



THE DIPLOMAT

PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, INC.

Fall 2005

PAWAC

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Great Decisions Series Topics for 2006 Announced

The topics for the 2006 Great Decisions series have been announced.

UN reform

Both its supporters and critics recognize the United Nations as an organization in need of critical changes.

Disagreements about intervention in Iraq, the oil-for-food-scandal and management issues have fueled the debate about the UN's ability to take on global challenges. What reforms are needed to make the UN more effective?

The U.S. and Iran

The election of Iran's conservative president has raised concern that hardliners will shape policies against U.S. interests. How can the U.S. check Iran's influence in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in the region? How will the U.S. and the international community mitigate the crisis over Iran's nuclear ambitions?

Energy

Energy supply and consumption have a significant impact on U.S. politics and economy. Is reliance on Middle East oil

making the U.S. vulnerable to political influence and economic peril? How will the rapidly increasing consumption of energy by countries like China affect the U.S. and the world?

Brazil

After decades of economic volatility, Brazil is finally enjoying steady growth, despite a political scandal surrounding the administration of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Will Brazil continue on course toward stability? What impact will the scandal have on Brazil's economy, on its South American neighbors, and on the U.S.?

China and India

China and India have emerged on the world stage, after following different paths toward rapid economic growth. Will China and India work closer together or compete with each other to become major world powers? How will their growth affect the U.S. economy and strategic interests?

Human rights in an age of terrorism

Terrorist attacks in Western nations have forced governments to adopt measures, sometimes controversial, to combat

terrorism. While security is a priority for all societies, debate has arisen about how far some of these measures should reach. Can human rights and civil liberties be fully protected in an age of terrorism?

Turkey

Turkey has long sought membership in the European Union. Roadblocks remain, as several European countries are wary of Turkey's candidacy. Could Turkey's membership in the EU help Western relations with the Islamic world? Or could the possible rejection of Turkey cause an even wider divide?

Pandemics and security

Security and public health authorities are planning for epidemiological disasters as never before. What does that planning encompass, and how effective is it likely to be? What lessons can be learned from reactions to the global AIDS pandemic and its growing impact on the developing world?

Information on Great Decisions is available at

<http://www.fpa.org/>

Letter from the President

Many thanks to the PAWAC membership and Executive Director Angela Weck for a successful 2004-2005 year! And wait until you see the agenda for the coming year!

As one of 86 world affairs councils nationwide, PAWAC will continue emphasis on educational outreach in the Peoria area and program expansion. Teacher Training Workshops, a program that integrates international themes with existing course curriculum, is led by John Rathbun. This provides area teaches with materials for classroom use. In November, we will sponsor the fifth International Scholastic Bowl involving 24 area high school teams and from the high scorers, an All Tournament Team will compete at the World Quest in Washington D.C. next spring. Last Spring, the Team place very well among competing national teams.

The "Great Decisions" series was so successful last spring, the board enthusiastically chose to sponsor another series in 2006.

The Program Committee led by Judy Triggs deserves accolades for the speakers we've had. Last June, author Alvar Vargas Llosa addressed oppression in Latin America. In August, Jose Luis Herrero spoke about post-conflict institution building in Kosovo and Afghanistan and in September, Les Janka presented "Saudi Relations: Experiences, Lessons, Goals". Additional noted speakers on global issues can be expected this year.

The 36th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference February 17-18 at the Hotel Pere Marquette will be "US and Mexico: More than Neighbors". Mark your calendars!

The World Affairs Councils of America selected PAWAC (only ten councils were chosen!) to participate in the 2005-2006 State Series on Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide. Speakers will be top officers of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Bureau and members of the office of the Under Secretary for Global Affairs. This is an excellent opportunity to involve area colleges, corporate groups and media appearances.

This is another exciting year for PAWAC and a great time for you to invite friends, fellow employees, teachers, community leaders, etc., to join our organization and become informed about current global issues!

--Jean Sanger

President, PAWAC

To prophesy is extremely difficult - especially with regard to the future.

- Chinese proverb

International Scholastic Bowl Held Nov. 13 at Bradley U

The International Scholastic Bowl Competition was held on the campus of Bradley University Saturday Nov. 12. Sponsored by the Peoria Area World Affairs Council and the Newspaper in Education program at the Peoria *Journal Star*, this annual event draws twenty four teams from around the region. This special competition challenges students' knowledge of

a full range of topics, all with an international focus.

