

OUR UPCOMING MEETING



During the 1990s, China and India were unleashed from Communist and Socialist regimes respectively. China's GDP grew at more than 10 percent per year and India's at 7-9 percent during the first decade of the 21st Century. Both are drastically increasing their use of all natural resources. Although China has large resources of its own, they are insufficient to fill the internal demand.

Because the world's mineral and energy resources are being strained to supply these exploding economies, the price of nearly every natural-resource commodity dramatically escalated between 2003 and 2008. Not only did the price of commodities increase, but the competition to simply obtain a share of these natural resources became intense. From cement, to petroleum, to precious metals; the scramble for a piece of the worldwide pie is in a state the world has never known. As world commodities such as oil reach their peak ability to produce and begin to decline, the world travels into unknown territory.

Colorado's mineral and energy industry produced \$15.5 billion in revenue in 2008. Because Colorado is so rich in natural resources, the pressure to produce this natural wealth will probably result in increasing

conflicts among various constituencies. The current severe decline in the price of energy and mineral commodities gives us the chance to develop a resource strategy for the future.

Dr. Vince Matthews became State Geologist and Director of the Colorado Geological Survey in 2004. He

received Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Geology from the University of Georgia, a Ph. D. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and is a graduate of the Stanford Executive Program. Dr. Matthews held tenured positions at two universities and has taught geology at the University of California, University of Northern Colorado, Arizona State University, the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

As an executive in the natural resources industry for Amoco, Lear, Union Pacific, and Penn Virginia; Matthews explored for oil & gas in virtually every basin in the U.S., including Alaska and the Gulf of

Mexico. Part of his experience in the natural resources industry included responsibility for coal, lime, and limestone activities in New Jersey, Virginia, and Tennessee. After more than two decades in the natural resources industry, he returned to academia in 1997, and then joined CGS in 2000. ■

GLOBAL SCRAMBLE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES: Its Potential Impact on America

DR. VINCENT MATTHEWS

**State Geologist and
Director of the Colorado
Geological Survey**

TIME/PLACE:

**Tuesday, January 18, 2011,
7:30 PM, Mount Vernon Country Club**

NOVEMBER MEETING REVIEW

By Jordyn Komoras, Sophomore at Golden High School



Peter David, Washington Bureau Chief for the *Economist*, presented his analysis on America's recent mid-term elections and the relationship between the economy and foreign policy. He contends that the results of the election may have some effect on Obama's attempt to implement new foreign policies. Mr. David asserts that the media hyperbole that America is losing ground as a world power is greatly exaggerated. He identified five factors that make up the fable of American decline; the U.S. military is overstretched, China will surpass the United States just as the U.S. surpassed Great Britain following World War II, America's allies are crumbling, the economy is failing, and partisan politics has led to gridlock.

In terms of military power, David acknowledges that the U.S. is still the strongest country in the world. Although facing the challenge of being uninvited liberators, the U.S. has managed to sustain two complex wars without a draft and little

cost to the American people. The military technology gap between the U.S. and other countries remains large and continues to grow. While the United States spends more than any other nation on the military, the military budget as a percentage of the GDP is small by international standards. David argues the United States is still the world's only military superpower capable of delivering decisive force to any place in the world and will remain so.

Some Americans fear that China is rising rapidly and will soon surpass the U.S. as the world's superpower. However, China remains poor with a low per capita GDP and many internal problems. As long as China struggles with an aging population, a declining workforce, internal migration and a disparity between urban and rural regions, the one party control keeps her facing inward. India and Japan have a strong economic presence and provide a complex balance of power in the region and they depend on the U.S. to counterbalance Chinese influence.



While the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have stretched America's alliances, international relations remain strong. The Obama administration has reset relations with Russia resulting in tougher sanctions on Iran. Taken together, America's enemies are a "ramshackle and dislocated lot." While new threats continue to surface, Mr. David asks "When was it any different?" The world is a dangerous and unpredictable place. While wealth and power are more evenly distributed, and Asia is reclaiming its position in the world, the United States remains the most powerful nation.

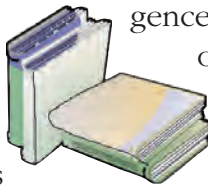
While no international alliance is poised to push the United States off its perch, Americans must be cognizant of the importance of economic growth, the challenges of a growing national debt while partisan politics create a distraction and prevent effectively addressing the nation's problems.

