

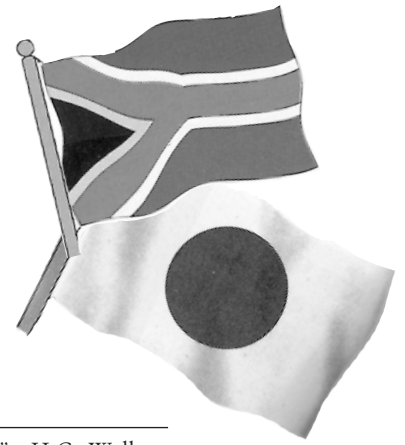


# FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



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APRIL 2007



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

## OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Charles Peña argues that the war in Iraq is but one misstep in the Bush administration's "global war on terror." Terrorism is simply a tactic, however, not an enemy. Trying to eradicate it is a quixotic quest that does not focus on those responsible for 9/11. Instead, the national security strategy should consist of three central elements: establishing homeland security against further attacks; dismantling the al Qaeda terrorist network; and enacting a foreign policy that does not attract new al Qaeda terrorists.



Cato's former Director of Defense Policy Studies Charles V. Peña is the author of studies

## WINNING THE UN-WAR: A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE WAR ON TERRORISM

CHARLES V. PEÑA

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

on the war on terrorism, the Iraq war, homeland security, bioterrorism, missile defense, and national security. He is an analyst for MSNBC, and has worked for several defense contractors with a variety of government clients, including

the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Peña has analyzed and managed programs and studies on missile defense, strategic nuclear weapons, targeting policy and strategy, arms control, precision guided munitions, the future of air power, long-range military planning, Navy force structure and costing, joint military exercises, and emergency preparedness and response. He has been cited in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. He has appeared on The McLaughlin Group, The O'Reilly Factor, Hardball, Lester Holt Live, Market Watch, and the NBC Nightly News. Peña holds an M.A. in security policy studies from the George Washington University. ■

## MARCH MEETING REVIEW

By Raymond Grant, Guest Junior Editor



### David Evans on the Causes of Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy

Mr. Evans began his talk by quoting Yogi Berra (his favorite American philosopher) "Forecasting is easy—except for the part that deals

with the future." This quote relates directly to one of Evans' primary points concerning the current war in Iraq. The "law of unintended consequences" dictates that you cannot always calculate the end result of an endeavor, no matter how well planned. Evans maintains that our current administration did not intend to cause harm in the Middle East, but the invasion itself is the reason for the proliferation of terrorism in the region.

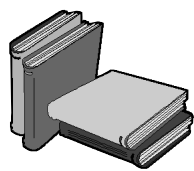
Evans argued emphatically against the theory that religion is the core of terrorist activity in the Middle East. A statistics sheet given to each audience member showed that most of the nations now associated with terrorism are not among the top ten Muslim populations. Evans claims that foreign occupation, like that of America in Iraq, is the real reason for escalated terrorism, and that religion is used simply as a justification for the insurgents' violence. Historically, the war between Great Britain and Ireland can be interpreted as a political conflicts in which religion has been used as an opportunity to attract recruits. The common perception is that it is a conflict between Protestants and Catholics, but Evans contends it is really about the British occupation of Ireland. Ireland's desire to drive out the British is similar to Iraq's current desire to expel the U.S. led coalition. This, is the real motivation for the Al Qaeda led terrorist resistance/insurgency in Iraq.

Why then did al Qaeda attack America on 9/11? Evans gives three reasons: The American support of Israel which sustains perceived injustices against the Palestinians; the American Air Force Base in Saudi Arabia which is provocatively located on one of the nation's holy sites; and that "corrupt monarchs embezzle wealth

from the people", leaving the populace looking for someone to blame. The 9/11 attack, like most acts of terrorism, was intended to intimidate and send a warning signal to U.S. policy makers. According to Evans, religious war, or "jihad", is a recruiting tool for terrorist organizations like al Qaeda, and is very effective during times of foreign occupation. Evans purports that President Bush has publicly used another false belief concerning the roots of terrorism; that terrorists are embittered by our free society. Evans says that terrorists do not dislike our freedom, but, rather, our foreign policy. Osama Bin Laden is said to have addressed this claim in

one of his videos by reporting that if al Qaeda hated freedom, then why don't they attack Sweden?

Winston Churchill once said, "War is a catalog of errors." "If this is so," said Evans, then "Iraq must be an encyclopedia." Evans opposes the administration's reasons for invading Iraq from the start. He maintains that in our own misunderstanding of the reasons for terrorism we have created a situation in Iraq that is very different from our intended purpose, and that we cannot, with our current course of military action, free the Iraqi people from oppression and violence. ■



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

James A. Baker, III, and Lee H. Hamilton, Co-Chairs, *The Iraq Study Group Report: The Way Forward - A New Approach*, Authorized Edition, Vintage Books, 2006. Other members of the Study Group include Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Edwin Meese III, Sandra Day O'Connor, Leon E. Panetta, William J. Perry, Charles S. Robb, and Alan K. Simpson. On March 15, 2006, members from both parties in Congress supported the creation of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group to review the situation on the ground and propose strategies for the way forward.

