

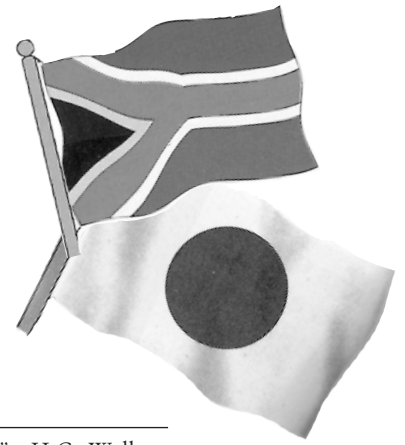


COLORADO FOOTHILLS
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

FORUM

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NOVEMBER 2007



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

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Colonel Thomas A. Drohan is Professor and Head, Department of Military Strategic Studies, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. His previous assignment was a USAFA sabbatical as Chief of the Antiterrorism/Force Protection



Division, Combined Forces Command, Republic of Korea. Commissioned through the USAF Academy in 1979, Colonel Drohan has served in flying operations, military education and headquarters staff positions throughout the United States, East Asia, the Middle East and Europe to include HC-130 combat rescue at Kadena AB, Okinawa, C-130 tactical airlift at

A BRIEFING ON
AFGHANISTAN

COLONEL THOMAS A. DROHAN,
Professor and Head, Department of Military
Strategic Studies, U.S. Air Force Academy,
Colorado Springs

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, November 20, 2007,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

Pope AFB, North Carolina, and T-41 flight training at the USAF Academy. He has directed composite wing current operations and squadron airlift operations at Pope AFB and has commanded provisional airlift squadrons in Saudi Arabia and Germany.

Colonel Drohan holds a B.S. in International Affairs & National Security Studies from the USAF Academy, an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University. He has been a Faculty Fellow in International Affairs at Harvard University and a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow in Japan. He is guest lecturer at the Joint Special Operations University and member of the Denver Committee on Foreign Relations and the Colorado Springs World Affairs Council. Colonel Drohan publishes in the fields of military strategy, Northeast Asian security, and professional officer development.

Colonel Thomas Drohan just returned from Afghanistan and will provide a briefing on the situation in that country. ■

OCTOBER
MEETING REVIEW

By Walter "Joe" Shaw, Vice
President, Colorado Foothills
World Affairs Council



The October meeting of the Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council featured Dina Temple-Raston, a National Public Radio FBI correspondent. In her riveting presentation she told of her research preparing to write her most recent book, *The Jihad Next Door*, about the Lackawanna Six. The Six were young Muslim men from a suburb of Buffalo, New York who were accused of aiding al Qaeda, and later convicted in the aftermath of 9-11.

While in no way defending or excusing the men, she described what led to their participation in an al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan prior to 9-11 and ultimately their meeting with Osama bin Laden.

Ms. Temple-Raston related the history of the Muslim community in Lackawanna, the second largest Islamic community in the U.S. behind Detroit. Lackawanna experienced a major immigration from Yemen in the 1950's when the steel plants actively encouraged foreign workers who were comfortable working in hot surroundings similar to that found in steel mills. In the 1980's as the mills closed, leaving many of the young people without jobs and often disillusioned. An al Qaeda recruiter entered this milieu and made an appealing case to the young, "testosterone-filled" men, who seemed interested in seeing who could become the "best" Muslim.

The speaker detailed how, given the proper conditions, Islamic extremism could be nurtured in communities not initially inclined to radicalism.

The key events involving the Lackawanna Six eventually led to criminal charges. All the relevant activities occurred prior to 9-11. She told how the anticipation of the training camp had an aura of romanticism and appealed to idealistic and perhaps angry young men who were looking for an adventure in the context of their faith.

In her research, Ms. Temple-Raston, with her guide and wearing a burka to hide her identity,

secretly retraced the footsteps of the Six. She first entered Pakistan and then slipped across the border into Afghanistan. Through this experience and her interviews with many intimately involved with the Six, she was able to recreate their experiences.

She concluded that the men, perhaps unconsciously competing with one another in a sort of "one-upsmanship", found themselves unexpectedly in a terrorist training camp. They didn't like the experience and perhaps, most importantly, they didn't understand Arabic. They were eager to return home and left before their training was completed. They had expected an experience to build on their enthusiasm for Islam. Instead they just found anti-U.S. fervor.

However, before their departure, they had one particularly memorable experience.

One day their training was interrupted by guns and rocket propelled grenades being shot into the air. Several SUV's approached under high security. It was Osama bin Laden with his multi-layered security team. The Six had the opportunity to meet with the sheik and he quizzed them on how much support the U.S. Muslim community had toward suicide bombers. He was obviously disappointed when they told him there was little support in America for that strategy. They learned during the meeting of a grandiose plan to attack the U.S. sometime in the future, but nothing specific.

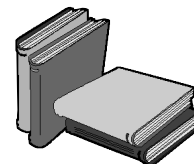
The Six returned to the U.S. and like the rest of the country, were shocked by the news reports of planes flying into the towers as well as the other tragic events of September 11.

The FBI had been aware of their travels and experiences in the training camp by a Muslim informer in Lackawanna. They were soon questioned but nothing immediately happened. Ms. Temple-Raston had previously worked closely with FBI Director Mueller and because of this relationship was able to learn of some behind-the-scenes activity related to the case. Following a discussion between Mueller and Vice President Cheney, the decision was made to arrest the Six, even though there was no known direct tie between them and 9-11. The speaker believes it was not coincidental that the arrests occurred on the first anniversary of the attacks.

