



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

OUR UPCOMING MEETING



Thousands of Russians, frustrated by the sharp economic decline, turned out this year for anti-government

protests. While frustration is understandable, the Russian government is taking serious steps to ensure long-term economic stability. From continuing privatization to encouraging foreign investment, Russia's top officials see economic modernization as a key to the country's future. The person who is responsible to make this happen is First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov. Along with several other Western investors and analysts, Mr. Connor recently met with Shuvalov to discuss his vision for Russia's economic future. What he heard was a realistic analysis of what has hampered Russia's progress and pragmatic plans for overcoming those challenges.

Mr. Connor is the Founder and Portfolio Manager of the Third Millennium Russia Fund, a U.S. based mutual fund specializing in the equities of Russian public companies. Since inception in October, 1998, the Fund has grown at an annual compound rate of 27%. In 2002, it was listed as America's 2nd best performing emerging market fund.

Mr. Connor is also a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Audit Committee for SwissFone, an Irish company based in Washington, D.C. He was the President of Mail.ru, Russia's leading Internet portal with over seven million registered users, where he remains an Officer and Director on the Board. Previous positions in-

RUSSIA'S NEW FOCUS ON ECONOMIC STABILITY

JOHN T. CONNOR

**Founder and Portfolio Manager of
the Third Millennium Russia Fund**

TIME/PLACE:

**Tuesday, April 19, 2011,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

clude being the head of the U.S.-USSR Trade & Economic Council in Moscow and the Deputy Director of the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of East-West Trade.

After beginning his career as an attorney at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City, he advanced as a partner in leading law firms in New York, Washington D.C. and New Jersey. Mr. Connor is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American

Law Institute. He graduated from Williams College, Phi Beta Kappa, with highest honors, after which he taught on a Fulbright grant at Fergusson College in Pune, India. He is also a graduate of Harvard Law School. ■



MARCH MEETING REVIEW

By Jessea Christensen,
Student at Standley Lake High School

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: My Life and Captivity in Iran

Roxana Saberi, Author and Journalist

Roxana Saberi is a first generation American who visited her father's home country of Iran and was arrested and convicted for being a "spy." She spent one hundred days in Evin Prison and once she was re-

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MARCH MEETING REVIEW *(Continued)*

leased became the author of the book *Between Two Worlds: My Life in Captivity in Iran*.

Saberi grew up in Fargo, North Dakota with her Japanese mother and Iranian father. She earned a scholarship to North Western University and later a Rotarian scholarship to Cambridge in England. She began working as a freelance journalist and in 2003 began her adventure in Tehran contributing to NPR and ABC radio.

Living in Iran for six years, she acknowledges the many misconceptions Americans and Iranians hold for one another. While women lost many of their rights following the Islamic Revolution in 1979, approximately 30 percent of all Iranian journalists are female and they are very outspoken. While women's rights have improved recently, they still may only receive half the inheritance of their male counterparts and a woman's testimony is weighed as only half that of a man's in a court of law. In order to understand the complexity of Iranian society, Saberi

decided to leave the inner city, live among the people and write a book on Iranian culture.

In 2006, Iran increased restrictions on journalism, but Saberi continued to interview individuals for her book for another two years, and prepared to leave Iran. Then her life was suddenly changed.

On January 31, 2009 four intelligence agents knocked on her apartment door and took her away, accusing her of espionage; Evin Prison was their destination. Alone in her cell, her only reading material was a copy of the Koran and a quote on the wall which stated, "Prisons must be colleges for human improvement." It became unbearable, being cut off from the outside and the interrogators made her wish she'd never been born. Saberi detailed being blindfolded, stripped down to nothing but her socks, and led down a hallway to an interrogation room by at least four male guards who attempted to force her to confess – something she eventually did.

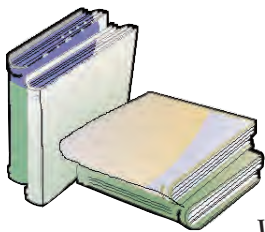
Saberi was coerced into videotaping her confession under the false promise that she would be released. Befriended by other female prisoners, she identifies the women in prison as true heroes; women who were innocent of any major crime, and maintained courage and support for one another. Saberi told her interrogators that she wished to recant her confession, but they already knew it was all false. She was given an 8 year sentence.

When her captivity became known, approximately 30,000 letters were sent to the Iranian government, along with 10,000 signatures on Facebook, opposing her incarceration. The Iranian government had no choice but to release her after one hundred days. She was later contacted by a publisher to write *Between Two Worlds: My Life in Captivity in Iran* about her confinement, experience, and the women she met. She still intends to write the book she was originally interviewing Iranian citizens for when she was taken captive. ■



SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor



Ron Rosenbaum, *How the End Begins - The Road to a Nuclear World War III*, Simon & Schuster, 2011. The

author examines the potential for and consequences of a nuclear conflict in this sobering study. Drawing on decades of study in the field, Rosenbaum points to a new world that will feature multiple nuclear powers that could pose a threat leading to a regional nuclear conflict that might escalate and involve other nations on a global scale. Nuclear weapons in the hands of regimes such as Pakistan, North Korea, or Iran are not the author's only concern. He worries about Russia and its nuclear forces. In addition, he argues that the Obama administration's

new START treaty preserves a dangerous status quo. Propelled by his advocacy to abolish nuclear weapons, Rosenbaum interviewed former and current military officials, academic strategists and philosophers, who ponder the reliability of nuclear command and control as well as contingencies that could involve the use of nuclear weapons. He is sympathetic to arguments that deterrence is an unstable mind game that is destined to fail. Richard Rhodes (author of *The Twilight of the Bombs*) has reviewed this book and notes, "When Rosenbaum

