

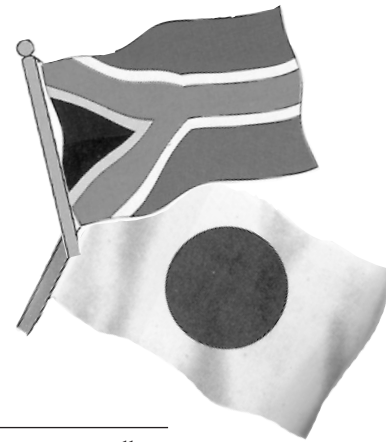


# FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

MAY 2006



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

## OUR UPCOMING MEETING

T. R. REID, the *Washington Post's* Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief, has become one of the nation's best-known correspondents through his coverage of global affairs for the *Washington Post*, his books, his national syndicated column, and his light-hearted commentaries on National Public Radio.



Reid took a roundabout path to the *Washington Post*. He majored in Classics at Princeton University, and subsequently worked

## GLOBALIZATION: WINNERS AND LOSERS

T.R. REID, WASHINGTON POST ROCKY MOUNTAIN BUREAU CHIEF

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, May 16, 2006, 7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

as a teacher; as a naval officer during the Vietnam War; as a lawyer; and at a few other jobs along the way. At the *Washington Post*, he

has covered Congress, national politics, and three presidential campaigns. He spent most of the 1990's overseas, as the paper's bureau chief in Tokyo and in London.

Reid has written and hosted documentary films for National Geographic TV and for the A&E network. He is a regular commentator on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." He has served as a visiting professor at Colorado College and the University of Michigan. He is on the board of trustees of Princeton University.

T. R. Reid has written five books in English and three in Japanese, and translated one book from the Japanese. His most recent book, *The United States of Europe*, was published by Penguin in 2004. ■

## APRIL MEETING REVIEW

By Beatrice Szadokierski  
For Mary Hendrix,  
Senior Editor



### Influenza Pandemic: Is the U.S. Prepared? by Andrew Price-Smith

Andrew Price-Smith focused his presentation on potential scenarios resulting from a worldwide influenza pandemic using the example of the bird flu virus present in poultry and wild birds in Asia, Africa and Europe. The disease is endemic in bird populations in Asia and there is no international organization in charge of addressing this issue. The spread among birds is inevitable and it appears that this virus could mutate into a strain that can be passed from person to person.

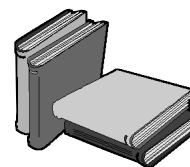
To predict how this potential pandemic will behave, the speaker drew comparisons with the Spanish Flu of 1918 which infected 20-25 percent of the world's population and a mortality rate of 2.5% killed 40-50 million people worldwide. This particular strain did not only kill the very young and the very old, but also ravaged the 20-30 year age group. Some research suggests that the 1918 flu strain came from Kansas and was spread by soldiers fighting in the First World War. The flu of 1918 caused 675,000 deaths in the U.S. and actually reduced life expectancy for a period by 12 years.

Extrapolating what damage a bird flu pandemic could cause based on the information about the 1918 flu, points to a mortality of 2 million people in the U.S. and anywhere from 7.5 -150 million dead worldwide figuring a 20% infection rate. The economic impact of a pandemic today is estimated by the World Bank to be anywhere from \$800 billion to \$4.4 trillion. In comparison, the SARS epidemic of 2003 caused \$30 billion in economic damage due to reduced transportation, trade and human input.

A pandemic has major negative impacts on governance. Fear leads to irrational decision making, a breakdown of services (e.g. garbage, police, communication, etc.), social disruption (black market arises for scarce vaccine, avoidance of infected people), international cooperation among countries breaks down, decimation of military forces needed for governing opera-

tions. Obstacles that prevent nations from effectively dealing with a pandemic include internal anarchy, lack of organizational capacity to produce vaccines and deal with an onslaught of infected people, bilateral cooperation falls apart and all common ground is lost. So far, no leadership has emerged in any international forum to spearhead a worldwide public health initiative to prepare for a potential pandemic.

One lesson coming out of Hurricane Katrina that can be applied to a pandemic is that the government will be overwhelmed by the numerous impacts of such a disaster. The bottom line is that the U.S. is only about 50% prepared to face a pandemic of the proportion of the 1918 outbreak. Researchers believe that we are overdue for a major pandemic and the best way to prepare is for individuals to take the initiative. Right now there are turf and budget battles between the various government agencies charged with aspects of emergency response and much more cooperation between these agencies is needed. ■



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

### Nuclear Iran?

Iran has stated that it wishes to enrich uranium as part of its development of commercial reactors for producing electricity. The degree of enrichment for this purpose is modest, about 4% to 6%. The Bush administration's policy is that Iran should not perform any enrichment. Their fear is that once the enrichment process is established, Iran would further enrich uranium to the level needed to build atomic weapons. The degree of enrichment for this purpose would be far higher, somewhat in excess of 90%. Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty terms, any signatory may develop nuclear reactors for commercial use provided they allow inspectors access to their facilities to insure that no weapons grade material is produced. Iran has denied access to inspectors at times after they built underground facilities. They expressed fear that someone might want to bomb their facilities. If they open up their factories to inspection, then they would be permitted to proceed with their enrichment plans under the terms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Thus, the Bush administration policy could lead to a confrontation.

