

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

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Known as Persia until 1935, Iran became an Islamic Republic in 1979 after the ruling monarchy was overthrown and the Shah was forced into exile. Iran has been designated a state sponsor of terrorism for its activities in Lebanon and elsewhere in the world and remains subject to U.S. and U.N. economic sanctions and export controls, because of its continued involvement in terrorism and conventional weapons proliferation. The August 2005 inauguration of hardliner Mahmud Ahmadinejad as President has perpetuated icy relations at best, culminating with recent protests by Iranian citizens against the lack of reforms and increased repressive measures. Iran has also continued to enrich ura-



POLITICAL TURMOIL IN IRAN & U.S.-IRAN RELATIONS

**PROFESSOR
ARYA AMIRIE**

Iran Expert and Former Kent State Faculty Member

TIME/PLACE:

**Tuesday, April 20, 2010,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

nium while not permitting full IAEA oversight of its nuclear program, and provided material support to the Taliban and other terrorist organizations. Prof. Amirie will bring his unique experiences and knowledge to help clarify Iran's present situation and provide perspective on what we may expect in the future.

From humble beginnings in Central Iran, as an entrepreneur at the age of nine who raised lambs to subsidize his school expenses, Arya

A. Amirie rose to international prominence as a consultant to one of the most powerful political leaders in the Middle East as well as to the leader of the free world.

In December of 1957, Amirie journeyed to New York with \$630.00 in his pocket and an English vocabulary of fewer than 40 words. Set on a higher education, he far exceeded his initial expectations by earning a Ph.D., a professorship and the honor of delivering the Commencement Address to the 1975 graduating class of his alma mater.

Teaching at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, Dr. Amirie formed a KSU student group, which traveled to his native Iran where they studied for a year. That endeavor led to his establishing an international research center to advise the Shah on foreign policy. Through an incredible series of daring events, Amirie returned to the U.S., teaching at UCLA and advising President Ronald Reagan on Middle Eastern affairs. ■

MARCH MEETING REVIEW

Why India Matters: Past, Present and Future

By Deborah Pearce, Secretary, Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council

Sanjay Puri, President of the Alliance for U.S. India Business in Washington, D.C., identifies the period between independence in 1947 through the end of the Cold War in 1991 as India's past. According to Puri, the present



didn't begin for India until 1992 when the country ran out of foreign reserves and was forced to recreate its political and socioeconomic policies.

Mr. Puri's presentation coincided with a historic date in India's history. March 18, 1922, marked the anniversary of the first prison sentence for Mahatma Gandhi, an event which set the independence movement in motion. After achieving



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MARCH MEETING REVIEW

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independence in 1947, India officially became a member of the Non-Alignment Movement; however, the young Asian nation found economic and political support in the Soviet Union. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 forced India to open its economy and culture to the world.

Economic reform after 1992 transformed India into one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Between 1947 and 1992, economic growth averaged only 1.5%. Since 1992, economic growth has averaged 7%. Today, India is on track to double its GDP every nine years. The privatization of public companies, the growth of international investments, and the perceived threat of Y2K have helped India to become the technological center of the 21st Century.

Over the past 63 years, India has experienced four wars; three of which were against Pakistan in 1947, 1965, and 1971 and one against China in 1962. In the 1960s, the United States developed an alliance with Pakistan to counter the pro-Soviet India and sent the Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal after India took military action against Pakistan in 1971. More recently, India has experienced terrorist attacks against her Parliament in 2001 and a four day siege in Mumbai in 2008 that resulted in the loss of 173 lives.

Since her independence, the Indian government has had a legacy of corruption and problems. Federalism is breaking apart. Federal or regional political parties are taking hold, and in some states have more power than New Delhi. According to businessman, Rahul Bajaj of Bajaj Motors, the physical and social infrastructure of India, roads, education, health, and water, are more im-

portant than political reform. But change is slow in a democracy that follows the rules of law.

While the nation's economy is growing, it still struggles with poverty and illiteracy. Nearly 60% of India's population is rural and agriculture accounts for 16% of the nation's GDP. The nation is in desperate need of educational reform. Even educated people lack the skills needed in the evolving economy. The nation is looking to redefine its technological industry and international trade. The unveiling of the \$2500 Nano car is an example of India's industrial global future.

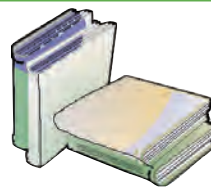


Nothing can stop India's march to progress. By 2030, India will be the most populous and youngest nation in the world with over 500 million people under the age of 25. Today, India boasts a tremendous economic advantage with 1.2 billion opportunities held in the education and potential income of the nation's youth. India's largest trading partners, the United States and China, cross political extremes and she holds the fourth largest economy in the world in purchasing power, coming in behind the United States, China, and Japan.

