

OUR UPCOMING MEETING



Michael T. Klare is the author of thirteen books, including *Blood and Oil* and *Resource Wars*. A regular contributor to Harper's, *Foreign Affairs*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, he is the defense analyst for *The Nation* and the director of the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College in Amherst. Professor Klare also teaches at Amherst College, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In addition, he serves on the boards of directors of Human Rights Watch, and the Arms Control Association.

Professor Klare will focus his presentation on his latest book *Rising Power, Shrinking Planet: The New Geopolitics of Energy*.

RISING POWER, SHRINKING PLANET The New Geopolitics of Energy

MICHAEL T. KLARE, Author

TIME/PLACE: Tuesday, September 16, 2008,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club

Publishers Weekly states that looking at the "new international energy order," author and journalist Klare (*Resource Wars*) finds America's "sole superpower" status falling to the increasing influence of "petro-superpowers" like Russia and "Chindia." Klare identifies and analyzes the major players as well as the playing field, posit-

ing armed conflict and environmental disaster in the balance. Currently in the lead is emerging energy superpower Russia, which has gained "immense geopolitical influence" selling oil and natural gas to Europe and Asia; the rapidly-developing economies of China and India follow. Klare also warns of the danger of a new cold-war environment that would suck up resources that should go toward "environmentally sensitive energy alternatives." To avert catastrophe, he urges a U.S. diplomatic initiative to build collaboration with China to develop alternative energy resources, such as biodiesel fuels; ultra-light, ultra-efficient vehicles; and an innovative plan to use new coal plants, currently in development, to strip carbon waste which can then be buried underground. Well-researched and incisive throughout, Klare provides a comprehensive but approachable overview of a complex problem, and offers promising policy alternatives to disaster. ■

MAY MEETING REVIEW

By Debra Pearce, Secretary,
Foothills World Affairs Council
and Guest Editor



The May gathering began with the annual business meeting. In the absence of outgoing President Larry Hendrix, Linda Hendrix presented the new officers in his stead. Joe Shaw, the current Vice President was confirmed as the new President. Randy Huiting will serve as Vice President, Bruce Glenn will continue as Treasurer and Debbie Pearce will remain Secretary. Scott Gutberlet joins the board as the new Director-at-Large. Bruce Glenn distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, which was unanimously approved and thanks was given to Jim Robinson for the new nametags.

Xenia Dormandy, Director of the Belfer Center's Project on India and the Subcontinent, gave an informative presentation on Prospects for Pakistan. Ms. Dormandy has served as the Director for South Asia at the National Security Council and as a Foreign Affairs Specialist in the Bureau of South Asia at the State Department. Ms. Dormandy has authored numerous articles on international security and has been interviewed by BBC World TV, NPR, Fox News and Al Jazeera.

Since September 11th, Pakistan has been increasingly in the news. While Pakistan is most often seen as a threat to regional security, it presents an opportunity for the United States that should not be overlooked. Ms. Dormandy outlined five reasons the United States should remain focused on Pakistan:

1. Pakistan has been identified as the epicenter of terrorism.
2. The significant role Pakistan has played in Afghanistan over the past few decades. While the relationship between General Pervez Musharraf and Hamid Karzai has been less than ideal, the two leaders have

worked together to control terrorism across their borders.

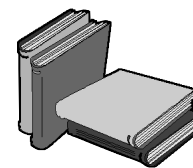
3. Pakistan has had nuclear capabilities since 1998.
4. Pakistan has at times operated as a Muslim majority democracy.
5. Pakistan's strategic location on the Silk Road makes it necessary to the economic flow between the Middle East and East Asia.

The situation in Pakistan has intensified over the past year. In March of 2007, General Musharraf dismissed Chief Justice Chaudhry from the Supreme Court prompting lawyers to protest for an independent judiciary. Four months later, Musharraf sent the military to attack a group of radical clerics in the Red Mosque leaving approximately 100 dead. While Musharraf won the October, 2007 presidential election with nearly 95 percent of the vote, his victory was largely due to the boycott of the election by the other candidates. On November 3rd, after the judiciary challenged the election results, Musharraf declared a state of emergency, suspended the constitution, instated martial law, and controversially held both the position of president and commander of the army. On December 15, 2007 Musharraf announced an end to the state of emergency, stepped down from the military and began his five-year term as civilian president. General elections scheduled for January of 2008 were postponed after the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. Eventually, new elections were held on February 18, 2008 creating a coalition government between the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), lead by Nawaz Sharif, and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), co-chaired by Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zadari. In early May, the coalition split over the reinstatement of judges fired by President Musharraf.

