



The Passport

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

August 2019

Europe in Turmoil

Dr. Isebill Gruhn

Professor Emerita

University of California, Santa Cruz

Thursday, August 22, 2019

11:30 am: Registration ~11:50 am: Luncheon ~12:45 pm: Program

**** Palo Corona Park HQ, Carmel Valley Road (formerly Rancho Canada) ****

Immigration. Brexit. An unraveling nuclear deal with Iran. A populist surge. Trade tensions. Climate change. The European Union and Europe in general face myriad and sometimes overwhelming challenges. Many believe that the conflict between an old establishment and new challenges will define future European politics. Our guest speaker, Dr. Isebill Gruhn, will examine the current issues facing Europe, their political and economic consequences, and the prospects for the future.

An expert and widely published scholar in international politics and international law, Dr. Gruhn joined the faculty of the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1969. She taught in the Politics department and served as its chair twice. During her



tenure, she also served as Social Science Dean and Academic Vice Chancellor. Much of her work has focused on African and European Affairs with an emphasis on development politics, human rights, and international law and international institutions. Prior to teaching at UCSC, she taught at Oberlin College.

Dr. Gruhn received her PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and her MA in International Studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC She was born in Leipzig, Germany, and immigrated to the United States at the age of twelve.

(See page 3 for reservation information)

Thursday, August 1

4:30 pm

Board Meeting: McCone Building Conference Room, MIIS. Open to members.

Monday, August 12

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Discussion Group: MPC Social Science Building Room 101. Parking \$3.00 in Lot D.

Thursday, August 22

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Luncheon: *Europe in Turmoil*, by Isebill Gruhn

WACMB In Profile: Fred Lawson

If WACMB had an icon, it would be Fred Lawson. He has been involved with our organization for many years, including stints as president, board member, and discussion group facilitator. But there's a lot more to Fred than WAC. Let's scroll back to WWII, when he left the little town of Aledo, Illinois, at the tender age of 17 to enlist in the army. Starting as a private, he rose through the ranks in the European Theater of Operations, and went on to serve as an officer during the Korean War. After concluding his active duty service, Fred joined the Army Reserves, and continued his meteoric rise there, retiring as the Commanding General of the 91st Division of the Army Reserves. No surprise: Fred is in Fort Benning's OCS Hall of Fame.

In the meantime, Fred had quite the civilian career. After earning degrees at the University of Illinois and the Stanford Graduate School of Business (where he was a Stanford Sloan Fellow), Fred went to work in the corporate world, where he – you guessed it – rose through the ranks. He was Corporate VP at Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp., and Senior VP at BHP, Ltd., the world's largest multinational mining company. His work sent him to Jamaica, Sardinia, several sub-Saharan Africa countries, and twice to Australia, where he combined the two strands of his life by serving in the Australian Army Reserves, and where he was honored by being named to Who's Who in Australia.

After "retiring" from the corporate world, Fred went to work as a private management consultant in organizational restructuring, financial management, strategic planning, management development, and industrial relations. When he's not working, he's volunteering with the Ft. Ord Alumni Association, the CSUMB Foundation, and, of course, WACMB.

Fred and his wife, Peggy, live in Carmel. They have two sons and two grandchildren, all of

(continued from previous column)

whom they enjoy seeing as often as possible. And we of the World Affairs Council very much enjoy all the time we get to spend with Fred!

Program Report: Larry Diamond

World-renowned Stanford professor Larry Diamond spoke at our July luncheon on the declining state of democracy in the world. The expansion of democracy during the "third wave" of democratization, which began four decades ago, led to a majority of the world's countries being democratic for the first time in history. The democratic expansion continued until 2006, when it ground to a halt. We have seen a "protracted democratic slump" ever since.

Democracies tend not to die quickly, but rather change over time to illiberal democracies and then to non-democracies. Hungary and Turkey, for example, are well down the path of democratic reversal. Dying democracies tend to turn into "competitive authoritarian regimes," which share some features of democracy, including elections, but their system is rigged to all but ensure that an opposition cannot win an election. The surprise win of the opposition in the Istanbul city elections so flummoxed President Erdogan that he called for a 'do-over' election, which also failed. Even competitive authoritarian regimes can sometime miscalculate.

The "12 Step Program for Autocrats" is similar around the world, and includes declaring media as the 'enemy of the people,' constraining the judiciary, intimidating civil society, taming the business community, undermining civil service and the intelligence community as agents of a 'deep state,' and taking steps to suppress votes and rig elections.

Diamond concluded his talk by noting the pernicious influence of Russia and China on democracy. Neither country wants liberal democracy to thrive, and both are taking steps to undermine democratic prospects.

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due August 18 for August 22 presentation

Registration 11:30 am

Luncheon 11:50 am

Program 12:45 pm

Mail form and check or credit information to:

WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942

or fax reservation form to (831) 643-1846

or register online at www.wacmb.org

Members @ \$31 _____

Guests @ \$40 _____

Total \$ _____

Europe in Turmoil

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Note: No refunds or credit will be given for cancellations received after the due date

DISCUSSION GROUPS

WAC discussion groups are free and open to the public. Each month, the group will select the topic for the following month's discussion.

MPC: August's topic is "Universal Health Care Around the World." Dr. Mike Wilson will do a brief summary of health care systems around the world. Participants will discuss what the US can learn from those systems, as well as the pitfalls to be avoided.

Meetings are always on the second Monday of the month, from 4:00 - 5:30 pm in Room 101, Social Sciences Building. This month's meeting will be on August 12. Parking is available for \$3 in Lot D.

OLLI/CSUMB: The OLLI discussion group is on hiatus for the month of August, but will return in September. Check the September Passport for the date and time.

Come join the conversation!

LUNCHEON MENU

- Caesar Salad
- Chicken Piccata with
Lemon Caper Sauce
- Rice Pilaf
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Fresh Rolls and Butter
- Chef's Choice Dessert
- Coffee

VEGETARIAN OPTION

- Fettucini Alfredo



This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.

Corporate and institutional support for the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is provided by

- *California State University Monterey Bay
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*Student memberships are limited to full-time students matriculating at an accredited college or graduate school. This also includes a special military membership for enlisted personnel, grades E-1 to E-4 only.

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