The Bush administration is publicly advocating diplomacy in order to stop Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons. Seymour Hersh has disclosed that the Bush administration has increased clandestine activities inside Iran and has intensified planning for a possible major air attack. In his article in the April 17 issue of the *New Yorker* magazine he states, "Current and former American military and intelligence officials said that Air Force planning groups are drawing up lists of targets, and teams of American combat troops have been ordered into Iran, under cover, to collect targeting data and to establish contact with anti-government ethnic minority groups. The officials say that President Bush is determined to deny the Iranian regime the opportunity to begin a pilot program, planned for this

(Continued on page 2)

**The Nominating Committee**, chaired by Vice-President Bob Taylor with members Sue McGlaughlin, Joe Shaw and Glenn Wallace have selected the following nominees for the year June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006:

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>For President:</b>        | Larry Hendrix                      |
| <b>For Vice President:</b>   | Joe Shaw                           |
| <b>For Treasurer:</b>        | Bruce Glenn                        |
| <b>For Secretary:</b>        | Robin Wallace                      |
| <b>For Members-at-Large:</b> | Jim Robinson<br>(3 year term)      |
|                              | Errol McGlaughlin<br>(2 year term) |
|                              | Randy Huiting<br>(1 year term)     |

If elected, each of the above members has agreed to serve in the office for which they are nominated. The election will be held at the annual meeting on May 16, 2006, at which time additional nominees for these offices will be considered from the floor.

The nominating committee proposes that the following constitutional amendment be presented to the membership.

"Should the Forum establish a third Member-at-Large position, and should each of the Members-at-Large serve staggered three year terms, following this year in which terms will be one, two and three years."

The Forum's appreciation goes to Bob Taylor, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and his team for their effort in presenting this slate of excellent candidates. ■

### FIF ON SUMMER BREAK

The May meeting concludes our 2005/06 program year and more events await you starting in September. Thank you to all who made this a terrific year.

## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

spring, to enrich uranium.” Hersh has, in the past, had access to many nuclear developments. President Bush has stated that he has read the article, but indicated that it was baseless. How this dilemma will develop in the future is a major question in international relations.

### Suggested Readings

Thomas L. Friedman, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2005. This book provides a speculative and provocative view of wonders that are sure to emerge in the near future. By the word “flat,” Friedman means that the playing field in globalization has been leveled. This flattening has been brought about by the lowering of trade and political barriers combined with rapid technical advances of the digital revolution. These conditions and advancements have made it possible to do business, or almost anything else, amongst the billions of people across the planet. The current state of globalization is driven not by major corporations or giant trade organizations like the World Bank, but by individuals: desktop freelancers and innovative startups all over the world (but especially in India and China) who can compete and win.

#### FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

Foothills International Forum was represented at the University of Denver's Festival of Nations on April 15th. Thanks to the following volunteers who baked cookies and/or helped staff the Forum's booth during the event: Lurlie Bickford, Beth Foster, Larry & Pat Jones, Jim & Betsy Marzonie, Jim & Donna Robinson, Marty Russell, David Van Treuren, Robin & Glenn Wallace, and Janet Way.

The competition goes beyond low-wage manufacturing and information labor but increasingly for high end research and design work as well. The author wants to tell you how exciting this new world is, but he also points out that you are going to be trampled if you don't keep up with it. (Source: Amazon.com and others)

Kevin Phillips, *American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil and Borrowed Money in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Viking Adult, 2006. The title of this book may overstate the author's case, but his analysis will strike chords among those troubled by our current political environment. He expounds on historical parallels for each of his three subjects. In the section on “Oil and American Supremacy” he points to Britain's post WWI involvement in the Middle East. In his section on radicalized religion, he warns of “the pitfalls of imperial Christian overreach.” In his section on “Borrowed Prosperity” he notes that measures of U.S. debt keep setting records, and the real estate boom spurred by the Federal Reserve, he argues, cannot continue. In his treatment of historical examples and their application to the present time, he warns that difficult national issues can “generate weak and compromising politicians or zealous bumbler.” (Source: Publishers Weekly, and others)

Keith Devlin, *The Math Instinct: Why You're a Mathematical Genius (Along with Lobsters, Birds, Cats and Dogs)*, Thunder Mouth Press, 2005. The author is a mathematician who is trying to convince non-mathematicians that we all have innate mathematical abilities. He may have approached succeeding and does it with humor and natural examples. There are two kinds of math: the hard kind and the easy kind. The easy kind, practiced by ants, shrimp, and us is innate. What innate calculating skills do we

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Joe Shaw, Errol McGlaughlin

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humans have? Leaving aside built-in mathematics, such as the visual system, ordinary people do just fine when faced with mathematical tasks in the course of the day. When they are confronted with the same tasks presented as “math” their accuracy often drops. All of his examples of innate mathematical ability in animals suggest that if we want to do better in the formal kind of math, we should see how it arises from natural mathematics. (Source: Amazon.com and Mathematical Association of America). ■

#### APRIL ATTENDANCE

The presentation was attended by 175, of which 88 were guests.

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



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.