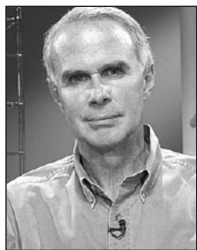


## OUR UPCOMING MEETING



Having returned from a visit to Lebanon and Israel this past August, Greg Dobbs recounts his first hand experiences and impressions of this area's state of affairs, opportunities and challenges. The region subsists with Shia versus Sunni, Palestinian versus Israeli, Israel versus Arab, and more.

Traveling throughout the regions many danger zones, Greg pragmatically conveys his many experiences from meetings at Hezbollah headquarters in southern Beirut to speaking with Lebanese officials and common citizens of both Israel and Lebanon. He explored the dynamics and emotions involved in the recent exchange by the Israelis and Hezbollah of prisoner/terrorist Samir Kantor for the bodies of the two Israeli

## LETTER FROM LEBANON

**GREG DOBBS, Journalist and  
former ABC Correspondent**

**TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, October 21, 2008,  
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

soldiers nabbed by Hezbollah at the Israel-Lebanon border two years ago.

Greg Dobbs, a recognized leader in national television news, began his career as a producer, then a correspondent for 23 years with ABC News, where he won two national Emmy Awards, the Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, and a host of other honors. For ABC's World News Tonight, Good

Morning America, Nightline, 20/20, and other ABC programs, Greg covered stories in more than 60 countries and in 49 states.

Today, Greg Dobbs is chief correspondent and anchor for the weekly program "World Report" on HDNet. He produced documentaries about the port controversy in Dubai, the coca farmer who became Bolivia's President, the living wage campaigns in the U.S., the continuing threat of bird flu, the growth of pornography, the controversy over immigration, and the condition of South Africa twelve years after apartheid. He hosts a weekly Emmy Award-winning discussion program on Rocky Mountain PBS. He also wrote opinion columns for *The Denver Post*, the *Rocky Mountain News*, and the nationally syndicated *Scripps Howard News Service*.

Greg is co-founder and executive editor of BoomerCafé and is owner of a video production company, NEWSlike Productions. ■

## SEPTEMBER MEETING REVIEW

By Erik Laitos, Junior Guest  
Editor, Sophomore Golden High  
School



### ***The Earth's Greatest Challenge: Global Energy Problems***

Picture a planet whose people grovel beneath the surface for a resource long gone. A planet whose atmosphere is clogged with greenhouse particulates, yet no one is technologically able to sort out the crisis. Few are willing to spend the money necessary to produce alternative energy sources: solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal. As such, we see a planet, once a brilliant blue and white marble, which may one day pass into a nonrenewable hell. And yet the greatest and most capable nations of the globe, the United States and Russia, are wasting more time over territory and power squabbles than resolving the Earth's Greatest Challenge. Professor Michael T. Klare, defense analyst for *The Nation* and author of thirteen books, contends that the energy issue has reached a level of national and global importance and is decisively important for the environmental and economic welfare of the planet.

The energy crisis can be summed up using the Global Energy Equation. The process asks questions such as, "What is the supply versus demand?" and "How can those supply and demand numbers be traced for the next ten years? Twenty? Fifty?" In short, the Equation begs the question, "WILL WE HAVE ENOUGH?" And the answer is clear: No. Add the rising cost of production as well as the cost to the environment and the equation leaves the future looking dismal. Since nonrenewable energy sources will never last, and alternative energies cannot be developed at any large scale without more funding and attention, competition for the world's nonrenewable energy resources could be the single greatest threat to our national security.

As world populations increase, so will the

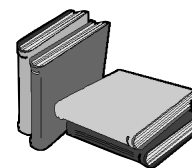
demand for fuel. Mr. Klare predicts the global demand for energy will rise by fifty percent by the year 2030; that's all of the energy currently used by all of North America, Europe and Japan combined. Rapid industrial growth and a rise in the middle class in India and China has increased the demand for fossil fuels. By the year 2015, Klare predicts China will displace the U.S. as the world's largest consumer of energy.

Today, production of oil and natural gas are reaching peak levels and the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that by 2015 the level of oil production will have reached a tipping point. While natural gas is a cleaner energy source and slightly more plentiful than petroleum, it too is nonrenewable and will peak after 2025. While shale oil holds some potential, it is nonrenewable and its practical use is far from being actualized. Finally, coal, the filthy yet cheap nonrenewable resource, can be relied upon for two things: it will last deep into the twenty-first century, and it will almost assuredly be the downfall for the environment.

