

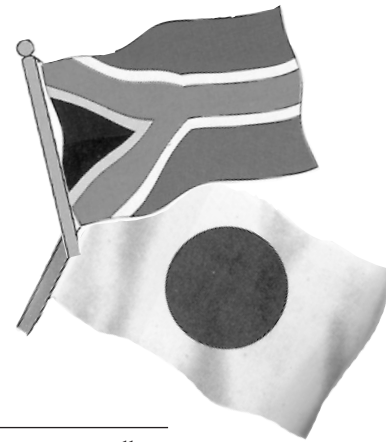


# FOOTHILLS INTERNATIONAL FORUM



www.foothillsforum.org

**NEW NAME!**  
**COLORADO FOOTHILLS**  
**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 2007**



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

## OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Born in Poland, Dr. Woj Wolfe holds a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies. He has a BA degree from Binghamton University in New York and an MA and PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He also spent one year at the Taipei Language Institute and speaks Mandarin Chinese in addition to Polish.



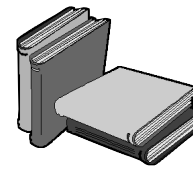
Dr. Wolfe has published several articles on the Middle East and the War on Terror. His new book, *Selling the War on Terror from Afghanistan to Iraq* will be released soon.

The topic of his speech will be "Energy Security and U.S. Foreign Policy". ■

## ENERGY SECURITY AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

**DR. WOJ WOLFE,**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow**  
**University of Denver's**  
**Graduate School of**  
**International Studies**

**TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, September 18, 2007,**  
**7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. When the author was twelve years old, rebel forces attacked his home in Sierra Leone. He was separated from his parents and wandered through the war-torn countryside, starving and terrified. He was taken under the wing of a lieutenant in the government army. Shortly after, he was being fed amphetamines and trained to shoot an AK-47. He was instructed, "Ignore the safety pin since it will only slow you down." Beah documents his transformation from a child into a hardened, brutally efficient soldier who high-fived his fellow recruits after they had slaughtered their enemies. The drug filled army experience lasted until he was fifteen and brought to a rehabilitation center. Two years later Beah fled again, this time to the United States. This book is a firsthand account of war and the ongoing plight of child soldiers in conflicts all over the world. The author is a graduate of Oberlin College. (Sources: *New Yorker*, *Reed Business Information*.)

Tim Weiner, *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*, Doubleday Publishing, 2007. For the last sixty years, the CIA has managed to maintain a formidable reputation in spite of its terrible record, burying its blunders in top secret archives. Its mission was to know the world. When it did not succeed, it set out to change the world. Its failures have handed the readers, in the words of President Dwight Eisenhower, "a legacy of ashes." This book is not a baseless and sensationalist attack on the CIA. One of this reviewer's favorite historians, Michael Beschloss, had the following commentary. "Anyone tempted to write this book off as an anti-CIA screed had better look at Mr. Weiner's sources. The author has impressively studied the archival record, teased out newly declassified primary documents, and done numerous interviews to glean as much as can be publicly known about the agency's history. Some of the most damning criticism of the CIA's past performance in this book comes not from gadflies or ideologues but from ex-officials and long-secret authorized accounts by CIA historians... The most notorious muckraking CIA books of the 1970s aspired to shatter the agency and make sure Americans never tried to create one again. Mr. Weiner's goal is just the opposite. He hopes that his book will 'serve as a warning,' insisting that 'this nation may not long endure as a great power unless it finds the eyes to see things as they are in the world.'" (Source: Publisher notes, *New York Times*.)

Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*, Random House Publishing Group, 2007. A black swan is a highly improbable event with three principal characteristics: it is unpredictable; it carries a massive impact; and, after the fact, we concoct an explanation that makes it appear less random, and more predictable than it was. The success of Google was a black swan; so was 9/11. For the author, black swans underlie almost everything

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## MAY MEETING REVIEW

By Holly Williamson,  
Guest Junior Editor



The May Forum began with the annual meeting and confirmation of Board Members. Larry Hendrix will continue as President for the 2007-2008 season and Joe Shaw, Bruce Glenn, Randy Huiting and Dave Evans will fulfill another year's commitment to the Forum. The new Secretary is Debbie Pearce. In addition to the renewal of board members, a positive vote was cast on membership in the World Affairs Council and the former FIF is now the Foothills International Forum, AKA "Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council". Larry Hendrix introduced a motion that a one year membership to the Forum be gifted to members of the armed services, but the decision was tabled.

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Capt. Esswein's presentation on the subject of responding in the face of uncertainty to bioterrorism, SARS, and the tsunami was supported with power point visuals to enhance understanding. He categorized all emergencies as either intentional, accidental, or environmental.



In October of 2001, an intentional crisis was created when anthrax contaminated letters were mailed to Senator Tom Daschle and Senator Patrick Leahy. Captain Esswein and his crew were called to Washington, D.C. to assess the situation before the EPA could begin decontamination efforts. The operations were complicated by the politically charged environment and performed under intense media scrutiny. Each of the two letters sent contained one gram of anthrax which could be traced back to the original mailbox they were sent from in Trenton, New Jersey. Since the size of anthrax spores is much smaller than the pores of an envelope, a possible ten billion anthrax spores were able to

leak out. Thus, Esswein's crew determined that the contamination needed to be addressed in four locations: the sources, the occupants, the pathways, and the HVAC system. When the crew first arrived on Capitol Hill they were informed one building was contaminated. However, within the first few days his crew determined all thirty-two buildings on Capital Hill were contaminated. Fortunately, the anthrax had not been "weaponized" and was treatable with antibiotics. A total of twenty-two people had been exposed, most of them staff members, and two people died as a result. Ninety-five days later, after assessing more than nine million square feet, taking 5100 samples, and \$20 million later, Capitol Hill was able to reopen.

