

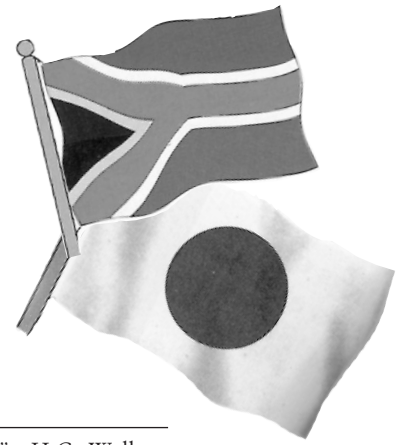


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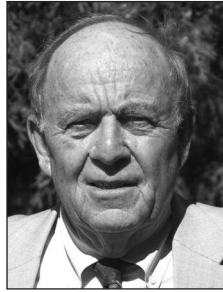
NOVEMBER 2006



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

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Prior to September 11, 2001, the United States was regarded internationally with respect and affection. This was due not just because of its power—economic, military, and geo-political—but perhaps even more so because of its principles. Those principles included, above all, a commitment to the Rule of Law and to the consequent protection of individual rights and fundamental freedoms.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW SINCE 9-11—HAS THE U.S. LOST ITS MORAL COMPASS?

**ROBERT GOLTEN,
DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY CENTER,
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**

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

The U.S. had been a major player in the creation of the United Nations following WW II. It played a central role in the drafting of the U.N.'s founding Charter, and became a sponsor and committed party to that Charter's mandate to "settle disputes by peaceful means", to "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state", and to use force in self-defense only "if an armed attack occurs" against it.

The U.S. also played an instrumental role in the creation of the U.N. Bill of Rights—in particular, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Thus, this country was dedicated to the principles enshrined in its own Constitution—among others, the obligation not to arbitrarily and indefinitely incarcerate people,

not to use torture or cruel and inhumane treatment, not to inhibit free speech and assembly, or the right to privacy, or the right to political self-determination—and the right to a fair and open trial if charged with criminal behavior.

And then came 9-11.

The speaker denominates 9-11 as a heinous act of criminality—a "crime against humanity", under international law. However, rather than treating it as such, and instead of recruiting and organizing under the aegis of the U.N. an international police action to investigate, pursue, apprehend and prosecute those—including, of course, Osama Bin Laden—who had a role in

instigating that criminal action, the U.S. government treated 9-11 as an Act of War.

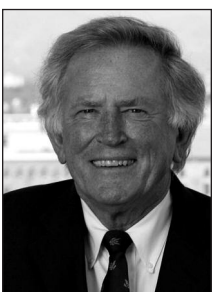
And so in the name of War—wrongly in the speaker's view—the U.S. responded by dropping bombs in Afghanistan and killing innocent civilians. Thus began, in the speaker's view, a 5 year retreat of the Rule of Law and the resultant protection of human rights.

Starting with the violation of the international prohibition on the unilateral use of force against another country, the government in its self-proclaimed War on Terrorism, has licensed violations of international and domestic human rights law recognizing, among others, the right to life and security, not to be tortured or treated inhumanely, nor to be locked up without due process. The U.S. has been in a downward trajectory of unlawful behavior which has betrayed its principles and alienated most of the rest of the world.

Professor Golten received his A.B. from the University of Michigan with honors in economics and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. Professor Golten initiated and was the director of the American Indian Law Clinic at the University of Colorado Law School from January 1992 to June 1996, has worked in private practice with a firm specializing in natural resources and Indian Law, has served as the acting director of the Law Support Center of the Native American Fights Fund (NARF), and as founder and director of the NWF Natural Resource Litigation Clinic at the University of Colorado Law School. ■

OCTOBER MEETING REVIEW

By Joe McGowan,
Acting Senior Editor



SECURITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY, GARY HART

Former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Gary Hart told the Foothills International Forum on October 17, 2006, that the Bush administration has implemented only one of 50 recommendations made by the U.S. Commission on National Security, which he co-chaired. Drawing repeated applause from an audience that braved snowy and icy roads to the Mt. Vernon Country Club, Hart said the administration created the department of Homeland Security.

He complained that recommendations to "re-capitalize" education with emphasis on math and physics, to reorganize various cabinet departments such as defense, and to clean out unneeded congressional committees and subcommittees have not been implemented. Hart said there are 80 some committees and subcommittees dedicated to defense, and most are not needed. Clean up that committee system, he declared.

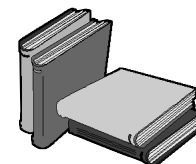
Hart, who now is Wirth chair professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, said he wrote President Clinton telling him new priori-

ties were needed following the fall of the Soviet Union. "Clinton did not heed my advice," he said. Three reports prepared by the Commission on National Security were delivered at the National Press Club, Hart said. He pointed out that they received no national publicity and left the audience to wonder why.