Mr. Klare presented his final point in earnest: an international war could erupt over energy sources in the next few decades. Several nations would be key players in this potentially cataclysmic event; namely the U.S., Russia, China, and India. These competing world powers are staking their claims to remaining fuel deposits through economic, political, diplomatic, and military means. The recent Russian invasion into the Republic of Georgia over South Ossetia and Abkhazia was fought over the political control and economic gain of transporting oil: a pipeline runs just outside the two areas.

However, Mr. Klare argues there is hope. He believes that the conventional renewable energies: nuclear, solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal have great promise if dealt with carefully and prudently. Nuclear energy, though potentially disastrous, can yield an enormous amount of energy. Solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy sources cannot be productive enough without a great deal of technological research for each. The United States must look beyond 2030 to seek long-term solutions, priori-

tize energy use, and increase investments into alternative, renewable energy sources that are environmentally friendly. The United States must be a leader in the transition from nonrenewable energy sources to alternatives, igniting the opportunities for new technologies for the world. ■



## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Quil Lawrence, *Invisible Nation: How the Kurds' Quest for Statehood Is Shaping Iraq and the Middle East*, St. Martin's Press, 2008. The American invasion of Iraq has been a success for one group: the Kurds. For centuries they have yearned for official statehood. Now, as one of the accidental outcomes of the invasion, the U.S. may have helped them take a step toward that goal. The author's portrait of the Kurds and their quest offers a view for contemplation of the future of Iraq and the surrounding Middle East. In reports of the Iraq war, the Kurds tend to be used as a counterexample of chaos. Its construction boom highlights the economic wasteland elsewhere. Its politicians are stalwart partners of the U.S. in a country bristling under occupation. Facing a hostile neighborhood, the Kurds who live in Iraq's three northern provinces have tried to achieve near autonomy just on the safe side of independence. The Kurds number about 25 million, and are the largest ethnic group in the world without its own nation. After centuries of oppression under the Turks, the Kurds had a chance at statehood when the Ottoman Empire collapsed in 1918. The Middle East was remapped with the Kurds divided among Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. The author writes a sympathetic portrait of the Kurds, describes their leaders' transition from guerilla fighters to statesmen, including how they were betrayed by their ostensible allies. The author alleges that Henry Kissinger and the Shah of Iran effectively handed over the Kurds to Hussein in

(Continued on page 2)

## NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

(Continued from page 1)

1975. The U.S. creation of a no-fly zone over Kurdistan after the Gulf War helped protect the Kurds from Hussein. The major problem for the Kurds is that none of the countries in which they live want to see the formation of an independent Kurdistan. While Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq are often at odds with each other over many issues, they seem to agree on preventing the formation of a homeland for the Kurds. According to Publishers Weekly, "the Kurds' vision of statehood remains unfulfilled. Readers will close this engrossing but disturbing history with respect for a people that has struggled for millennia and whose difficulties continue to generate headlines." (Sources, Publisher's Notes, Joshua Partlow's review, *Washington Post*, August 12, 2008, Barnes and Noble.) ■

## National World Affairs Conference, Washington D.C., February 18-21, 2009

The World Affairs Councils of America's National Conference will be held in Washington DC next February. The program includes a full day of workshops and best-practices training for council staff from all over the country; the exclusive Chairman's Circle Dinner, honoring an individual's contributions to international affairs; two full days of topical plenary sessions, roundtable discussions with foreign ambassadors to the U.S., embassy receptions, and opportunities to network with other council representatives and the Washington DC elite.

For further information, e-mail Dave Evans at [Dave@DavidEvans.DE](mailto:Dave@DavidEvans.DE) or check out the main WAC website at: <http://www.worldaffairs.org/natconference/conference2009> ■

## Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council

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## OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST AROUND TOWN

The Insight Speaker Series features speakers of interest to World Affairs Council members. Presentations are held at the Wells Fargo Theatre located in the western portion of the Colorado Convention Center at the corner of Speer Boulevard and Stout Street. Tickets are available by calling 303.893.4100, online at [www.insightspeakers.com](http://www.insightspeakers.com) or at the DCPA ticketing box office.

DATES FOR THE SPEAKERS AS SHOWN BELOW ARE:

October 22, 2008	Desmond Tutu
November 12, 2008	Reza Aslan
January 13, 2009	Charles Barkley
February 10, 2009	Bob Woodward
March 5, 2009	Carole Baldwin
April 14, 2009	Dave Barry



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Don't miss the November 18, 2008 program, when the Foothills WAC welcomes back **T.R. Reid**, Journalist and PBS host. He will discuss health care systems and outcomes in the industrialized world.

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



### VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[www.ColoradoFoothillsWAC.org](http://www.ColoradoFoothillsWAC.org)

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 Walter "Joe" Shaw 303-979-5927. 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](mailto:szadokierski@comcast.net) or call 303-279-2638.