

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Two decades ago Brazil had a debt that made some Third World countries blush, but today it has the world's eighth largest economy, poised to overtake France. It has achieved energy independence and, with the discovery of the largest oil field in the last century, is becoming a major exporter of crude oil to the United States. With its successful bid for the 2016 Olympics, Brazil, at last, is ready to take its place on the world stage.

Mr. Rohter provides the first modern look at today's Brazil, uncovering:

- how Brazilians handle the burden of being custodians of the Amazon rainforest;
- Brazil's latest exports, from the samba, supermodels, and soccer, to airplane parts;
- the myth of Brazil's sexually charged culture, with three-quarters of the population devoutly Roman Catholic;



BRAZIL ON THE RISE: THE STORY OF A COUNTRY TRANSFORMED

LARRY ROHTER

**Reporter,
*The New York Times***

TIME/PLACE:

**Tuesday, September 21, 2010,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

- how drug-controlled favelas thrive amidst the world's highest standard of living.

Brazil continues to be a country fraught with contradictions which Rohter reveals through interviews with every important political, business, cultural, and religious leader on the scene. Critics have said that he knows the country better than Brazilians themselves.

Larry Rohter served as a *Newsweek* correspondent and later as *The New York Times* bureau chief in Rio de Janeiro for fourteen years. Previously, he was Caribbean and Latin American correspondent of the Times from 1994 to 1999. Today, he is widely considered the top expert on Brazil. Currently he is the culture reporter for *The New York Times*. He lives in Hoboken, NJ. ■

MAY MEETING REVIEW

Renewable Energy: A Global Perspective and NREL's Evolving Role

Robert Noun, Executive Director, NREL

By Deborah Pearce, Secretary,
Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council

Robert J. Noun is the chief spokesman for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the nation's principal center for research and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Mr. Noun pointed out that the world is a different place than it was in 1977 when President Carter opened the solar laboratory in Golden. There



Glance at Upcoming Programs

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Paul Brinkley on "Opportunities for Economic Revitalization in Iraq and Afghanistan"

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Peter David on "U.S. Foreign Policy after the Elections"

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MAY MEETING REVIEW

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is a direct correlation between the world price of oil and demand for renewable energy. When oil and gas prices plummeted in the 1980s, the renewable market experienced a disappointing loss in investments. With increasing concern over dependence on foreign oil, the U.S. recognized the need for clean and affordable fuel alternatives. During a 2006 visit to NREL, President George W. Bush displayed some skepticism about the potential for renewable energy to replace oil and gas when he asked, "What can we really expect?" To which the reply came, "How much do you want?" The cost to produce renewable energy continues to go down as technology improves and the capacity to produce far exceeds current levels of production.

Between 2000 and 2008 the demand for renewable electricity grew substantially worldwide. Over the last decade, there have been significant technological advances in wind, solar, thermal, and biomass power. Driven by new technology and increases in manufacturing scale and sophistication, installed renewable electronic technology is on the rise in the United States, Germany and across Europe, China, Brazil, Japan, Indonesia, and Mexico.

It is critical that research be linked to market opportunities and supported with sustainable policies. First and foremost, we must sustain healthy investments in research and development with an emphasis on next generation technology. Currently, there is no comprehensive national policy to promote energy independence. While individual states have enacted renewable portfolio standards, federal guidelines could be used to increase competition, efficiency and innovations. The national infrastructure needs to be updated for the transportation of electrons from one region to another. While biomass is available everywhere, careful attention must be given to the mapping of prime wind and solar energy locations.

Collaboration with industrial markets is critical. Research conducted with industry partners accelerates the availability of new technology. We must continue to improve building technologies to reduce energy consumption. Computer based design tools are being employed to cut construction costs and save energy.

There is a transformational change taking place around the globe and wind power is becoming a big success. By 2030, 20% of our electricity will be supplied

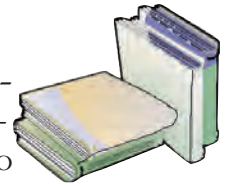


by wind. Boulder, Colorado is home to the world's largest wind technology center where research is conducted to improve off-shore wind installations, ensure structural stability and improve weather forecasting. At the same time, advances are made to photo-voltaics, concentrating solar power, reducing the cost of materials, increasing efficiency and developing effective night-time storage. Bio-fuels are improved rapidly and will be competitive with gasoline in only a few years. ■

NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

David Halberstam, *The Coldest Winter - America and the Korean War*, Hyperion, 2007. This book is a successor to *The Best and The Brightest*, by this author, who called the Korean War "the black hole in modern American history". The author provides a detailed narrative of the political decisions and miscalculations on both sides. His initial emphasis is on the Chinese entry into the war by deploying massive numbers of soldiers. American intelligence officers and General MacArthur in particular did not believe that the Chinese would enter the conflict, particularly after the success of the Americans in landing at Inchon behind North Korean forces. It appears that the intelligence staff was providing reports that reinforced MacArthur's opinions rather than reflecting the situation as it existed. The author describes many of the battles in the terrible terrain of the Korean Peninsula. He also provides commentary and descriptions of actions by many of the high level individuals such as Eisenhower, Truman, Acheson, Kim Il Sung, Mao tse Tung as well as American general officers (MacArthur, Ridgeway, Almond). As Halberstam notes, "Korea would not prove a great national war of unifying singular purpose as World War II, nor would it, like Vietnam a generation later, divide and haunt the nation. It was simply a puzzling, gray, very distant conflict, a war that went on and on, seemingly without hope or resolution, about which most Americans, save the men who fought there and their immediate families preferred to know as little as possible." At the time there was no television coverage, and when TV did emerge viewers tended to watch entertainment