Peter David concludes that the U.S. should not be concerned regarding its position in the world. "The U.S. will never be an Empire or dominate the world, nor does it strive to." He continues, "America is the most powerful in a group of powers." ■

SUGGESTED READINGS

By Fred Nyland, News Editor

Christopher Dickey, *Securing the City; Inside America's Best Counterterrorism Force—the NYPD*, Simon & Schuster, 2010. The city of New York has one of the best global departments for fighting terrorists. Much of the credit for the establishment of this worldwide intelligence group goes to Commissioner of Police, Raymond W. Kelly. Preventing an attack on New York City would depend foremost on human intelli-



gence. He hired David Cohen, the CIA's former head of clandestine services as his Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence, and Michael Sheehan, a former Green Beret and counterterrorism expert, as his Deputy Commissioner for Counterterrorism. Freed from the bureaucratic restraints of Washington, Cohen built his 600 person unit with speed

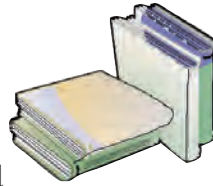
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SUGGESTED READINGS

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and efficiency and in a short time he had twice as many fluent Arabic speakers on his staff than the entire FBI. Many of his agents were foreign born and speak some 50 languages and dialects. These men and women are ideal operatives; they were local and did not have to go through the tightly controlled federal clearance procedures. The Pakistani or Afghani linguists on the NYPD are patrolling chat rooms in Peshawar or Kandahar, talking about the schools they went to and the streets they hung out on, gaining the trust of radical Web site users and administrators. They are able to infiltrate immigrant communities in Brooklyn or Bronx in a way that few federal agents can. The point of all this is to disrupt cells and prevent terrorism rather than to prosecute individuals. Jonathan Mahler, in his review, states, "*Securing the City* details some of the counterterrorism unit's most prominent successes, including the foiling of a plot hatched in Brooklyn to bomb the heavily trafficked Herald Square subway station. Relying partly on intelligence from an undercover Muslim agent in Bay Ridge, the Police Department arrested the two men responsible days before the 2004 Republican National Convention. The subsequent trial garnered a lot of attention in the press, and not all of it reflected well on Kelly and Cohen. Some civil libertarians argued that the department had exaggerated the seriousness of the plot, that the conspirators were inept and their plan was at best half-baked. Dickey points out, fairly, that even incompetent conspirators can be dangerous." (Sources: Washington Post, Jonathan Mahler, "*Cops and Bombers*," *New York Times*, Feb. 1, 2002, Amazon.com)

Douglas Brinkley, *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*, Harper Collins Publishers, Reprint Edition, 2010. "The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method." So wrote Theodore Roosevelt known as the naturalist President for his efforts in protecting wildlife and wilderness, merging preservation and patriotism into a quintessential American ideal. *The Wilderness Warrior*, Brinkley's biography explores the wilderness of influences (Audubon and Darwin), personal relationships (Muir and Pinchot), and



frontier adventures that shaped Roosevelt's proto-green views. How a city-born child became one of the great forces in conservation is the subject of this book. Though he grew up in Manhattan and was only 32 when the director of the 1890 census announced the death of the frontier, Roosevelt felt deeply for the age of the hunters and explorers for whom science, divine purpose and nation-building were all of a piece. Roosevelt decided at an early age that he was going to be a naturalist. His family was connected with various movements and people involved with animal rights, the American Museum of Natural History, and the creator of the ASPCA. Robert B. Roosevelt, an uncle, was an ichthyologist, a crusader against overfishing, and a womanizer who presented his conquests with green gloves (which gives a whole new meaning to going green). In Jonathan Rosen's review of this book, he states, "It is hard to know how useful Roosevelt remains as a political model. (His critics often had a point – Mark Twain, who liked Roosevelt personally, felt he was ready to 'kick the Constitution into the backyard whenever it gets in the way.')

What this book makes abundantly clear is that his inspiration, vision, and courage were as rare 100 years ago as they are today. It is a vital reminder of the key element of conservation, so often neglected: You cannot save what you do not love." (Sources: Amazon.com, *New Yorker*, Jonathan Rosen, "*Natural Man*," *New York Times*, August 9, 2009)

David Wessel, *In FED We Trust, Ben Bernanke's War on the Great Panic*, Crown Publishing Group, 2010. While the Constitution specifies three coequal branches of government, over the past three decades a fourth branch has emerged, the Federal Reserve. The single most important economic institution in the world, the Fed steers the \$13 trillion American economy by printing money and influencing the price of credit. In stable times it has a powerful yet unseen effect on the day-to-day life of every person in the world. But when things hit the fan, as they did in 2007 and 2008, the Fed is huge. It has great power, yet it is a distinctly undemocratic institution. Explaining what happened and why during the great panic of 2008, the author provides insight into how the Fed really works, and the fears Bernanke and other key

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SUGGESTED READINGS *(Continued)*

players dealt with as the economic car was about to go off the cliff. Wessel shows their reactions as they realized with each day how much worse things were. One reviewer, Paul Barrett stated, "If there's a villain looming over the Wessel version of why the government was so overwhelmed, it is Greenspan, who led the Federal Reserve from 1987 until 2006. As Wessel explains, Greenspan's strong libertarian leaning led him to scorn the control of bonus-crazed bankers and traders. Greenspan preached a free-market theory that the self-interest of large financial players would prevent the mischief that could bring markets crashing down. He encouraged the 'financial engineering' that created securities no one fully understood, and he helped shield the mad scientists of Wall Street from government restraints. Then in October 2008, Greenspan admitted to a House committee he had been, well, totally wrong: 'I made a mistake in presuming that the self-interest of organizations, specifically banks and others, were such that they were best capable of protecting their own shareholders.'" (Sources: Amazon.com, Paul M. Barrett, "While Regulators Slept," *New York Times*, August 9, 2009) ■

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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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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.