Each of the Six had his own court appointed attorney. All agreed to a plea agreement for

prison sentences ranging from 7-9 years on charges of "material aid" but not terrorism. The reason they chose not to go to trial was the fear that in the emotional environment of the time, they couldn't get a fair trial. The punishment could have been much more severe, including possibly the death penalty.

As an addendum, Ms. Temple-Raston noted that rather than being spread around the Federal prison system, the Six ultimately ended up in the prison in Terre Haute, Indiana with many other "really bad and dangerous" Islamic extremists. She considers the Six more "terrorist-lite" and wondered aloud if they will have been increasingly radicalized by the time they are released. Her opinion that concentrating the convicted terrorists in one location where they can feed on one another's anger could ultimately prove counter-productive and may eventually lead to new, dangerous networks. ■



NEWS & SUGGESTED
READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Greg Behrman, *The Most Noble Adventure: The Marshall Plan and the Time When America Helped Save Europe*, The Free Press, 2007. At the end of World War II, Europe was a pile of rubble and ruins. The population faced future years and winters without food or development of stable economies. The Marshall Plan was a unique enterprise and in its total aspect was strategic, altruistic, and effective. This plan would cost the Americans about \$13 billion or \$100 billion in present costs. Its purposes were to modernize Europe's economies and capitalism, restore democracy, establish a firm relationship in Western Europe with America eventually resulting in a military alliance against the Soviet Union. According to Publishers Weekly, the author's book could not have arrived at a better time, when issues of nation building, postwar reconstruction and American obligations to friend and foe are the stuff of public debate. The cast of characters included Harry Truman, Dean Acheson, Averill Harriman, and George Marshall. Equally important, but often overlooked, are those that helped to implement the

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

plan such as Will Clayton, Paul Hoffman, and Arthur Vandenburg. On the European side, statesmanship by their leaders is also chronicled: Ernest Bevin, Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, Jean Monnet and Stafford Cripps. The Economist in its review of this book, noted that "the Marshall Plan remains oddly relevant." Their reviewer comments that the author is, "someone who has become disillusioned by what is going on today. For Americans in need of a confidence booster, Mr. Behrman's fond look at what he considers to have been one of America's finest hours is just the job." (Sources: *Publishers Weekly*, *Publisher's Notes*, and the *Economist*)

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Stephen Schlesinger (Editor), Andrew Schlesinger (Editor), *Journals: 1952-2000*, Penguin Group (USA), 2007. For more than half a century, the author has been at the center of American political and cultural life. He entered in the 1950's and remained up to the present. He was an historian with great opportunities to view history. The author has recorded his experiences and opinions in his journals which have been edited by his two oldest sons. These journals offer lucid observations on a half century of public life. In this book, there is an intimate history of postwar America, from working on Adlai Stevenson's presidential campaigns, his years in the Kennedy White House, through the Clinton administration. In spite of the publisher's notes, there is a lot of humor and contrast in the author's journals that can be appreciated by careful reading. Jon Meacham of the Washington Post put it rather

bluntly, "Schlesinger kept up a pungent and penetrating running commentary on – well, on everyone. The whole world seems to be here: the Roosevelts and the Kennedys, Adlai Stevenson and Norman Mailer, Lauren Bacall and Ted Sorensen, Groucho Marx and Jesse Jackson, Mick Jagger and Fidel Castro," and many others. Maureen Dowd (New York Times Book Review) went right to the point. She indicated in her review, "It's hard not to like a book that expounds on Marilyn Monroe on one page and the Monroe Doctrine on the next. This is not history so much as historical trail mix." (Sources: *Publisher notes*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*)

David M. Friedman, *The Immortalists: Charles Lindbergh, Dr. Alexis Carrel, and Their Daring Quest to Live Forever*, Harper Collins Publishers, 2007. This author's book reveals a view of the famous aviator's incursion into the world of biology and medicine. He was far ahead of his time in terms of organ transplantation. In 1930, Lindbergh met Alexis Carrel, regarded by many as the most brilliant doctor who ever lived. Carrel won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1912 for perfecting anastomosis that made him the father of organ transplants. Lindbergh's sister-in-law had a heart condition, and he did not understand why doctors could not simply replace Elisabeth Morrow's heart with an artificial heart. It was the same procedure that a pilot would follow in replacing a failed motor. Fix it, repair it, and put it back. During the next five years, Lindbergh and Carrel attempted to build a machine that could keep whole organs alive outside the bodies. They believed that if they succeeded, they would be able to remove a diseased organ, put it in the machine, repair it, and then return it to its original owner. They thought that if this process could be repeated forever, it could potentially

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render certain chosen human beings immortal. According to Kirkus reviews, "They also believed that only the best and brightest should be allowed to reproduce, a view that prompted their disastrous foray into the realm of politics and social planning." (Sources: *Publisher's notes*, *Kirkus reviews*) ■

Happy Holidays!

This is our last newsletter for 2007. The Foothills World Affairs Council wishes all its members a wonderful Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing everybody again in the New Year.

REMINDER—MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please remember to send in your membership dues to our Treasurer Bruce Glenn.

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

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The Foothills International Forum is a non-profit organization which needs 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.

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, Bruce Glenn, 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.

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.

