



COLORADO FOOTHILLS WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

FORUM

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MAY 2008



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

OUR UPCOMING MEETING



Xenia Dormandy is the Director of the Belfer Center's Project on India and the Subcontinent and a member of the Board. Prior to this, she was the Executive Director for Research at the Belfer Center. Until August 2005, Ms. Dormandy

served as Director for South Asia at the National Security Council (NSC) where she played a key role in coordinating the July 2005 visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that led to the new U.S.-India Strategic Relationship.

Prior to her NSC post, Ms. Dormandy served as a Foreign Affairs Specialist in the Bureau of South Asia at the Department of State. Her major portfolios included counterterrorism, nonproliferation, Kashmir, and other law enforcement

PROSPECTS FOR PAKISTAN

XENIA DORMANDY

**Belfer Center for Science and
International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School
of Government, Harvard University**

**TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, May 20, 2008,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

topics. During her tenure at the Department of State, Ms. Dormandy was also a Special Advisor at the Homeland Security Group, and an officer in the Bureau of Nonproliferation. Shortly after

September 11, 2001, Ms. Dormandy was detailed from the Department of State to the Office of the Vice President (OVP) to help launch the Office of Homeland Security Affairs.

Ms. Dormandy's articles and op-eds on international security and intrastate conflict issues have been published in a number of publications including *The Washington Quarterly*, *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe* and *International Herald Tribune*, and she has been interviewed on radio and television for such programs as the BBC World TV, NPR, Fox News and Al Jazeera.

Prior to her government service, Ms. Dormandy worked in the nonprofit and private sectors in California, Israel and the West Bank, and the U.K., and for UNICEF in New York. She is a graduate of the Kennedy School of Government where she completed her Masters in Public Policy. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Oxford University. ■

APRIL MEETING REVIEW

By **Jesse Rodgers and Ann Mead**,
Sophomores at Golden High
School and Forum Guest Editors



John Langhus is a lawyer for the Forest Oil Corporation, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. During his presentation, Mr. Langhus emphasized the significance of the energy issue and its fundamental importance to daily life. Oil

production all around the world is decreasing every year and there are only four oil fields that produce more than one million barrels of oil a day, ten fields that produce 5.5 million a day, and 12 fields that produce 4.1 million barrels a day. Combined, these oil rich fields produce around 32 million barrels of oil a day, roughly half of the oil that is produced daily, while the rest comes from over 4,000 smaller oil fields around the world. Geologists have developed a five step process to locate oil reserves: they need to find a source rock, a reservoir rock that has porosity and is permeable and a cap rock that holds the pressure on the oil in the rock. Furthermore, there must be a trap present to avoid leakage. These five things are rarely found in one place.

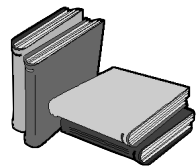
Langhus explained to us that oil production is expected to reach its peak and then begin to decline. However, CERA, a giant oil company has predicted that there will be no peak in the oil production, but rather a plateau by the year 2030. This prediction is not entirely reliable as it is based on contradicting data.

Of the sixty-five major oil producing countries in the world, fifty-five have passed their peak production point. Three of the biggest oil producing fields in the world are now in decline. With the world's ever growing population and energy requirements, it is hard to keep pace with demand. As demand for oil rises each year, the supply decreases. To avoid extreme

disruption, we need a 20 year head-start to plan for ever decreasing oil supplies and find alternatives to replace oil. The United States and other countries have started developing blue prints of action to avoid the harshest conditions ahead. The U.S. plan includes education, increased efficiency of oil use, electrification of transportation, increased use of renewables and cellulose ethanol and enhanced oil recovery.

If you would like to get a copy of the slideshow John Langhus presented, please contact him at: jlanguh@yahoo.com ■

About the authors: Jesse Rodgers and Ann Mead are sophomores at Golden High School. Jesse is involved in swimming, track, and cross country and loves helping out in the community. Jesse is the President of the Key Club and a member of Epics. Ann plays on the Golden High School softball team and volunteers at the hospital.



