

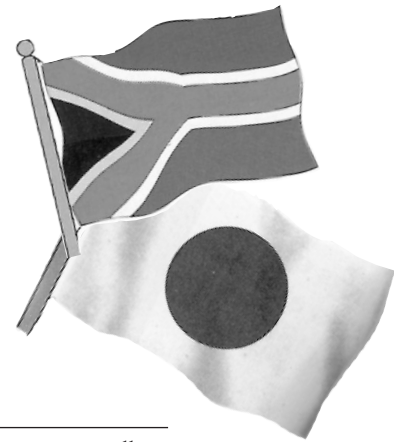


# FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

SEPTEMBER 2006



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

## OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Dr. Zhao's talk is based on his most recent book, "Debating Political Reform in China, Rule of Law versus Democratization". Chinese scholars and Western observers have been debating if the new Chinese leadership under President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao has or will move forward toward political reform and start democratization in China. Dr. Zhao will address this debate and examine how the political reform being discussed is different from what many Western observers have expected.



He is the founder and editor of the Journal of Contemporary China, a member of the Board of Directors of the US Committee of the Council

## POLITICAL REFORM UNDER CHINA'S NEW LEADERSHIP

**DR. SAM SUISHENG ZHAO,**  
PROFESSOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF THE CENTER FOR CHINA – US  
COOPERATION AT THE GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

**TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, September 19, 2006,  
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (USCSCAP), a member of National Committee on US-China Relations, and a Research Associate at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University. A Campbell National Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, he was Associate Professor of Political Science/International Studies at Washington College in Maryland, Associate Professor of Government/East Asian Politics at Colby College in Maine and visiting assistant professor at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California-San Diego. He received a Ph.D. degree in political science from the University of California-San Diego (1992), a M.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Missouri and a M.A. degree in economics from Beijing University. He is the author and editor of seven books. ■

## MAY MEETING REVIEW

By Mary Hendrix,  
Senior Editor



T.R. Reid

There seems to be a misconception in Europe especially about America's awareness of what is going on in the world. Many believe that Americans lack intelligence and have no idea about geography and where countries are located in the world. Many have the perception, when comparing the US to their country, that

Americans are richer, stronger and dumber than they are. The speaker has found quite the opposite in his travels and writing. Today, with globalization permeating every aspect of life, Americans have a very international minded attitude.

Globalization comes in many forms: economic, cultural, political, environmental and last but not least the terrorist globalization. 88 % of the products Wal-Mart sells us every day are imported from other countries. This is one way we encounter economic globalization on a daily basis as do all developed countries. Taking a glance at cars on the road, we quickly realize that automobiles originate from many countries and the food we consume every day comes from many countries as well.

Besides economic globalization, the world experiences a strong wave of cultural globalization seen in music, fashion, movies and behavior. Sport has become international: star athletes have global appeal and selling power seen in advertisements for various products and magazines. They are idolized by supporters in many countries and their endorsements of products have world-wide appeal.

Globalization also has a political angle with countries increasingly adopting democratic ideals. More countries today function under democratic principles and more people vote in free elections today than ever before. The results of these elections may be surprising to Americans, but they are the choice of the people who voted. The belief is that freedom of choice in economic terms will lead to freedom of choice of governments as well. China is an example of this theory where the choice of consumer goods should lead to a choice in government style. Another great example of political globalization is the European Union which is formed by 25 member states who are increasingly aligning their policies.

Environmental issues have a global effect. Greenhouse gases cause global warming for all the countries and a remedy needs to be agreed to by all nations of the world. The black cloud appearing in different countries is comprised of pollution particles from many nations and no longer just represents local pollution.

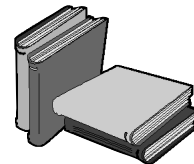
Even security concerns have become globalized: terrorist movements have emerged the world over and their impact is no longer limited to the countries where they reside. Today, we have to be concerned about international terrorists traveling long distances to do harm.

Technology has made the world much smaller: communication is instant, the internet connects people from the far corners of the world and travel is very quick. What Magellan and Columbus started when they took the European ideas to the rest of the world many centuries ago has progressed into globalization today.

Arguments for and against globalization are numerous. One argument is that globalization is detrimental and corrupt. It creates CEO millionaires in the developed countries, while the labor force in the less developed countries is paid little. The second argument is that globalization is providing a cover for the Americanization of the world whereby the American lifestyle is forced on others. The third argument is that globalization is unfair, creating many losers and few winners. There are places in the world that have been left out from the benefits of globalization: Africa, South America and the poor in

India where only the educated segment of the population is benefiting hugely.