This year's champions included Bloomington High School in first place; Normal Community West High School in second; Morton High School in Third; and Peoria Heights High School finishing fourth. The teams competed for scholarship awards.

In addition, an All Tournament

Team was selected that will represent the Peoria area at the national competition sponsored by the World Affairs Councils of America, in Washington DC in April 2006. Students selected for team include Dylan Troxel, Peoria Heights; Mike Hahn, IVC; Greg Baboukis, Normal Community West; Hunter Fast, Bloomington; and Colin Barry, St. Bede Academy, as alternate.

"If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

- Albert Einstein

Steve Young Speaks on “Moral Capitalism”

By Angela Weck

On Monday, November 7, PAWAC hosted author Steve Young. Dr. Young is the Global Executive Director of the Caux Round Table, an international network of top business executives from around the world. Much more than the dry business ethics discourse supported by the Harvard Business School, the Caux Round Table seeks to demonstrate that moral capitalism can solve a range of social ills at the same time it builds the bottom line of business.

Dr. Young addressed several of the themes he raises in his recent book, *Moral Capitalism*, which was available at the presentation. In his work, he submits that all businesses need to pursue their goal of creating value for stakeholders. However, he also argues that the pursuit of profit for profit's sake is a short term gain only. Sustainable economic prosperity, he argues, is interrelated to quality products, a healthy workforce, and loyal

customers. Those require a commitment to the broader community of the business that is both financial and long-term.

During the lively question and answer session, Dr. Young, who has served as assistant dean at the Harvard School of Law and dean of the Hamline Law School, addressed the relation between profit and power. In our culture today, it appears that we glorify those who succeed in our dog-eat-dog world.

However, that quality is not part of the true nature of capitalism, and we have seen the backlash against our “excessive capitalism”.

Dr. Young concluded that moral capitalism is not based so much in religion as in a common sense approach to business that plans for a future many years, not months, down the road. A system that incorporates the pursuit of profit with the improvement of society, he argued, is one that will hold both power and economic wealth for some time to come.

Annual Conference “Mexico and the United State: More Than Neighbors

“Mexico and the United States: More than Neighbors” will be the topic of the PAWAC annual conference which will be held at the Hotel Pere Marquette on Feb. 17-18, 2006. The list of speakers invited to the annual conference includes:

“US – Mexican Relations: Progress and Problems between Our Hemisphere Partners” with Ambassador Antonio Garza, US Ambassador to Mexico.
 “Mexican Oil Reserves” with Luis Ramirez Corzo, CEO of PEMEX.
 “The Successes of

NAFTA: Foundation for a New North American Partnership” with Larry Rubin, CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico.
 “Immigration: Security and Economic Concerns” with Dr. Susan Martin, Director, Institute of International Migration, Georgetown University.

“Mexican – US Relations: The Perspective from South of the Border” by President Vincente Fox, President of Mexico.
 Mark your calendars to save the date, and watch the website for updates on speaker confirmations.

Business & WACA Notes...

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World Affairs Council System Highlights and Accomplishments for 2004:

- ◆ Total aggregate funding nationwide increased to \$37m, our highest level in history.
- ◆ We expanded to 86 councils, the highest in history.
- ◆ Our councils hosted ten heads of state or government.
- ◆ During the 50th Anniversary of Great Decisions, we adopted it as a Flagship Program and have 45 councils now participating in it.
- ◆ The Southern Center World in Transition workshops trained 1290 teachers from 9 councils.
- ◆ The San Francisco Council's radio program "It's Your World" is now syndicated at 21 NPR stations around the country.
- ◆ We held our second national Academic WorldQuest high school competition at the World Bank. Momentum is growing, with 50 council teams pledged for 2005.
- ◆ The Philadelphia Council organized 15 trips for 179 members nationwide, including trips to the Baltics, Sicily, and Russia.
- ◆ Our councils had 16 programs on C-SPAN and 29 on PBS, including 5 FPA specials on foreign policy election issues. The Southern Center ran “The Angry World” on PBS.
- ◆ We produced our first-ever *Foreign Policy 500* book, selecting our 500 most influential people in foreign policy.

