

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Mr. Puri is a noted authority on U.S.-India relations. He is well recognized for his consistent



work and his dedication to promoting U.S.-India business relations. Mr. Puri serves as the Founder and Chairman of the U.S.-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC), a bipartisan political action group representing more than 2.7 million Indian Americans. He is also the Founder-CEO of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), which promotes U.S.-India business relations. AUSIB hosted the first ever Congressional U.S.-India Renewable Energy Conference on Capitol Hill and has led

INDIA Past, Present, and Future

SANJAY PURI

**Founder and Chairman of the
U.S.-India Political Action
Committee (USINPAC) and
Founder-CEO of the Alliance
for U.S.-India Business**

TIME/PLACE:

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

delegations of business and political leaders to India. His thought-provoking insights have been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Times*, on ABC News, Nightline, PBS, CNN, NPR, Voice of

America and in testimony to the U.S. Congress.

With over 1.1 billion people, India is the world's second most populous country and is widely expected to overtake China within the next 30 years to become the most populous. Since 1947 when India gained its independence from Britain, it has been the world's largest democracy. Most recently, India has become a world economic power, with growth over the past three years averaging 8% - a rate approaching that of its booming neighbor, China. Based on purchasing power parity, it is now the world's fourth largest economy.

Mr. Puri will provide a brief overview of India's past, focusing on India's emerging role in the world today and tomorrow, both politically and economically. ■

FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW

An Earth Quake of Change for Haiti **Lt. Colonel Vic Tise (Army, Ret.)**

By Deborah Pearce, Secretary, Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council

The largest natural disaster per capita in history hit the island nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010. The 7.0 earthquake displaced well over 3 million people and killed an estimated 300,000. The January earthquake has resulted in a multinational effort to bring humanitarian aid to this impoverished nation. And it marks the second time in 15 years that the United States' 82nd Airborne Division has been deployed to Haiti. According to Lt. Colonel Vic Tise, Haiti is a vibrant, volatile and violent land. The



people of Haiti have persevered through a very turbulent past, but only time will tell how the nation will emerge as a result of the recent disaster.

The island of Haiti was inhabited by Taino and Arawkan peoples before being colonized by the Spanish following the landing of Christopher Columbus in December of 1492. The Spanish renamed the island Española or Hispaniola. During the 1600s, French pirates raided Spanish ships and established a colony on the island of Tortuga. In 1664, the French West India Company took control of the western part of Hispaniola, which it named Saint-Domingue. As the plantation economy thrived, the importation of African slaves increased.

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FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW

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Slave revolts were common and eventually led to revolution and the independence of Haiti in 1804.

Over the past two hundred years, the island nation has experienced political instability, violence, corruption and miserable poverty. During the four year period between 1990 and 1994, Haiti had seven different presidents. A Task Force from the United States' 82nd Airborne Division occupied one wing of the Haitian palace from 1995 to 1996, providing security to the palace and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as part of the United Nations Mission in Haiti. But U.S. presence in Haiti dates back even further. U.S. forces first deployed to Haiti 95 years ago when U.S. Marines occupied the island nation from 1915 to 1934. The mission of the Marines during that period was to maintain peace, protect U.S. interests and assist the government in reestablishing stability following a barbaric coup against their sitting president.

Decades have passed, yet if one were to read articles found in National Geographic, Foreign Affairs, or even the Marine Corps' Leatherneck Magazine about life in Haiti written in the 1920's or 30's, and compare those articles to those found in the same magazines today, one would find virtually no difference. French-speaking urban mulattos hold economic and political power over the Creole-speaking rural black community. The government perpetuates the low level of education as a means of maintaining low expectations for government services. Trash dumps are piled on street corners where their putrid contents are left to decompose. Primitive hand carts

are still used to transport goods to market and extreme gaps in income divide the racially segregated population.

The greatest resource in Haiti is its people who possess great personal talent and eternal hope for their future. Haitians are a proud, talented and intelligent, yet illiterate people due to a lack of education. The nation's youth crave knowledge. On a recent visit, Lt. Colonel Vise reported seeing a bright light glowing in the darkened city of Port-au-Prince. The government does not have the resources to keep the city lit at night. Curiosity drove Vise to investigate the mysterious light. The illumination was coming from a Shell gas station that had invested in the additional electricity for security reasons. Although the gas station was closed, the pavement was crowded with college students studying under the only available light in the city. Their personal sacrifice for education was made more pronounced when family members arrived to deliver dinner to the hungry students.

Can the devastation of the recent earthquake bring the nations of the world together in a common effort to help Haiti and also bring change to modernize the socio-economic and political infrastructure of this tiny island of "unimaginable misery"? According to Vic Tise, the most practical solution for Haiti is to demolish the city of Port-au-Prince and rebuild from the ground up. The rebuilding effort will require the international assistance of resources and capital. The bigger question for Haiti is who will step up to lead this developing country into the 21st century.