While economic growth has been very positive, the political climate in Pakistan is very unstable. The current Prime Minister, Yousaf Raza Gillani a member of the PPP, cannot rule without the cooperation of the PML-N. National security remains the principal concern with increased Islamization in the area. The govern-

ment's failure to provide social services, education, and health care has strengthened the religious organizations filling these needs. The Taliban and al-Qaida have taken hold in Pakistan's northwest frontier. There has been an increase in sectarian violence between Shiite and Sunni factions and an upswing in suicide attacks from six in 2006 to sixty in 2007. In addition, the southwest province of Baluchistan has been fighting the national government for autonomy and trans-national issues remain between Pakistan and India, Iran and Afghanistan.

The long-term goal of the United States should be to support democracy in Pakistan and improve infrastructure to stabilize the region. While the global war on terrorism does not seem to be successful in Pakistan, the threat of terrorism is real. ■



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Joseph M. Shuster, *Beyond Fossil Fools, The Roadmap to Energy Independence by 2040*, Beaver's Pond Press, 2008. This book contains a well integrated plan for gaining energy independence for the United States in the next few decades. The author addresses the problems of fossil foolishness, the solutions, and an optimistic forecast of a new dawn. One of the primary principles advocated in the author's plan is to abandon fossil fuels. There is a transition to clean, affordable, renewable energy that will be surprisingly affordable, IF we act now. As a surprise to many, the author properly points out that global warming is an effect and a distraction from the real problem. The warming is a result of population growth combined with the rapidly increasing use of fossil fuels. Among the solutions, the author advocates solar energy, wind, bio-fuels, some other renewable energy sources, and nuclear energy. He suggests that the use of newer technology for nuclear reactors (fast breeder reactors) will generate power more

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NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

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efficiently and result in more manageable waste storage containment. In the prospect of a “new dawn” transportation technology will change dramatically, and energy independence can be achieved at a cost that few thought possible. There is a problem of “bridging the gap” that will involve the continuing but declining use of fossil fuels. Several new sources of fossil fuel energy are suggested: Canadian oil sands, and U.S. oil shale. Your reviewer worked as a chemist in oil shale research in the 1950’s. At that time, the cost of oil extraction from shale was always greater than the production of fuel from petroleum. This trend has existed for many years. At the present time with high prices of crude oil, the time seems ripe for development. Some U.S. corporations are quietly working on new methods of extracting crude oil from shale. Overall, the book is very well organized, and many critical arguments to the author’s suggestions are addressed in a persuasive manner.

Kenneth C. Davis, *America’s Hidden History*, HarperCollins Publishers, 2008. This author provides an enlightened view of early American history. Up to now, the reviewer’s favorite history author was VanLoon, particularly his *Story of America*. Davis, in this book, examines the impact of the “human factor” in American history. This ingredient is often missing in treatises that emphasize dates, court cases, battles, wayward and heroic presidential acts. The author’s narratives are dramatic and are an attempt to set the record straight, challenging myths, and illuminating little known facts from a time when the nation’s fate hung in the balance. This history starts with the arrival of the Spaniards and finishes with the inauguration of George Washington. The central themes of

Davis’s account are the acquisition of wealth and land, the retention of political power, and the force of religious fanaticism. He outlines the long running conflict between the Puritans and Indians that is the very opposite of the traditional view of the idyllic Thanksgiving feast. The author examines how the backfiring of a British plot to kill rebels such as Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Joseph Warren probably saved the core leadership of the American Revolution. Benedict Arnold, most often reviled as a traitor, gets his accolades. Joseph Frazier of the Associated Press labeled his review as “America’s past: A bloody good read.” (Sources: Barnes & Noble, Associated Press)

Philip Bobbitt, *Terror and Consent*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. This book is a re-conceptualization of the Wars on Terror (note the plural). The author addressed such questions as, “What are the historical antecedents to a war on terror? How would such a war be ‘won’? What about constitutional and international laws as they apply to a war on terror?” The author of this book examines the historical, legal, and strategic issues at stake. One of his main points is that the United States is the chief cause of global networked terrorism, because of overwhelming American strategic dominance. “We have defined the problem of winning the fight against terror in a way that makes the situation virtually impossible to resolve. We need to change our ideas about terrorism, war, and even victory itself.” Bobbitt argues that the United States has ignored the role of law in devising its strategy, with fateful consequences, and has failed to reform law in light of the changed strategic context. In the end, Bobbitt believes there is a real war against terror, and that civil liberties may have to be curtailed to win it. (Sources: Barnes & Noble, Niall Ferguson, “War Plans,” New York Times Book Review.) ■

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Membership Renewal

Please watch your mailbox for the membership statements for the coming program year. Renew your membership at your earliest convenience to avoid an interruption in receiving the newsletter.

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



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

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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 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.



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.