Books: Hidden Treasures You May Not Have Heard Of

By Marla Warren

As a bookseller at Barnes & Noble I occasionally come across interesting books that are not generally well-known. Here are some of the hidden treasures I've discovered. Information provided by www.barnesandnoble.com

History Lessons: How Textbooks from Around the World Portray U.S. History by Dana Lindaman and Kyle Ward, 2004, The New Press, ISBN: 1565848942

In an Alternative and Eye-Opening version of American history, History Lessons provides an enormous range of conflicting takes on seemingly straightforward events. Readers accustomed to a single view of American history will find British and Canadian, and American Indian, views of the War of 1812; Cuban and Russian views of the Cuban Missile Crisis; and Iranian views of the Iranian hostage crisis, among various other astonishing and enlightening examples. Many of the textbooks included in History Lessons are the only authorized source of information about American history in their respective countries. They are made accessible to American readers for the first time, and several - including excerpts from the only textbook known to have been smuggled out of North Korea - are highly controversial.

History Lessons offers a lighthearted and engaging challenge to the biases we bring to our understanding of American history - and a sobering glimpse into how the rest of the world views the past we take for granted.

Because Each Life Is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Risked Everything for Pvt. Jessica Lynch by Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief, With Jeff Coplion, 2004, Harper Collins, ISBN: 0060724404

When thirty-three-year-old Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief made the decision to risk his life and his family to save Private First Class Jessica Lynch -- an American soldier he did not know -- it was more than the everyday reckoning with death that permeates wartime. It was the culmination of a life spent at odds with the repressive regime that held his country.

Mohammed's story is a coming of age tale in a society where violence and betrayal were everyday events, where one in five adult males worked for the state's security apparatus, where a president-for-life demanded absolute loyalty and adulation. Yet even as he navigates a culture tarnished by brutality and corruption, Mohammed reveals unexpected sides of Iraq -- scenes of surprising tenderness and stubborn generosity -- and

emerges as an unlikely hero whose values transcend ideology: honor, compassion, and an unshakable belief in the sanctity of human life.

Kicking Away the Ladder (World Economics Series): Development Strategy in Historical Perspective by Ha-Joon Chang, 2002, Wimbledon Publishing Company, ISBN: 1843310279

How did the rich countries really become rich? In this provocative new study, Ha-Joon Chang examines the great pressure on developing countries from the developed world to adopt certain "good policies" and "good institutions", seen today as necessary for economic development. Adopting an historical approach, Chang finds that the economic evolution of now-developed countries differed dramatically from the procedures that they now recommend to poorer nations. His conclusions are compelling and disturbing: that developed countries are attempting to "kick away the ladder" by which they have climbed to the top, thereby preventing developing countries from adopting policies and institutions that they themselves used.

These books are available for order at your local bookstore as well as on-line.

Did You Know?

Chemical and biological warfare have been used since long before World War 1. During the Peloponnesian War in the 5th century BC, Spartans used sulphur and pitch to overcome the enemy. During ancient and medieval times, soldiers sometimes threw bodies of plague victims over the walls of besieged cities, or into water wells. During the French and Indian wars in North America (1689-1763), blankets used by smallpox victims were given to American Indians in the hope they would carry the disease.

(Source: www.didyouknow.cd)

Angela Merkel Becomes Germany's First Female Chancellor

By Marla E. Warren

Angela Merkel became Germany's first female chancellor after successfully negotiating a coalition between her Christian Democrat party (CDU) and Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats party (SPD) on Nov. 11.

The coalition, which was voted in parliament on Nov. 22, is the country's first "grand coalition" between the two main parties since the 1960s. The two parties ratified the agreement, and Merkel was elected chancellor by Parliament on Nov. 22.

Following the Sept. 18 elections, neither of the two major parties had a majority in the Bundestag, the lower house of Germany's parliament. The CDU has 226 seats and the SPD has 222 seats. Schroeder agreed tentatively on Oct. 10 to form a coalition, with the condition that the SPD would have equal representation in Merkel's cabinet and key ministries such as foreign affairs and finance.

The parties agreed to raise the value added tax by 3 per cent, raise the income taxes on the wealthiest Germans by 3 percent,

and raise unemployment benefits for East Germans to match those for West Germans.

