



The Passport

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

January 2020

How to Prevent a Dictator from Using Chemical Weapons: Lessons from Syria

Jeffrey Knopf, PhD

Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Monday, January 20, 2020

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

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

As Syria descended into civil war, what had once appeared unthinkable – that the government would use chemical weapons (CW) against its own people – became a horrifying reality. This marked the first time that a state had used CW since the Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty that banned CW, was negotiated in the 1990s. The United States and its allies struggled with how they should respond to this violation of the norm against chemical warfare.

In his presentation to the World Affairs Council, Dr. Jeff Knopf will describe how the United States government and its allies, seeking to deter CW attacks and to compel Syria to give up its chemical arsenal, eventually turned to strategies that rely on coercive threats. These efforts continued across the Obama and Trump administrations, eventually leading to two rounds of air strikes against



Syria. Dr. Knopf will assess the outcome of US efforts in Syria, and will draw lessons from that case to support the use of coercive strategies more generally to combat the use of CW.

Jeff Knopf is Professor and Program Chair of Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. Much of his teaching and research has been devoted to arms control, nonproliferation, and other forms of international cooperation that seek to reduce the threats from weapons of mass destruction. Professor Knopf earned his BA in Social Studies from Harvard College, and his MA and PhD in Political Science from Stanford University.

(See page 3 for reservation information)

Thursday, January 2

4:30 pm

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

Monday, January 13

4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

Monday, January 27

4:00 - 5:30 pm

***Great Decisions* begins at MPC and OLLI. See page 2 for further information.**

Great Decisions Program Begins January 27

The annual Great Decisions series, produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America, is the country's largest discussion program. The program, which runs for eight weeks, provides background information and policy options for some of the most critical issues facing us each year. WACMB presents this *free* program at two locations: Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the Ryan Ranch location of California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

Purchase of the Great Decisions Briefing Booklet is strongly recommended. Booklets will be available for \$27 at the monthly luncheon at Palo Corona on January 20; they may be acquired at each meeting site for the same price, or they may be ordered online through the Foreign Policy Association for \$32 plus shipping.

The MPC program will meet from 4:00-5:30 in Room 101 of the Social Sciences Building. Parking is available for \$3 in Lot D. Its schedule will be as follows:

Jan. 27: Climate Change and the Global Order
Feb. 3: India and Pakistan
Feb. 10: Red Sea Security
**No meeting on February 17
Feb. 24: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
Mar. 2: US Relations with the Northern Triangle
Mar. 9: China's Road into Latin America
Mar. 16: The Philippines and the US
Mar. 23: Artificial Intelligence and Data

Participants in **the OLLI/CSUMB program** must register in advance for the series. Registration for the program and booklet orders will be available beginning January 16 at <https://olli.csumb.edu/courses>, or by calling (831) 582-5500. Its schedule will be as follows:

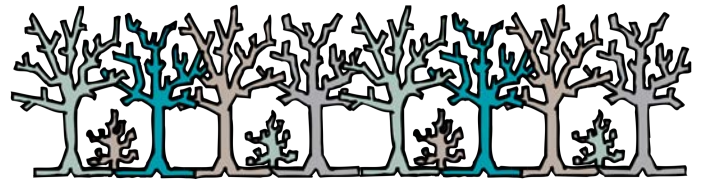
Jan. 27: Climate Change and the Global Order
Feb. 3: India and Pakistan
Feb. 10: Red Sea Security
Feb. 17: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
Feb. 24: US Relations with the Northern Triangle
Mar. 2: China's Road into Latin America
Mar. 9: The Philippines and the US
**No meeting on March 16
Mar. 23: Artificial Intelligence and Data

Program Report: Covell Meyskens

At our November luncheon, Professor Covell Meyskens of the Naval Postgraduate School spoke on "The Rise of China: Past, Present, and Future." Covell covered the basic formula for China's rise to prominence – economic development but without concomitant democratic development – and how its rise and muscular foreign policy have impacted its neighbors. On average, China experienced 10 percent annual growth from 1990 to 2010. But Covell also argued that today, China's ambitions are rivaled by its challenges. While China remains committed to its Belt and Road Initiative to connect it to Europe across Asia, and has a growing high tech sector, it also has a massive government debt born of its extensive infrastructural projects. It also has debt from increasing its defense expenditures 10-fold over the past 20 years.