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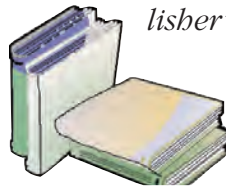
SUGGESTED READINGS

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turns to the Middle East as a hot center of nuclear danger, however, he hits his stride. He's already explored the question of the morality of deterrence, of threatening to kill millions of people in a retaliatory nuclear attack if the United States were struck with nuclear weapons. He's noted that the World Court in 1996 adjudged 'that the entire system of nuclear deterrence was a war crime.' That may be so, Rosenbaum acknowledges, but what is Israel, in particular, to do? ... Israel has assembled a substantial if unacknowledged nuclear arsenal. An attack by a nuclear-armed regional enemy – perhaps Iran – could materialize without effective warning, and only a few nuclear weapons would be enough to destroy the country. Israel has therefore deployed nuclear cruise missiles on a small fleet of German-made submarines that reportedly patrol the Iranian coast. The submarines give Israel a secure second strike capability, which deterrence theory predicts should be adequate to prevent a rational enemy from attacking. But what if deterrence fails?" (Sources: *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, Amazon.com, Richard Rhodes, "Counting Down to Nuclear War," *New York Times*, March 6, 2011.)

Liel Leibovitz and Matthew Miller, *Fortunate Sons: The 120 Chinese Boys Who Came to America, Went to School, and Revolutionized an Ancient Civilization*, W. W. North & Company, 2011. One hundred fifty years ago, ruling Chinese elites were turning to outside events. In 1872, under the auspices of the Chinese Educational Mission, 120 Chinese boys were sent to the U.S. to attend New England's finest colleges. The objective for these students was to absorb the best this country could offer, and return to enrich China with their experiences and knowledge. Not all of the boys were able to contribute to this admirable objective right away. In her review of this book, Deborah Fallows commented extensively, "On their return to China, many of these young men struggled to find a proper role, or even a measure of stability. One of Yung Wing's nephews, Yung Leang, a skilled orator at Hartford High, had just enrolled in college when the exchange program was abruptly halted.

Arriving back in China in the fall of 1881, he and his companions were arrested because they could no longer speak Mandarin well enough to explain their long absence. Despite being ill-suited to military life, he was sent for naval training and emerged as an improbable hero of the (losing) Battle of Foochow against French warships in 1884.... Chung Mun Yew, who became a coxswain of the Yale rowing team, gained a small measure of vindication years later when, back in America as a diplomat, he met a scoffing Harvard graduate who bet he had never even seen a university boat race. 'It is true that I had never seen a Harvard crew row,' Chung replied. "They were always behind me." Drawing on diaries, letters, and other first-person accounts, this book tells a remarkable tale. *Fortunate Sons* provides insight into the issues concerning that nation today, from its struggle toward economic supremacy to its fraught relationship with the United States. (Sources: *Booklist*, *Publisher's Notes*, Deborah Fallows, "The First Chinese Exchange Students," *New York Times*, March 6, 2011)

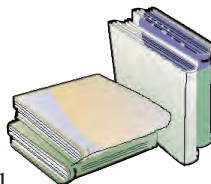


Bing West, *The Wrong War: Grit, Strategy, and the Way Out of Afghanistan*, Random House, 2011. Bing West made eight trips to Afghanistan to witness the Obama administration's counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy. The doctrine of counterinsurgency upends the military's most basic notion of itself. As a group of warriors, its basic mission is to destroy its enemies. Under COIN, victory will be achieved by protecting the local population and thereby rendering the insurgents irrelevant. Killing is a secondary mission. The main business of American soldiers is now building economies and political systems. The problem seems to be that the Afghans are not appreciative of the U.S. efforts under this doctrine. The Afghans are watching to see who wins in the end: the U.S. or the Taliban. Never ending battles indicate why idealistic theories about counterinsurgency have bogged us down for a decade. The official rhetoric denies reality. A fighter who understands strategy, Bing West builds the case for changing course. As long as we do most of the fighting, the Afghans will hold

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SUGGESTED READINGS

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back. Yet, it seems, that the Afghan military will crumble without U.S. combat troops on the scene. The author's solution is to remove most of the troops from Afghanistan; stop spending billions on the dream of a modern democracy; transition to a tough advisor corps, and insist the Afghans fight their own battles. According to Dexter Wilkins, "West is not the first to advocate such a course. But it's not that simple, as he well knows. Nothing in Afghanistan is. Nine years of training and investment have created an Afghan Army fraught with the same corruption and lack of cohesion as the rest of the country." Peter Galbraith has noted that you can't train someone to be honest. "At best, the Afghans are years away from taking over the bulk of the fighting. And even that is a very fragile hope." (Sources: *Publisher's Notes*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Dexter Wilkins*, "The Next Impasse," *New York Times*, February 27, 2011) ■

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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.



Newsletter Design: Brenn Lea Pearson

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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.