Merkel's goal is to reduce unemployment and increase economic growth.

"Our aim is to stop this downward trend and reverse it," Merkel said. "We want to give people hope of having jobs. I am absolutely certain – I know - that the success of this coalition will be measured by the question: Are there more jobs?"

Germany has been suffering from a stagnant economy and an unemployment rate of 11 percent. The split of the vote between the two major parties is seen by some as a sign of ambivalence by German voters—they want change, but not too fast.

The press has often referred to Merkel as a German Margaret Thatcher. But according to Ulrich Klinkert, her deputy when she headed the environment ministry in the mid-1990s, comparisons with the "Iron Lady" are not quite accurate. "She is a little bit Margaret Thatcher and a little bit Tony Blair," he says.

Merkel, 51, was born in Hamburg, but grew up in

a rural area outside Berlin in the communist east after her father, a Lutheran minister, was assigned a parish there. She earned a doctorate in physics but later worked as a chemist at a scientific academy in East Berlin.

After the Berlin Wall came down, she got a job as government spokeswoman following the first democratic elections. She joined the CDU two months before the reunification of Germany and within three months she was in the Kohl cabinet as minister for women and youth.

She is married to a chemistry professor from Berlin, Joachim Sauer. The couple does not have any children, a fact that Schroeder's wife, Doris Schroeder-Kopf, pointed out in September. Her remarks that Merkel could not identify with most German women because she had no children caused a small scandal.

The exiting chancellor, Schroeder, was born in Mossenberg, Lower Saxony, in 1944. He never saw his father, an unskilled worker who died with the German army in Romania. He was raised by his mother who was a

cleaner. As a young man he promised his mother that one day he would drive up to her door in a Mercedes.

During the day he worked blue-collar jobs while studying law at night. The young Schroeder was a Marxist and environmentalist.

In the early 1970s he idolized Social Democrat (SPD) Chancellor Willy Brandt.

On his mother's 80th birthday, in 1990, as the newly elected prime minister of Lower Saxony, he was able to call at her house in his official limo and take her out for a celebration.

He became chancellor in 1998, ending 16 years of conservative government under Helmut Kohl, and won a second term as chancellor in 2002.

Schroeder lives with Doris, who is his fourth wife, together with her daughter Klara from a previous relationship and a Russian girl called Viktoria, adopted in 2004.

Sources: BBC, Times, Washington Post, New York Times

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www.pawac.org

Calendar

December 13 (Tuesday) --Film *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream* 7:00 pm at the Peoria Public Library, Downtown Branch.

Join us for this informative, vivid, and alarming Canadian documentary, run time 78 minutes, to be followed by informal discussion. If you don't already know about the concept of "Peak Oil," this is sure to be an eye-opening and provocative experience.

December 1-- "CHINA THROUGH SCHOLARS' EYES" with Steve Alvin, professor at Illinois Valley Community College. Following the business meeting on December 1 at Dynasty Buffet North. Meeting starts at 5:00 pm, followed by dinner and program.

January 18-21, 2006 -- WACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE "The World's Rising Powers" in Washington, DC. Please refer to enclosed brochure for more details. (coming in the mail)

February 17-18, 2006 -- "The US and Mexico: More than Neighbors." 36th Central Illinois World Affairs Conference, Hotel Pere Marquette.

Check for updates and view a full schedule of events at www.pawac.org.

About Our Organization...

The Peoria Area World Affairs Council (PAWAC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all individuals. Since 1972, PAWAC has promoted a better understanding of world affairs among the people of Central Illinois by sponsoring public programs and fostering a cooperative educational approach to world problems.

PAWAC is affiliated with the World Affairs Councils of

America and the Foreign Policy Association.

PAWAC meets the first Thursday of each month for a business meeting followed by an impromptu dinner.

The Caterpillar Foundation serves as our primary benefactor. Sponsoring institutions include Bradley University, Eureka College, Illinois Central

College, Illinois College, Illinois Valley Community College, Illinois Wesleyan University, Lincoln College, Monmouth College, and the University of Illinois. Also we give special thanks to our Corporate Members as well as Friends and Supporters of PAWAC.

Annual dues are \$25 and entitle the member to program discounts.

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