Esswein encountered an accidental emergency when the first newly emerged infectious disease of the twenty-first century, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), surfaced in mainland China and Taiwan in November of 2002, but the Chinese government covered up the medical crisis until January of 2003. This super spreader jumped between species quickly with the potential to affect large numbers of people. Although only 755 people worldwide died of SARS (compared to the 3,600 people who die annually of seasonal influenza), the outbreak caused world-wide fear. The high level of political and economic impacts along with immense media attention heightened the anxiety over this mystery pneumonia. Esswein's investigation was centered in Taiwan and required the redesign of a military facility to be used for the observation of SARS infected patients.

The tsunami of 2004 created an environmental disaster for South East Asia. One of the worst hit areas was along the Khao Lak coast of Thailand, which left 5,700 people dead and once again Esswein was deployed to provide assistance. Thirty International Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Teams were present to help clean up the disaster, none of which came from the United States. Infectious disease was not a huge threat. However, the lack of organization posed a serious threat. Site safety and health plans were not present, volunteers were not receiving proper safety and health training and the food area was located near sampling proces-

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## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

about our world, from the rise of religions to events in our own personal lives. Taleb has examined how we fool ourselves into thinking we know more than we actually do. We tend to focus on data and what it contains, rather than what it does not contain. For example, a doctor may tell a patient that there are no indications of cancer. As far as this statement goes, it is correct in that there is no data to show that the patient

## MAY MEETING REVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

sors. Without a clear system of command, accidents and injuries ensued along with many other dangerous mistakes. Esswein's team generated recommendations including the creation of a site map, development of a health and safety plan and implementation methods.

In addition, Esswein confirmed that a huge pandemic is bound to happen, due to the fact that new infectious diseases have recently emerged, the population is rising, and historically a pandemic arises roughly once every 100 years. He added that with the passage of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act, increased funding from the federal government will provide additional training for volunteers.

*About the author:* Holly Williamson is a sophomore at Golden High School and a member of the International Foothills Forum. She is enrolled in Advanced Placement United States History as well as Honors English, Honors Biology, and Honors Algebra II. In addition to her academic studies, Holly is a valued member of the Golden High School Lacrosse team. ■

has cancer. The patient goes home and tells everyone that "there is no cancer" when in fact everyone has cancer cells. They are not detectable until they cause a problem. Taleb throws lots of cold water on the "bell curve" that is often used to show the probability of various outcomes of many activities. Actually, outcomes that may seem nearly impossible are included in such analyses. These outcomes may be highly improbable, but they are possible. While the bell curve does get overused, most mathematicians almost always question past data experience and try to see what other distributions are appropriate. The standard distribution of errors (bell curve) does not always suffice.

Unfortunately, many people who employ the bell curve are not aware of any other statistical distributions, of which there are many. Taleb's penultimate words deal with some hope in the face of disillusion. "I am sometimes taken aback by how people can have a miserable day or get angry because they feel cheated by a bad meal, cold coffee, a social rebuff, or a rude reception. Recall my earlier discussion on the difficulty in seeing the true odds of the events that run your own life. We are quick to forget that just being alive is an extraordinary piece of good luck, a remote event, a chance occurrence of monstrous proportions." The author has a distinct writing style. He has wit, irreverence and some unusual stories to tell. It is informal in many instances, but the points are well taken. In spite of his easy style, some will not find it an easy read. ■

## ATTENDANCE AT MAY PROGRAM

At the May meeting, we had a total of 155 at the lecture of which 73 were guests.

Colorado Foothills World affairs Council

### Executive Board

Larry Hendrix, President

Joe Shaw, Vice President

Bruce Glenn, Treasurer

Debbie Pearce Secretary

### Directors

Dave Evans, Randy Huiting, Jim Robinson,  
Errol McGlaughlin, Beatrice Szadokierski, Eric Esswein

### Members-at-large:

Jim Robinson, Errol McGlaughlin, Randy Huiting

### Standing Committees

*Distribution & Mailings Chairperson:* Ralph Evans

*Editorial Committee Chairperson:* Beatrice Szadokierski

*Hospitality Committee Chairpersons:*

Errol and Sue McGlaughlin

*House Management Committee Chairperson:* Larry Jones

*Membership Committee Chairperson:* Errol McGlaughlin

*Program Committee Chairperson:* David L. Evans

*Publicity & Public Relations Committee Chairperson:* Kate Daniel

*Web Design & Maintenance:* George Griffin

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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

Student	\$5
Individual	\$30
Family	\$45
Supporter	\$75
Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Corporate	\$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 speakers.

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

Colorado Foothills World affairs Council  
www.foothillsforum.org



### 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, 1.1 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.

The Foothills International Forum is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse any political affiliations. The views and opinions of speakers, Forum members and guests expressed at the Forum presentations as well as the press releases, summaries and reading list included in this newsletter do not necessarily constitute or imply the endorsement, recommendation or favoring of the Foothills International Forum, or any of its officers, or contractors acting on its behalf.

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.