During the past year, there has been a growing dissatisfaction with the war in Iraq. Administration officials have countered by stating that the objectors have no plan. The Iraq Study Group Report proposes a detailed plan for dealing with the war. It is more detailed than any other plan suggested by top officials in recent history in the opinion of this reviewer. The book is written in a clear manner with great precision in a terse style. If such guidance came down from the White House, there would be no question that the staffs of the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Central Intelligence Agency would begin to implement its recommendations. Perhaps, this is the reason that the report has been ignored by members of the administration, as well as others in the legisla-

ture. At first reading, some of the recommendations appeared nearly impossible to implement. On second thought, these recommendations when put before a conscientious group of staffers could result in some very interesting and viable approaches, at least in this reviewer's opinion.

The book is well organized. The report contains two sections: Assessment, and The Way Forward - A New Approach. The first paragraph of the Assessment section clearly defines the study group's views. "There is no guarantee for success in Iraq. The situation in Baghdad and several provinces is dire. Saddam Hussein has been removed from power and the Iraqi people have a democratically elected government that is broadly representative of Iraq's population, yet the government is not adequately advancing national reconciliation, providing basic security, or delivering essential services." (Emphasis added.) This introductory material is followed by assessments of security, political, economic, and regional situations. The reader is not rewarded with optimism with regard to the study group's assessments. "Despite a massive effort, stability in Iraq remains elusive, and the situation is deteriorating. The Iraqi government cannot now govern, sustain, and defend itself without the support of the United States. ... The ability of the United States to shape outcomes is diminishing. Time is running out."

The second part of the book provides discussions and suggestions concerning the study group's new approach. There is an external approach that involves diplomacy and the

(Continued on page 2)

## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

need to engage Iraq's neighbors. The wider regional context is also considered. The internal approach involves helping the Iraqis to get started helping themselves. The study group has addressed a large range of issues including national reconciliation, security and military forces, police and criminal justice, the oil sector, U.S. economic and reconstruction assistance. In this second section, each recommendation is preceded by a discussion of the particular issue under consideration. The first recommendation deals with launching a diplomatic offensive. The goals of the diplomatic offensive are outlined in the second recommendation and should provide guidance to many departments in the U.S. government. Some of the following recommendations seem offensive to the Bush Administration: dealing and negotiating with Iran and Syria. The study group's intentions are clear in all of the seventy-eight recommendations. This new approach is not without flaws and uncertainties. These difficulties are recognized by the members of the study group. The overall result is a plan, perhaps a contentious one, for dealing with our continuing problems in Iraq and the Middle East.

Brad Hooper of the American Library Association has given the book an extremely favorable review. "Whether or not the report's recommendations will be adopted by President Bush in whole or part is a question to be answered in upcoming months. As it stands at this moment, the report is the orphan of all documents, unembraced by beltway Republicans and Democrats alike. Nevertheless, every citizen should read it. (Sources: Publisher's notes, American Library Association, reviewer's commentary and experiences.)

Louise Richardson, *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the*

*Threat*, Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group, 2006. In her new book, scholar Louise Richardson provides a guide to the greatest challenge of our age. After defining what terrorism really is, she explores its origins, its goals, what is to come, and what is to be done about it. Having grown up in rural Ireland and watched her friends join the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the author knows first hand how terrorism can both unite and destroy a community. As a professor at Harvard, she has devoted her career to explaining terrorist movements throughout history and around the globe. From the biblical Zealots to the medieval Islamic Assassins to the anarchists who infiltrated the cities of Europe and North America at the turn of the last century, terrorists have struck at enemies far more powerful than themselves with targeted acts of violence. The author understands that terrorists are neither insane nor immoral. Rather, they are rational political actors who often deploy carefully calibrated tactics in a measured and reasoned way. Richardson shows that the nature of terrorism did not change after the attacks of September 11, 2001. What changed was our response. Richardson offers a feasible strategy for containing the terrorist threat and cutting off its grassroots support.

Reed Business Information reviewers were somewhat critical of the Richardson book. Their conservative view was, "Her reach, however, exceeds her grasp in an evaluation that leans more on theory than practice and is unrelenting in its attack on current policy." Further, the reviewer states, "Richardson dissects U.S. policy since 9/11 and judges it a disaster. The litany of failures is familiar if one-sided: the terrorist threat has been exaggerated, allies alienated, 'liberal democratic values' abandoned. Still, Richardson's policy prescriptions which mirror her criticisms of current policy deserve a hearing." Kirkus Reviews were more supportive

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of this book. The essence of their review was, "Read this essential, important primer. Terrorist groups have many motives and ideologies, notes Richardson, but they tend to similar paths: they are founded by mature, well-educated men but staffed by less learned and certainly more pliable youths; they are fueled by a sense of injustice and the conviction that only they are morally equipped to combat it; they see themselves as defenders and not aggressors; they often define the terms of battle." (Sources: Publisher notes, Publishers Weekly, Reed Business Information, and Kirkus Reviews.) ■

## ATTENDANCE AT MARCH PROGRAM

220 guests attended the lecture of which 120 were members.

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

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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.

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**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.

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Student memberships: \$5; Individual memberships: \$30; Family memberships: \$45; Supporting memberships: \$75; Contributing

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