



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

March 2016

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: HOW BIG A THREAT?

Professor Avner Cohen

Middlebury Institute for International Studies, Monterey (MIIS)

Monday, March 21, 2016

11:30 am registration ~ noon luncheon ~ 1-2 program

Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road

While the immediate focus of international attention has been on stopping Iran from obtaining the ability to build nuclear weapons, many believe that an equally worrisome development is that Teheran's drive to obtain a nuclear bomb may stimulate a regional race for nuclear technology to counter the perceived threat of a nuclear Iran. Specialists who study proliferation count up to twelve other nations in the Middle East that have recently announced plans to explore atomic energy or have signed nuclear cooperation agreements.



Studies, MIIS, after serving as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C. (2009-10) and following a ten-year affiliation with the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland. He was also previously associated with arms controls projects at the United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., and MIT, as well as a number of U.S. universities and the Hebrew University.

Avner Cohen, widely known for his path-breaking history of the Israeli nuclear program, is an internationally recognized author and expert on nonproliferation issues, particularly in the Middle East. In his presentation, Dr. Cohen will review security issues in the Middle East today and their potential for increasing the nuclear threat in the region.

Dr. Cohen's most acclaimed book, *Israel and the Bomb*, was published in 1998 in English and 2000 in Hebrew. His latest work, *The Worst Kept Secret: Israel's Bargain with the Bomb*, was published in October 2010 by Columbia University Press. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy and History from Tel Aviv University, an M.A. in Philosophy from York University, and a Ph.D. from the Committee on History of Culture of the University of Chicago.

(Please see reservation information on page 3.)

Dr. Cohen joined the Center for Nonproliferation

Calendar of Events		
Thursday, March 3	Board meets in Conference Room, McCone bldg. MIIS. Open to members.	4:30 pm
Monday, March 7, 14 21, & 28	Great Decisions series meets at MPC, room 101 Social Science bldg.	4 pm
Monday, March 7 & 21	Great Decisions series meets at CSUMB in the OLLI office at 6th and Inter-Garrison Roads, Seaside.	2-3:30 4-5:30 pm
Monday, March 21	Nuclear Weapons Proliferation in the Middle East. Luncheon and presentation at Rancho Canada, Carmel Valley Road	11:30-2 pm

January program report . . .

DOES EUROPE HAVE A FUTURE?

Colonel Peter Frank (German Bundeswehr), speaking at the World Affairs luncheon on January 21, offered a sweeping overview of challenges facing the European Union. The Union itself, a supranational organization, representing a population of more than half a billion people and a combined GNP larger than the United States, is threatened by the rising tide of international terrorism, migration, political and economic problems.

Colonel Frank, who is an Associate Military Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, initiated his discussion by highlighting three key factors which influenced Europe's history, and will create challenges moving forward: culture (e.g. 50 different countries with individual histories), geography (such as proximity to each other and to other countries with individual histories—in contrast to the U.S.) and history. A geopolitical review of European history—running from the Roman Empire, the Mongolian Empire, through the Holy Roman Empire, and the Christian Crusades (“sanctioned by various Popes”) to the Ottoman Empire and World Wars I and II, including the Holocaust, which he called “the darkest time in European history,” illustrates the impact of history and geography upon current political developments. It reveals the deep roots of the current dynamic between European countries and the challenge of aligning behind a single “European” agenda. He said “All empires rise and decline out of wars.” And he pointed to the end of the second World War as the beginning of a new era - the “Cold War” - with the rise of the Soviet Empire and its implosion in 1990. For the European leaders at this time it was crystal clear that something must be done differently in Europe's future. National self-interest in an anarchic world order of nation states is not a solution for the future on the European continent. In addition, Germany's reconciliation with the other European nation states after WWII was one of the preconditions and cornerstones for the development of the European Union with its current 28 member states.

In facing the dangers of international terrorism, engulfing migration of ten million displaced people and refugees, and accompanying economic and cultural upheaval, the European Union must form a strategic partnership, such as with the U.S., as they share important values, democracy, and economic interests. Or with Russia. And these partnerships depend upon the personalities of such strong leaders as Angela Merkel and Vladimir Putin. (Fortunately each speaks the other's language, so communication between the two is direct and doesn't depend upon third party translation.) European

Union countries must also come to terms with different economic and cultural challenges in the Union itself—such as the Greek debt crisis, the weak Euro but strong U.S. dollar (which is good for European export to the U.S.), differing standards of living and the expectations of poorer countries to be shorn up by the richer.

