



# The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

November/December 2020

## Issues Around the World in the Age of Covid-19

*Check your email on the scheduled days for links to these videos.*

**November 15, 2020: Michael Auslin, Stanford University**  
*Asia's New Geopolitics*



The Indo-Pacific is fast becoming the world's dominant region. Now, as it grows in power and wealth, long-simmering geopolitical competition has re-emerged there. Drawing on his most recent book, entitled *Asia's New Geopolitics: Essays on Reshaping the Indo-Pacific* (Hoover Institution Press, 2020), Michael Auslin discusses two key issues transforming the region: China's ambitious foreign and economic policies and North Korea's quest for nuclear weapons.

Auslin is the inaugural Payson J. Treat Distinguished Research Fellow in Contemporary Asia at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, a senior fellow at Policy Exchange in London, and a senior advisor for Asia at the Halifax International Security Forum. He is the author of six books, including the best-selling *The End of the Asian Century: War, Stagnation, and the Risks to the World's Most Dynamic Region*. Previously, he was an associate professor of

history at Yale University, a visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, and a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He is a longtime contributor to *The Wall Street Journal* and *Foreign Policy*, among others.

**November 30, 2020: Jonathan Lipman, Mount Holyoke College**  
*The Muslims and Islam in Modern China: Focus on the Uyghurs*

About 11 million Uyghurs live in the People's Republic of China, largely in Xinjiang. In recent years the Chinese government has detained over a million of them, claiming that they hold extremist religious views that are a threat to national security. Many in the international community have accused China of egregious human rights abuses against the Uyghurs. In this presentation, Professor Jonathan Lipman looks at the history and current conditions in Xinjiang, the evidence for widespread abuses, and China's justifications for its policies and methods.

Trained at Stanford as an historian of early modern and modern China, Jonathan Lipman served on the faculty of Mount Holyoke College from 1977 to 2015. In addition, he has taught as a visiting professor at Doshisha University, Quest University (Canada), Oregon State University, Yale, Harvard, and the University of Washington. Professor Lipman's research deals primarily with the long-term residence and acculturation of Muslims in China. His 1997 book, *Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China*, remains a standard history of the subject.



- **Double Passport Issue for November and December** -

## December 15, 2020: Businessman and Author J. Morris Hicks *Connecting the Dots to a Sustainable Future*



The year 2020, with its outbreak of Covid-19, catastrophic forest fires, floods, and record-setting temperatures, tells us that nature is declining globally and at unprecedented rates. Drawing on his recent book *OUTCRY: Urgent Alarms from Our Planet and What We Can Do About Them*, J. Morris Hicks discusses both the impact of economic development on the natural environment and what we can do to slow, stop, or reverse the damage we have done to our biosphere. *OUTCRY* was co-authored with Stuart H. Scott and published on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

An engineer, business executive, and author, J. Morris Hicks earned a BS in industrial engineering from Auburn University and an MBA from the University of Hawaii, a degree he earned while serving as an officer in the US Coast Guard and stationed in Honolulu.

Over the past decade, he has devoted himself to promoting the global conversation on sustainability and to seeking solutions to the environmental challenges we face.

### ***Discussion Groups***

WACMB offers two discussion groups. Both are free, and meet via Zoom from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. If you are interested in participating in a discussion group, please email the WACMB office at [wacmb@redshift.com](mailto:wacmb@redshift.com) and let us know.

*The MPC Discussion Group* is moderated by Judith Glickman.

**Monday, November 2:** Ethics of Warfare and Changing Technology.

**Monday, November 16:** The Erosion of Democracy in Hungary and Poland.

**Monday, November 30:** Asia's New Geopolitics: Essays on Reshaping the Indo-Pacific.

**Monday, December 14:** Muslims in China Today, with a Focus on the Uyghurs.

*The OLLI/CSUMB Discussion Group* is moderated by John Hetz.

**Monday, November 9:** Topic TBA.

**Monday, December 14:** Topic also TBA.

### ***United Nations Association Film Festival***

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is pleased to share this announcement from the United Nations Association, which shares WACMB's interest in international affairs:

The Monterey Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA announces its 21st annual International Documentary Film Festival. This year, the festival will offer five excellent films from Kenya, Syria, Cambodia, Gaza, and the United States.

The festival will take place from November 14 through November 18. Due to the pandemic, the festival will be completely online this year, and will be accessible from anywhere in the country. A festival pass costs \$5, with the fee covering the "per click" cost of presenting the films. Pass holders may access the films at any time during the festival. For further information, go to <https://unausamonterey.wordpress.com>.

## ***A Little Background Information***

On November 30, in our video series *Issues Around the World in the Age of Covid-19*, Dr. Jonathan Lipman, Emeritus Professor at Mount Holyoke College, will speak on “The Muslims and Islam in Modern China: Focus on the Uyghurs.” We’ve been hearing a lot about the Uyghurs lately. But who *are* the Uyghurs? Here’s some information from Dr. Lipman.

By the 15th century, the vast central region across the Ming state’s western frontier, north of Tibet and southwest of Mongolia, had become largely Muslim. It was incorporated into the great Zunghar empire, the last nomadic state in a long history stretching back to the ancient Xiongnu, and was conquered by the Manchu-led Qing dynasty in the mid-18th century. The Qing named this region *Xinjiang*, the New Frontier.

Its inhabitants did not use a singular ethnonym, but called themselves *Musulman* (Muslim), *Turk* (which referred to culture and language, not to national identity), or *yarliq* (local, meaning “from here).” In the 1920s, under the influence of the Soviet “nationalities policy” (among others), these people gradually came to call themselves, and to be called by others, by the ancient (non-Muslim) name, “Uyghurs.”

## ***An Invitation to All High School Students and Teachers***

Our sister World Affairs Council in Dallas/Fort Worth invites high school students and teachers from every WAC across the country to participate in its Global Young Leaders (GYL) Program. This free program, offered online via Zoom, includes student leadership workshops, service projects, career days, competitions, Council speakers, 20 Under 20 programming, internships, teacher workshops, teacher awards, and more. The GYL Program will continue in the spring with many other exciting opportunities.

To register, or for further information, go to <https://www.dfwworld.org/GYL/Join-Us-Fall-2020>, click on “What We Do,” and select “Education: Global Young Leaders.” If you are involved with high school education, don’t miss this wonderful, free, socially distanced program!

## ***Take a Break with a Quick Take!***

**Did you know that most videos in our *Issues Around the World in the Age of Covid-19* series are only about 15 to 20 minutes long? Presented by experts in their fields, these videos are free, and always available in our video library on our website.**

**Get a Quick Take on a quick break today!**

## ***Answers to the October Cryptograms***

1. We have got to understand that what we do in the world is not only good for the world; it’s good for us. It’s not a form of philanthropy; it’s a form of national security.

-Richard Haass

2. There are no foreign lands. It is the traveler only who is foreign.

-Robert Louis Stevenson

3. When I hear somebody sigh, “Life is hard,” I’m always tempted to ask, “Compared to what?”

-Sydney J. Harris

*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.*

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**\* 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.**

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