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Steve Coll, *The Bin Ladens: The Story of a Family and Its Fortune*, Allen Lane (UK), 2008. Shortly after impoverished and illiterate Mohammed bin Laden and his younger brother set off from Yemen for Jeddah in 1925, they were lost in a terrible sandstorm. After the storm cleared, the boys were convinced that God had intervened and they made it to Jeddah. Within six years, the hard working Mohammed had established a small company that bore his family name, and he had ingratiated himself with Ibn Saud just as large oil reserves were discovered. Mohammed was building roads, villas, mosques and other structures realizing extremely large gains by having a near monopoly in the Saudi construction industry. When Mohammed died in 1967, his eldest son, Salem, became the family's new sheikh. The new leader was typical of

Mohammed's children in that he embraced a western lifestyle while remaining true to his Arabic roots. The notable exception to this family tradition was Osama who had become the black sheep of the family. The author devotes much of the book to Osama and his history over the years starting with his private lessons on the Koran and beyond his rebellion when the Saudis invited America to base troops there in defense of Kuwait. "As Osama careened towards violence in 1996, the family moved to strengthen its ties to America, hedging its bets," according to the author. Just as the 1930's oil boom helped Mohammed, so the latest boom has helped this generation. The Bin Ladens have won almost all the construction contracts in the kingdom. According to John Bradley, the story of the Bin Ladens is told "with sympathy and nuance, is of a diverse, resourceful clan whose ranks have historically been torn between moderate Islam and radical jihadism, between east and west." Milton Viorst has commented on

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

the book as well, and states, "As for the 9/11 conspiracy, Coll repeats little of what we already know. Instead, he has chosen to write about a man and his family, enriching our understanding of the powerful impact they have made on our time." (Sources: *The Other Bin Ladens*, John R. Bradley, *Financial Times of London*, April 5/6, 2008. Milton Viorst, *Washington Post Book World*. Amazon. Com)

Parag Khanna, *The Second World, Empires and Influence in the New Global Order*, Random House, 2008. Past explanations of how to understand the complex twenty-first century world seem to have fallen short. In this book, the author takes readers on a global tour, one that shows how America's dominant moment has been replaced by a geopolitical marketplace, where the European Union and China compete with the U.S. to shape world order on their own terms. Khanna, a well traveled, multi-lingual foreign policy scholar suggests that we are on the cusp of a really new world order, "a multi-polar and multi-civilizational world of three distinct superpowers competing on a planet of shrinking resources." The author agrees with the view that increasing globalization leads to decreasing chances of war. Since each of the new empires has nuclear weapons, "economic power is more important than military power." The European Union is a superpower, according to the author. Its economy and population are larger than those of the United States, and more countries are trying to get in. There seems to be little doubt that China will be a superpower. It does not have to conquer the world militarily, just buy it. For example, in Venezuela, China is

now the largest source of foreign investment. According to one critic, Raymond Bonner, "Khanna is something of a foreign policy whiz kid. He has a degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and is pursuing a doctorate at the London School of Economics. Only 30 years old, he has already been a fellow at several research institutes and has served as an adviser to the United States Special Operations Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq." *Publishers Weekly* has commented on the book, stating, "The final pages of his book warn eloquently of the risks of imperial overstretch combined with declining economic dominance and deteriorating quality of life. By themselves those pages are worth the price of a book that from beginning to end inspires reflection." (Sources: Raymond Bonner, *Guess Who's Coming to Power*, *New York Times*, March 30, 2008; *Publishers Weekly*; Amazon.com.)

David S. Kidder and Noah D. Oppenheim, *The Intellectual Devotional: Revive Your Mind, Complete Your Education, and Roam Confidently with the Cultured Class*, Rodale Books, 2008. This book consists of 365 daily reflections (one page each) drawn from seven fields of knowledge: history, literature, philosophy, mathematics and science, fine arts, music, and religion. (Religion comes on Sundays.) Each page is intended to inspire, invigorate, and perhaps, re-educate some of us each day of the year. The daily readings range from important passages in literature to basic principles of physics, from pivotal events in history to images of famous paintings with accompanying analysis. The authors' goals are to refresh knowledge we have forgotten, make new discoveries, and exercise modes of thinking that are ordinarily neglected once our school days are behind us.

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The book comes in two editions. Your reviewer has enjoyed the worldlier edition for several months. The emphasis of the other edition is on American culture. (Sources: Publisher's notes, and reviewer opinions.) ■

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We have assembled a new Membership Directory listing all our 2007/2008 active members. Those who have not renewed their membership have been dropped from the listing.

P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602
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The Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council 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 COLORADO FOOTHILLS WAC 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 Colorado Foothills WAC. 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 Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council (WAC) is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse any political affiliations. The views and opinions of speakers, members and guests expressed at the Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council 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 Colorado Foothills WAC 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 Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council 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 Editorial Committee: Beatrice Szadokierski, Editor in Chief, 1923 Parfet Estates Drive, Golden, CO 80401, email: szadokierski@comcast.net or call 303-279-2638.