Overall, globalization benefits the United States, because Americans are creative, innovative and hard working. However, many Americans have been affected by down-sizing and the out-sourcing of jobs and Americans have a right to be concerned. The jobs lost, however, reflect a very small percentage of the 117 million jobs in America, but that is a small consolation for those who indeed have lost their jobs. ■



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Paul M. Kennedy, *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations*, Random House, 2006. In this book, scholar Paul Kennedy gives a thorough and timely history of the United Nations that explains the institution's roots and functions while also casting an objective eye on the UN's effectiveness as a body and on its prospects for success in meeting the challenges that lie ahead. As a body, the UN emerges here for what it is: fallible, human-based, oftentimes dependent on the whims of powerful national governments or the foibles of individual senior UN administrators, but utterly indispensable. Kennedy ably proves that "it is difficult to imagine how much more riven and ruinous our world of six billion people would

(Continued on page 2)

### PEAK PREVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS

We have the following speakers confirmed for this season:

- Oct. 17, 2006:** Gary Hart on "The New Security in the 21st Century"
- Nov. 21, 2006:** Geoffrey Kemp, Nixon Center, on "Nuclear Issues: North Korea and Iran"
- Jan. 16, 2006:** John Bruton, EU Ambassador to the US, on "European-US Relations"
- May 15, 2007:** Thomas Pickering on India

### MAY ATTENDANCE

T.R. Reid once again attracted a great crowd: 257 at the lecture with 144 badges returned. This makes for 113 guests.

## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

be if there had been no UN social, environmental, and cultural agendas, and no institutions to attempt to put them into practice on the ground." One reviewer, James Traub, commented, "The UN appears to be impervious to serious reform. It's not hard to see why: the 191 members, with their wildly clashing interests, cannot even agree on what the institution is for." (Publisher notes, NYTimes)

Rory Stewart, *The Places in Between*, Harcourt, 2006. Some have commented that all good travel books and the best journeys have already been made. Not quite. In this book the author recounts his journey across Afghanistan in January, 2002. Stewart walks in the middle of

winter, crossing through some territory still shakily held by the Taliban. He is sternly warned before he begins his walk, "You are the first tourist in Afghanistan," observes a member of the country's recently resurrected Security Service. "It is mid-winter, there are three meters of snow on the high passes, there are wolves, and this is a war. You will die, I can guarantee." "The Places in Between" is a pipsqueak title for what is a striding, glorious book. Learned but gentle, tough but humane, Stewart is blessed with a 21st century motherboard. He writes with a mystic's appreciation of the natural world, a novelist's sense of character, and a comedian's sense of timing. If, finally, you're determined to do something as recklessly stupid as walk across a war zone, your surest bet to quash all the inevitable criticism is to write a flat-out masterpiece. This book is, in very nearly every sense, too good to be true. (Drawn from a review by Tom Bissell, NYTimes, June, 2006)

Fouad Ajami, *The Foreigner's Gift: The Americans, The Arabs, and the Iraqis in Iraq*, Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group, 2006. Few other Americans have Ajami's qualifications for reflecting on the Iraq war. Born to a Shiite family in Lebanon, he has written several important books about Middle Eastern political culture. He supported the removal of Saddam Hussein, and his extraordinary level of access in Washington is reflected in this book where he recounts many conversations he had in Iraq while shadowing American officials or traveling with close American allies like Chalabi. Respected by politicians who disdain most academics, and excoriated by antiwar academics who detest the present government, Ajami

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### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As you read the enclosed President's letter, it once again is time to renew your membership as we begin the new program year. Our membership dues are as follows:

<i>Student</i>	—	\$5
<i>Individual</i>	—	\$30
<i>Family</i>	—	\$45
<i>Supporter</i>	—	\$75
<i>Contributor</i>	—	\$100
<i>Patron</i>	—	\$250
<i>Corporate</i>	—	\$400

Use the enclosed payment envelope or pick one up at the upcoming meeting to mail your check. Consider upgrading your membership to the next higher level to allow the Forum to attract a consistently high caliber of speaker.

deserves the attention of both camps. The fall of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime brought the first glimpse of freedom for Iraq and unleashed elation, resentment, and chaos. On the one hand there is hope: the Iraqi people have their first chance at independence. On the other hand, there is despair: the country is exploding with violent sectarian and political power struggles. Through it all, Iraq has remained an enigma to much of the world. The author places the current unrest within the context of Iraq's recent history of dictatorship and its rich, diverse cultural heritage. (From publisher's notes and a review by Noah Feldman, NYTimes, July, 2006)

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 or call 303-279-2638.