One of the reports said terrorists would attack on American soil and large numbers of Americans would die. The report laid out a framework for a new security policy, that was delivered to President George W. Bush on January 31, 2001, months before the air attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The president and vice president would not meet with the commission, which finally met just days before September 11th with Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld and Condoleeza Rice, who at the time was national security adviser.

A troubling finding by the commission was that three separate agencies answering to three separate cabinet departments were responsible for guarding our borders. These were the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Patrol. Hart said the three had no way of communicating with each other without "going to a pay phone and inserting a quarter!"

The Department of Homeland Security is squandering resources on pork-barrel projects, Hart complained. Hart stated that, "no politician will admit it" but our energy policy is that we will sacrifice lives to get to oil. He said, "We as Americans will continue to import 60 per cent of the oil needed to run energy-inefficient automobiles and if oil is cut off," we go to war. ■



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

North Korea has announced its first nuclear test. The event occurred October 8, 2006, at 10:35am local time near Kilju in the northeastern part of North Korea. The blast was detected by South Korean seismic sensors and reported to be a magnitude of 3.58 on the Richter scale. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the blast at 4.2 magnitude. American analysts estimate the yield as being low, 1 kiloton or less. This yield may be indicative of a partially successful detonation. This test, whether successful or not, will undoubtedly have serious diplomatic repercussions. So far, the United Nations Security Council has passed economic sanctions against North Korea.

Pervez Musharraf, *In the Line of Fire: A Memoir*, Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group, 2006. The author as President of Pakistan holds one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. He has played important parts in many

(Continued on page 2)

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

The Hart presentation was attended by 167 people who braved the weather. This audience rewarded the speaker with a standing ovation.

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

controversies and confrontations. Even though he was once a supporter of the Taliban, Musharraf took a decisive turn against militant Islam in 2001. Since then he has survived assassination attempts and helped in directing raids against al-Qaeda. This book is surprisingly revealing about dozens of topics of interest to the world: tracking and destroying al-Qaeda control centers, what it has been like to deal with Bush and Blair, and the avoidance of nuclear confrontation with India. Of current interest is the cooperation with North Korea on nuclear affairs. The head of the Pakistani nuclear efforts, Dr. A. Q. Kahn, has been forgiven his erroneous ways that include the direct sale of certain equipment for the assembly of nuclear warheads to other nations. Musharraf denies that any senior Pakistani officials, himself included, knew about Dr. Khan's illicit activities. This book is unusual since its author is still in office as a national leader. (Sources: Publisher's notes, review by David E. Sanger, NYTimes, 10/26/06)

Robert L. Beisner, *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War*, Oxford University Press, 2006. Dean Acheson was perhaps the most vilified secretary of state in modern American history. During the four years (1949-53) that Acheson served as secretary of state, Republicans made 1,268 antagonistic statements about him on the Senate floor and only seven favorable ones. History has treated Acheson more kindly. Accolades for him have become bipartisan. Though Acheson served during the transition when America emerged as a world power and enjoyed a nuclear monopoly, the scale of

government was as yet relatively small, and Washington was still a comparatively provincial city. Its political conflicts were not shaped by public relations advisers or tested on focus groups; hence they were somewhat personal. Acheson served during the period when the U.S. had to be brought to recognize that its permanent participation in the world was indispensable for peace and security. This process was painful and slow. Amidst these changes Acheson dealt with the five principal tasks of any secretary of state: identification of the challenge, development of a strategy to deal with it, organizing and motivating the bureaucracy, persuading the American public, and conducting American diplomacy toward other countries. No secretary can fulfill these tasks with equal skill—though Acheson came closer than any other of the modern period. The task of foreign policy was to create situations of strength around the Soviet periphery to deter any temptation for aggression. Diplomacy came after this architectural phase. Acheson believed that great goals were to be achieved by working in stages, perhaps imperfect ones. In the end, he expressed this process. "There was not one more river to cross, but countless problems stretching into the future. Americans must reconcile themselves to limited objectives...an essential part of American power was the ability to evoke support from others – an ability quite as important as the capacity to compel." (Drawn from *Cold Warrior*, a review by Henry A. Kissinger, NYTimes, 10/15/06)

Once in a while, we offer a review of a work of fiction. This is one of those times. Scott Turow, *Ordinary Heroes*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2005. Scott Turow writes novels about

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lawyers, and this is no exception. The exceptional circumstances are that this story involves a son attempting to learn more about his father's adventures as a lawyer in the Army during World War II. The plot interweaves the war experiences with a personal family drama. The father's death prompts his son to find out more about his life and experiences that remain unexplained, particularly the matter of a courts martial, and his family's history long before. The son uncovers a manuscript his father wrote about his war experiences that is alternately moving and horrifying and shines light on a side of his parents that he never knew. It is a brilliantly written story. (Source: Library Journal and your reviewer). ■

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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 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, 1.1 miles from the I-70 exit.

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.

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.

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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.