Through its economic growth, China has created a middle class nearly as large as the entire population of the United States. It is an open question whether this middle class will begin to demand democratic rights, particularly as the economy slows. There is already evidence that China's middle class is demanding action to ease choking pollution in Beijing and other cities.

China remains dependent on foreign trade, on which 20 percent of its GDP depends, which is a high level for a large country. It is keen to limit the ongoing trade war, if possible.



Members' Luncheon Price to Increase in the New Year

Wedgewood Catering, the food-service provider at Palo Corona Park HQ, has increased its luncheon prices for 2020. Unfortunately, in order to avoid losing money on our luncheons, WACMB must pass that increase along to our members. Therefore, the members' rate for the luncheon has been increased to \$33, effective immediately. The rate for guests will remain at \$40. We hope you will agree that the value of our luncheon programs is more than worth the price increase!

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due January 15 for January 20 presentation

Registration 11:30 am

Luncheon 11:50 am

Program 12:50 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 @ \$33 _____

Guests @ \$40 _____

Total \$ _____

Chemical Weapons: Lessons from Syria

Name/s _____ Card Holder Name _____

Address _____ Card Number _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Exp Date _____ Visa _____ MC _____

Vegetarian? (Requires 72 hours notice) _____ Signature _____

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. January's topic for the MPC discussion group is "Global Challenges for Food and Agriculture." Where do we stand in meeting the fundamental need for food both in the present and in the future? How should the international community respond to the challenge of ensuring that people have adequate food?

MPC: 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 January 13. Parking is available for \$3 in Lot D. The MPC group will also meet on January 27 for the first session of the 2020 Great Decisions Program.

OLLI/CSUMB: The OLLI/CSUMB discussion group will *not* meet as its usual time this month. Instead, it will meet on Monday, January 27 for the first session of the 2020 Great Decisions program. Please see page 2 for further information.

LUNCHEON MENU

- Wedgewood Salad with Italian Dressing
- Chicken Cordon Bleu
- Whipped Potatoes
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Fresh Rolls and Butter
- Chef's Choice Dessert
- Coffee

VEGETARIAN OPTION

- Tortellini Tossed with Pesto and Parmesan Cheese

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
- *Defense Language Institute
- *Monterey Peninsula College
- *Naval Postgraduate School *Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
- *Horan & Lloyd Law Firm

**WACMB Office: 479 Pacific St., 5A, Monterey, CA
 Mail: P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
 831-643-1855 fax 831-643-1846
 email: wacmb@redshift.com
 Website: www.wacmb.org**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Benefactor.....	\$1000
Patron.....	\$600
Sponsor.....	\$300
Contributing.....	\$150
Sustaining.....	\$75
Family (couple).....	\$50
Individual	\$30
Student*.....	\$15

**Make checks payable to WACMB and mail to:
 WACMB, P.O. Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942
 (Couples, please include both first names)**

Name/s _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

*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.

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

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 330
 Monterey, CA
 93940

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Officers & Board of Directors

**President: Larry Johnson
 Secretary: Nancy Johnson
 Treasurer: Jerry Sullivan**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Amirkhanian | Jim Emery |
| Peggy Field | Chris Keehn |
| Fred Lawson | Mary Jo McDonough |
| Maria Morgan | Elizabeth Robinson |
| Glenn Robinson | Doug Rogers |
| Judy Sloan | David Thon |

Mike Wilson

-Liaisons-

- LTC Benjamin Selzer: DLI
 Eva Gudbergdottir: MIIS
 Marilynn Gustafson: MPC
 Andre Lewis & Ida Mansourian: CSUMB
 Glenn Robinson: NPS
 Doug Wilhelm: OLLI**

Passport Editor: Elizabeth Robinson