 15 candidates to run the different government departments. They drafted a constitution, held three elections, and formed a democracy that fostered civil society, women's centers, democracy centers, human rights centers and non government organizations. During the elections the people were threatened with death if they went to vote, yet the turnout was larger than in any of the elections in the United States in the past 130 years.

Ambassador Bremer is optimistic about Iraq's future and believes that America committed a noble act in freeing the Iraqi people. ■

## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

about the author's days as head of the American occupation comes near the end, when violent uprisings were sweeping most of the central and southern parts of the country in May 2004. With the whole American enterprise verging on collapse, Bremer decided to secretly ask the Pentagon for tens of thousands of additional American Troops – a request that, as the rest of his book makes clear, was taboo in the White House and Pentagon. To nearly anyone who spent time in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein, it was scandalously obvious that the American military lacked sufficient numbers of soldiers to bring the country under control. Iraqis knew it, American officers, beneath their breath, often said it. A two-mile drive on the road to Baghdad International Airport, the scene of daily suicide attacks, confirmed it.

Thanks to Bremer's book, we now know he harbored doubts of his own. He knew, or at

least strongly suspected, that the fledgling Iraqi security forces weren't up to the job. He just didn't say so in public. There are valuable stretches of this book. He recounts in detail the drafting of Iraq's interim constitution and the heretofore secret dialogue he carried on with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the Shiite leader, during the tumultuous period that led to free elections and the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty. These are Bremer's principal accomplishments, and he deserves our gratitude for bringing them off. The Iraq Bremer built has a functioning government and a framework for a democracy that is now coming into bloom. But the anarchy loosed by the American invasion threatens everything the Americans and Bremer have achieved. Those are the two legacies of Bremer's reign, and we do not yet know which of them will prevail. (Material drawn from a review, *Desert Sturm*, by Dexter Filkins, Baghdad correspondent for the New York Times, February 26, 2006) ■

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:* Larry Jones

*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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

attend for free (as space allows) in the hopes that they will enjoy the programming enough to become regular members.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS.** We have had an unprecedented increase in membership of 30% over the last 2 months, mainly in anticipation of the Ambassador's visit. I am sure the new members will be thrilled with their membership and attend many of the other acclaimed international speakers and fabulous local experts we host every year. Please be sure to make new members feel at home in our group.

This event brought in an all time high attendance and interest from the media. There will be coverage in the Canyon Courier and in Elevated Living Magazine so keep on the lookout for Foothills International Forum being in the news!

I would like to thank the Programming Committee for providing us such a hot slate of speakers this year! In addition, your board members really rallied to arrive at the Bremer event early to be sure everything was set up for the Ambassador, his book signing and the needs of the Secret Service Agents. The Treasurer worked overtime to process all the new memberships. Crowd control was really a tough job and the check-in desk handled it with wonderful aplomb. Thanks to all who con-

tributed to making the February meeting an exceptional event.

*Larry G Hendrix*

President

Foothills International Forum

PS: Due to the popularity of the February event, dinner seats quickly filled up at MVCC and some FIF members were unable to schedule dinner. Please remember to call in your reservations as early in the month as possible (and certainly no later than the Saturday before the presentation). Note that membership in MVCC does not grant automatic access to FIF presentations just as membership in FIF does not guarantee a dinner reservation—we are independent entities that happen to have excellent synergy. ■

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

www.foothillsforum.org

FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL  
**FORUM**

**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

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