While many nations have growing populations, rapidly expanding economies, and possess nuclear weapons, India matters. With the second largest Muslim population in the world, India can show the world what coexistence looks like. Surrounded by Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, India must constantly worry about her neighbors coming into the country and creating instability. As the only democracy in the region, India's stability should be a priority for U.S. security. If democracy and peace in the multicultural nation of India can take hold, India will help to secure peace for the world. ■

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor



Jonathan Phillips, *Holy Warriors: A Modern History of the Crusades*, Random House, 2010. Starting with Pope Urban II's groundbreaking speech in November of 1095, in which he called for the recovery of Jerusalem from Islam by the First Crusade, the author traces the centuries' long conflict between two of

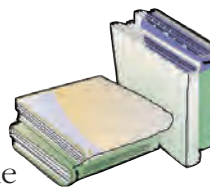
the world's great faiths. Relying on songs, sermons, narratives, and letters of the period, Phillips reveals how the success of the First Crusade inspired generations of kings to campaign for their own glory and set down a marker for the knights of Europe. In the Muslim world, early attempts to call a jihad fell upon

deaf ears until the charisma of the Sultan Saladin brought the struggle to a climax. This book also discusses how the term "crusade" survived into the modern era. Eric Ormsby has commented, "This book is alive with extravagantly varied figures, from popes both dither-

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NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

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ing and decisive to vociferous abots and conniving kings; saints rub shoulders with ‘flea pickers.’ If Richard the Lion Hearted and Saladin dominate the account, there are also vivid cameos of the formidable Queen Melisende of Jerusalem and her rebellious sister Alice of Antioch. As the (author) notes, ‘holy war’ was as often as not waged against co-religionists: Catholics against Cathars, Sunnis against Shiites. In the rigid, polarized mentality of the holy warrior, any deviation can signify a dangerous otherness. This is the best recent history of the Crusades; it is also an astute depiction of a frightening cast of mind.” Phillips is Professor of Crusading History at Royal Holloway, University of London. (Sources: Amazon.com, Eric Ormsby, “*Butchers and Saints: Two Centuries of Religious Combat*,” *The New York Times*, March 14, 2010.)

Jim Frederick, *Black Hearts: One Platoon’s Descent into Madness in Iraq’s Triangle of Death*, Harmony, 2010. The Triangle of Death featured improvised explosives that made every sortie by members of the 101st Airborne Division an exercise in terror surrounded by a civilian population indistinguishable from the death dealing armed militias. With too few men to mount proper patrols and suicide car bombings and videotaped beheadings circulating, every soldier had to endure constant stress and resist hating the very people they were charged with protecting. Relying on interviews with soldiers and Iraqis, journals, letters, classified reports

and investigations, the author carefully reconstructs the events that led to the breakdown of the 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, when four soldiers raped and killed an Iraqi girl and murdered her family. War atrocities are as old as Achilles rage and why particular soldiers succumb to madness and surrender their honor, while others do not, remains a mystery. Still, the author answers the questions he can, plumbing 1st Platoon’s psychological isolation, a consequence of having three of their leaders killed within two weeks, the resulting disarray compounded by a leadership vacuum and by constant, invidious comparisons by senior officers with Bravo’s other platoons. The heightened sense of self-pity, the belief that they faced unevenly distributed risks and the perceived disrespect or indifference of high command – all of these factors created the conditions that led to an unspeakable crime. While never absolving the four perpetrators of their individual responsibility, the author makes clear that the atrocity had identifiable antecedents and spreads blame much wider than four out-of-control GIs. Bing West, a former colleague who has been in and has written extensively about combat and war has stated, “Every military leader should read *Black Hearts*. With empathy and clear eyed understanding, Frederick reveals why some men fail in battle, and how others struggle to redeem themselves.” Joshua Hammer in reviewing this book noted, “Frederick’s extraordinary book is a testament to a misconceived war, and to the ease with

which ordinary men, under certain conditions, can transform into monsters.” (Sources: Amazon.com, Kirkus reviews, Joshua Hammer, “*Death Squad*,” *The New York Times*, March 14, 2010)

Frederic Wehrey, Dalia Dassa Kaye, Jessica Watkins, Jeffrey Martini, and Robert A. Guffey, *The Iraq Effect: The Middle East After the Iraq War*, The Rand Corporation, 2010. This monograph considers a multitude of effects brought about by the invasion of Iraq by the United States. Close to seven years after the invasion, the Middle East is a region in flux. Regardless of the outcome, the ongoing conflict has shaped the surrounding strategic landscape in ways that are likely to be felt for decades. The Iraq War’s reverberations in the region are broad, affecting relations between states, political and societal dynamics inside states, the calculations of terrorists and paramilitaries, and shifts in the public views of American credibility. The balance sheet of these changes does not bode well for long-term U.S. objectives. A better understanding of how Middle Eastern states and non-state actors are responding to the war’s aftermath can help contribute to U.S. policies that may better contain and ameliorate the negative consequences of the conflict and perhaps increase U.S. leverage. This study provides findings from the field and suggests a number of policy incentives toward these ends. (Source: rand.org for a free download of the study and its findings.) ■

WorldQuest Competition

On March 16th, from 5:00pm - 6:00pm, the Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council hosted its first Academic WorldQuest competition which is a Flagship Program of the World Affairs Council. It is a team game testing competitors' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture. The World Affairs Councils of America started the national competition in Washington, DC in March 2003.

Congratulations to the students from Lakewood and Standley Lake High School. Both teams will be traveling to Washington, DC for the April 24th national competition. The competitors for the Lakewood team, sponsored by the Denver World Affairs Council, are **Alex Adamczyk, Will Crimmins, James Mackey, Trevor Marsden, and Sohan Punatar**. The Standley Lake High School team members, sponsored by the Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council, are **Charlena Chhay, Sheridan Classick, Daniel Kim, and Andrew Lasda**.

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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.



Newsletter Design: Brenn Lea Pearson

The Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council (CFWAC) 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: CFWAC 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.