To learn more, read *Haiti: Best Nightmare on Earth* by Herbert Gold. ■

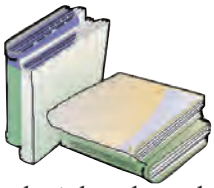


April 20th Meeting

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

Presented by:

Professor Arya Amirie



NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Joel Richard Paul, *Unlikely Allies: How a Merchant, a Playwright, and a Spy Saved the American Revolution*, Penguin Group (USA), 2009. This book is the story of three remarkable historical figures. Silas Deane was a Connecticut merchant and delegate to the Continental Congress as the colonies began their break with England. Caron de Beaumarchais was a successful playwright who wrote *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. The mysterious Chevalier d'Eon, an officer, diplomat, and sometime spy was the talk of London and Paris. When Deane was sent to France to convince the French government to support the revolutionary cause, he enlisted the help of Beaumarchais. Together, they successfully smuggled weapons, ammunition, and supplies to New England just in time for the crucial Battle of Saratoga. This battle turned the tide of the American Revolution. The Chevalier d'Eon provided the catalyst for Louis XVI's support of the Americans against England. The Chevalier decided to declare herself a woman and helped to lead to the French-American alliance. These three people spun a web of political intrigue and international politics that stretched across the oceans as they rebounded from Versailles to Georgian London to the Pennsylvania State House. Each man had his own reasons for wanting to see America triumph over the British, and each contended daily with the certainty that no one was what they seemed. The line between friends and enemies was blurred, spies

lurked in every corner and the only way to survive was to trust no one. William Taubman, author of *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era*, offered comments about this book. "Ever tire of worshipful accounts of the Founding Fathers' wisdom and fortitude? Then try this wonderful book about how an American businessman and two Frenchmen, a dramatist and a spy, came to their aid. A rollicking romp as well as a serious history, it reminds us of the role of duplicity, hypocrisy and corruption, and of human frailty and chance, in safeguarding the American Revolution." (Sources: Publisher's synopsis, William Taubman.)

P. W. Singer, *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century*, Penguin, December 29, 2009. In this book, the author explores the phenomenal growth in military power brought about by the introduction of robotic technology. In the author's own words, "A robotics revolution may well be at hand. I need to be clear here. I am not talking about the fact that you need to watch out for the Governor of California showing up at your door. This is a different kind of robot revolution. Indeed, when historians look back at this period they are going to conclude that we are at the start of the greatest revolution in warfare since the introduction of the atomic bomb." At this time, we are just beginning to see a shift in military technology that threatens to make the fantasy of *I, Robot* and the *Terminator* all too real. More than seven thousand robotic systems are

now in Iraq. Pilots in Nevada are remotely killing terrorists in Afghanistan. Scientists are debating just how smart and how lethal to make their current robotic prototypes. Blending historic evidence with interviews from the field, Singer shows that as these technologies multiply, they will have profound effects on the front lines as well as on the politics back home. Moving humans off the battlefield makes wars easier to start, but more complex to fight. Replacing men with machines may save some lives, but will lower the morale and psychological barriers to killing. Paradoxically, the new technologies will also bring war to our doorstep. As other nations and even terrorist organizations start to build or buy their own robotic weapons, the robot revolution could undermine America's military pre-eminence. By the same token, one could argue that in a sense the pilots flying aircraft into the World Trade Center on 9/11 were robots. (Sources: Brookings Institution, Publisher's notes.)

Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace....One School at a Time*, Penguin Group (USA), January, 2007. The author's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second highest mountain, is one of those failures which led to a phenomenal success. After his climb, he became very ill and was sheltered for seven weeks in the small Pakistani village of Korphe. In return, Mortenson promised

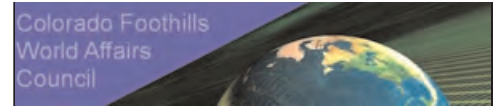
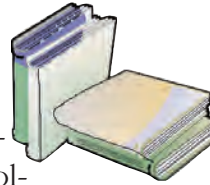
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NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

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to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute. This organization has since constructed more than fifty schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. Co-author Relin recounts Mortenson's efforts in detail, presenting compelling portraits of the village elders, con artists, philanthropists, mujahedeen, Taliban officials, ambitious school girls and upright Muslims Mortenson met along the way. As the book moves into the post 9/11 world, the authors argue that the U.S. must fight Islamic extrem-

ism in the region through collaborative efforts to alleviate poverty and improve access to education, especially for girls. Similar steps were left undone at the end of the war against Russia financed by Charley Wilson. Mr. Wilson has subsequently argued to the effect that the U.S. messed up at the end of his war when the Russians abandoned Afghanistan. His actual words were delivered much more succinctly. (Sources: *Publishers Weekly*, Barnes and Noble Bookstores) ■



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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.