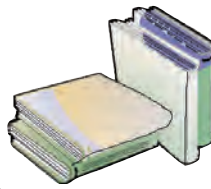
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NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS

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shows. TV news lasted 15 minutes and most of the coverage was provided by the print media. Many insist that the North Koreans paid close attention to a speech by Dean Acheson, where he failed to mention that Korea was part of America's Far East Defense Perimeter. On June 25, 1950, the North Korean Army crossed the 38th parallel with a force of about 135,000 troops. For years both sides fought back and forth, up and down the peninsula. On July 27, 1953, a cease fire agreement was signed between North Korea and the U.S. The border established under this agreement was very close to the original line at the 38th parallel. It was estimated that the war cost 33,000 American, 415,000 South Koreans, and up to 1.5 million Chinese and North Korean lives. The "police action" was dominated by infantry units (ground pounders), artillery, and some air support. MacArthur ran the war by remote control from Tokyo. Has the United States ever learned the lessons of the Korean police action? (Sources, *The Coldest Winter*, *Publishers Weekly*.)

Jonathan Schneer, *The Balfour Declaration: The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Random House, 2010. In November 1917, the British government stated that it would "view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." It was a brief statement which received little attention at the time. Since then, Zionists have regarded it as a declaration of the Jewish right to create an independent Jewish state. For Arabs, it is viewed as an outrageous case of imperialist manipulation and betrayal. The author recounts the public and private battles in the early 1900s for a small strip of land in the Middle East, battles that started when the governing Ottoman Empire took Germany's side in World War I. Arab nationalists, backed by Britain fought for their future. Zionists in England battled diplomatically for influence. Neither side nor most members of the British government knew that Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, was telling Turkey that she could keep her flag flying over the disputed territory if only she would agree to a separate peace. There were many key players involved including Sharif Hussein, an Arab leader who secretly sought British support; Chaim Weizmann, Zionist hero who charmed British high society; T.E. Lawrence, the British officer who "set the desert on fire"



for the Arabs; and Basil Zaharoff, the arms dealer who shed blood and cut deals to grab or give away the precious land. Tom Segev, in his review of this book summarized the impact of the British action. "The Balfour Declaration thus finds its place among a multitude of fruitless schemes and indulgent fantasies, except of course, that in this case, surprisingly the British by and large kept their word. For at least two decades they allowed the Zionist movement to bring hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants into Palestine, and these new arrivals set up hundreds of settlements including several towns, as well as the political, economic, military and cultural infrastructure of the future state of Israel. But if Israel's existence originated with the British, so did the Palestinians' tragedy. The Balfour Declaration was only the opening chapter of a still unfinished story." (Sources: Booklist, Publishers notes, Tom Segev, "View with Favor," *New York Times*, August 20, 2010.)

Stephan Salisbury, *Mohamed's Ghosts: An American Story of Love and Fear in the Homeland*, Nation Books, 2010. Practicing Muslims across the United States have been harassed, arrested and deported, especially after September 11, 2001. The author is a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and has spent the past decade documenting the breadth and depth of the domestic campaign against Arabs, the overwhelming majority of whom are here legally. His angry and disturbing narrative is built around the May 27, 2004 raid of the Ansaarullah Islamic Society, a Philadelphia mosque. Mohamed Ghorab had no hint one late spring morning in May 2004 that when he dropped his daughter off at school, his life would change forever. Federal agents and police surrounded him in front of terrified parents, teachers, and school children. They hustled him off to jail and eventually deported him. His wife was detained at the same time. Moments later, agents raided the obscure mosque where Ghorab was Imam, ransacking its simple interior and his house next door. Over the next months, members of this congregation would be arrested and detained, interrogated and watched. The mosque collapsed under overwhelming debt and anxiety. Similar actions by the U.S. Government

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NEWS & SUGGESTED READINGS *(Continued)*

were taken in Brooklyn, Lodi California, and elsewhere. Salisbury is constantly reminded of similar incidents in his own past—the paranoia and police activity that surrounded his political involvement in the 1960s. Government surveillance and informing also dogged his father, Harrison Salisbury, a well known *New York Times* reporter and editor. The younger Salisbury weaves these events together into a personal portrait of an America fracturing under the intense pressure of the war on terror. Steve Weinberg comments, “It will be interesting to see whether Salisbury’s impassioned expose will lead to less harassment of Arab-Americans across the United States. If his book and other documentation fail to make a difference, U.S. citizens in every locale, of all non-mainstream religious and political persuasions might find intolerance and due process of law violations spreading into their own lives.” (Sources: Publishers notes, Steve Weinberg, “*Anger on a Solid Foundation*,” *Star-Tribune*, May 2, 2010.)



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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: Ned Biggs, P.O. Box 1602, Evergreen, CO 80437-1602.



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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, Ned Biggs, 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.