



The Passport

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

March 2020

ISIS: A Retrospect and Prospects for the Future

Professor Craig Whiteside

**US Naval War College
Naval Postgraduate School
Friday, March 20, 2020**

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

**** Please note the venue: Hilton Garden Inn, Agujito Road, Monterey ****

ISIS, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, rose to great heights in 2014 when it established a caliphate in Syria and Iraq. Most observers believe that it has since collapsed - that its armies have been defeated and its supporters scattered in camps and desert hideouts. Despite this, its distinctive banner can still be found from West Africa to the Philippines. In his talk to the World Affairs Council, Dr. Craig Whiteside will discuss the rise and staying power of ISIS, as well as why it will continue to impact regional stability for some time to come.

Craig Whiteside is an Associate Professor at the US Naval War College resident program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, where he teaches national security affairs. He is also a senior associate with the Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups at the Naval War



College in Newport, Rhode Island, and a fellow at the George Washington University's Program on Extremism. His current research focuses on the leadership succession and military doctrine of the Islamic State militant group. He is co-author of *The ISIS Reader: Milestone Texts of the Islamic Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2020), which will be available for purchase at the World Affairs Council luncheon.

Dr. Whiteside holds a BS in Civil Engineering from West Point, an MA in Leadership and Counseling from Long Island University, and a PhD in Political Science from Washington State University. He is a former US Army officer with experience in Iraq.

(See page 3 for reservation information)

Mondays, January 27 - March 23

4:00 - 5:30 pm

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

Thursday, March 5

4:30 pm

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

Friday, March 20

11:30 - 2:00 pm

Monthly Luncheon at *Hilton Garden Inn*: Craig Whiteside on *ISIS: A Retrospect*

Schedule for the *Great Decisions* Program

The annual *Great Decisions* series continues this month, with its final meeting on March 23. *Great Decisions*, produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America, is the country's largest discussion program. 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).

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

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

The OLLI/CSUMB program is held at the CSUMB building, 8 Upper Ragsdale Drive at Ryan Ranch. Free parking is available. Participants must register in advance for the series at <https://olli.csumb.edu/courses>, or by calling (831) 582-5500. Its schedule is as follows:

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

If you've enjoyed *Great Decisions*, you can keep the conversation going after March 23. WACMB offers two ongoing Discussion Groups that meet at the same MPC and OLLI locations. The groups typically meet on either the 2nd or 3rd Monday of each month. Look for more information about our Discussion Groups in the April Passport.

Program Report: Jeffrey Knopf

For our January luncheon, the World Affairs Council was honored to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Knopf of MIIS, who spoke on "How to Stop a Dictator from Using Chemical Weapons: Lessons from the US Response to Syria." Knopf noted the prevalence of chemical weapon attacks in the Syrian civil war: there have been more than 300 to date, with 98 percent launched by the Syrian regime, which is led by Bashar al-Asad and is based in Damascus. The policy dilemma for leaders in Washington and elsewhere was between the moral repulsion caused by the use of chemical weapons by a nasty regime, and the aversion to actively intervening in someone else's civil war. Under such circumstances, what coercive steps can be taken to persuasively discourage a dictator from using chemical weapons without getting too involved in the war?

Unfortunately, the answer is "not much" — at least when the regime feels that its very survival is at stake. This was Knopf's primary conclusion: that credible threats are more meaningful against a dictator who does not believe that his own survival is in the balance. When that dictator fears for own his survival and that of his regime, then there is very little that outside powers can do to prevent him from taking any manner of draconian and nasty steps. In the case of Syria, Asad knew that the use of chemical weapons might draw a response from the Trump administration, which did happen twice; however, it was still more important to Asad to survive, and chemical weapons were essential to the strategy of survival undertaken by his regime. Therefore, Asad was willing to risk potential US strikes and continued to use chemical weapons. The outcome is that the regime in Damascus has won the Syrian civil war, due, in part, to its use of chemical weapons.

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due March 16 for March 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 \$ _____

ISIS: A Retrospect

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

WACMB Introduces a New Way to Connect

Your World Affairs Council has taken another step into the 21st century with our own QR code! What's a QR code? You've seen them around: they're those ubiquitous squares filled with black and white boxes of different sizes. Ours is on the back page of this Passport.

How does a QR code work? It's really easy. Just point the camera of your smartphone at the QR code. There's no need to download an app. In fact, there's no need to do anything more than point your smartphone's camera at the code. You should see a message pop up on your phone directing you to your phone's web browser. Touch that message, and voila! You'll be taken to www.wacmb.org, where you can renew your membership, register for luncheons, check the calendar, and more.

Try it out! If you have difficulty using the QR code, please let us know. If you appreciate this convenient way to stay connected with your World Affairs Council, you can let us know that, too. We'd like to hear your thoughts!

LUNCHEON MENU

- Field Greens Salad with Roasted Vegetables and Asiago
- Roasted Chicken with Lemon Tarragon Cream Sauce
- Creamy Polenta
- Sauted Seasonal Vegetables
- Fresh Rolls and Butter
- Coffee Crumb Cake
- Coffee

VEGETARIAN OPTION

- Creamy Polenta with a Winter Mushroom and Lentil Ragout

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

**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



WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(831) 643-1855 FAX: (831) 643-1846
Email: wacmb@redshift.com
Website: www.wacmb.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Benefactor \$1,000
- Patron \$600
- Sponsor \$300
- Contributing \$150
- Sustaining \$75
- Family/Couple \$50
- Individual \$30
- Student * \$15

**Make checks payable to WACMB and mail to
WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(Couples, please include both names)
OR join online at www.wacmb.org**

Names/s: _____
Street: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

*** Student rates are for full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, or graduate schools, as well as for enlisted military personnel in Grades E1 to E4.**

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
Ida Mansourian: CSUMB
Glenn Robinson: NPS
Doug Wilhelm: OLLI

Passport Editor: Elizabeth Robinson