The Colonel cited the refugee crisis as the biggest problem confronting Europe today. He mentioned the push/pull factor of migrating masses; effects of social media; the Dublin Agreement (safe in country of origin) and Treaty of Schengen (open borders). Western Europe is not only facing the daunting logistics of this complex human migration through Europe, but also the challenge of integration into European society and culture, including language. And the real challenge for the next decades is that, based upon statistics, refugees-en masse don't contribute immediately, or meaningfully, to a country's economy until the second generation.

Summarizing lessons learned from the theory of international relations: Europe's future depends upon the fragmentation of nationalism, strengthening the European identity and the consolidation of the European supranational institution, the European Union. Shrinking Western influence is calling for cooperation and coordination of the “Western World.” NATO still offers the very important reassurance of security, however Russia must be accepted as “the big kid on the block” - and encouraged to engage its energy in a constructive and cooperative direction. Again, a lot depends upon personal interaction and leadership quality of European strong men. Colonel Frank said “The leaders have to meet with each other—as at the Munich Security Conference—not just to talk, maybe even to eat and drink great Bavarian beer together—thus to encourage their prudent thinking for deliberate actions. Does Europe have a future? Yes! You bet it does. It's a wonderful continent.”

Abby Foss

The WACMB Scholarship Committee had its first meeting of the new year on February 11. Members Cynthia Harris, Doug Wilhelm and Chair, Naomi Terman laid out the process by which scholarship recipients will be selected at CSUMB, MPC, and MIIS. The Committee reviewed and edited pertinent documents, timelines and college contacts to identify students with a particular interest and ability in international affairs. Winners of WACMB scholarships will be presented to our membership at the Annual Scholarship Event in the Fall of 2016.

RESERVATION FORM
Reservations due March 17, 2016

March 21, 2016
Registration 11:30 am
Luncheon at noon
1 pm Program

Mail form & check or credit information to:
WAC - P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
or Fax reservation form to (831) 643-1846.

Members @ \$25 ea. _____
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Vegetarian? (72 hours notice) _____

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Middlebury Institute springs right into the new semester with a series of inviting discussions. Open to the public and free of charge is *Culture in the Crossfire, the Security and Policy Implications of the Trafficking and Destruction of Antiquities*. The conference will be held at Irvine Auditorium, MIIS, March 4, 8 a.m.-5:30 pm, followed by a social hour. Registration must in advance with conference coordinator Marc Elliott, melliott@miis.edu. For more information go to go.miis.edu/montrep2016.

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On Tuesday, April 21 from 6:30-7:30 pm also at Irvine Auditorium, Dr. Brendan Kelly, Senior Fellow with the Center for the Blue Economy at MIIS and Executive Director of the Study of Environmental Arctic Change, will share his knowledge of the changing Arctic. Email Rachel Christopherson, Program Manager for Blue Economy at MIIS, at rchisto@miis.edu. Or phone 831-647-6615 x 1 to register.

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The World Affairs Council of Northern California invites high school and community college students with an interest in international affairs, to check out their Summer Institute. Its eight-week program is reviewed on the WACNC website, or phone Julia Sherman, Education Program Officer, at 415-293-4650.

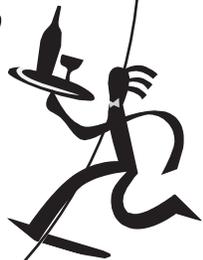
WELCOME!

Daniel & Beverly Nussbaum
Geraldine Carver Janet Dreier
Daniel & Pat Matuszewski
Dr. Tsuneo Akaha Herb Aarons
Ann Elkin & Peter Hashim
Edward O'Malley Clesteva Newell

LUNCHEON
MENU

Hearts of Romaine Salad
Corned Beef & Cabbage
with carrots
Dessert: Chef's Choice!

(vegetarian)
Vegetarian Ravioli



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This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area. Founded in 1951, the Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, EIN-0301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups and student scholarships.

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**World Affairs Council
P.O. Box 83
Monterey, CA 93942
wacmb@redshift.com**

**WAC office, 479 Pacific St., 5A, Monterey 93940
Mail to: P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
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