



The Passport

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

January 2021

Issues Around the World in the Age of Covid-19

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

January 15, 2021: Kent Glenzer, MIIS

The Role of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic



Covid-19 has thrust the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) and many nongovernmental (NGO) healthcare delivery organizations into the limelight. Professor Kent Glenzer discusses their role in responding to the crisis and the constraints they face as well as the opportunities. Kent Glenzer is Dean of the Graduate School of International Policy and Management at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. He has done extensive work on the relationships between public, private, and nonprofit actors in the field of international development. Before joining the Institute, he spent 28 years with international NGOs, including Oxfam America, CARE, PATH, and the Peace Corps in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Glenzer earned his PhD from Emory University.

January 30, 2021: Gregory Gause, Texas A&M University

Security Issues in the Persian Gulf, 2021

As the Biden Administration seeks to re-engage Iran on the nuclear issue, it faces a number of challenges. Iranian politics have been roiled by the aggressive actions taken by the Trump Administration and Israel to frustrate any return to negotiations, and by the Iranian presidential election scheduled for the summer of 2021. Professor Gregory Gause discusses the new administration's evolving policy, and how the triangular competition among Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, along with Israel's new relations with some Gulf monarchies, further complicates the regional scene. Gregory Gause is the Head of the International Affairs Department at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, where his research focuses on the politics of the Middle East with a particular interest in the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf. He is the author of *The International Relations of the Persian Gulf* (2010). Professor Gause earned his PhD in political science from Harvard University.



Happy New Year, and Welcome, 2021!

Here's hoping for many vaccinations and an end to Covid-19.

Until then, wash your hands and wear your masks. We're almost there!

Changes on the Board

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is delighted to welcome David Martin to the Board of Directors. Mr. Martin is the new President of Monterey Peninsula College, and now serves as MPC's liaison to WACMB. He came to MPC in 2018 to be the Vice President of Administration, and was appointed Interim President in July 2019 before becoming President in October 2020. Mr. Martin has a Bachelor's degree in accounting from CSU San Bernardino and an MBA from CSU East Bay. In addition to his work in academic administration, he is a CPA and certified fraud examiner. He is currently working on a doctoral degree in higher education leadership at Drexel University, and will become Dr. Martin in the spring of 2021. Please join us in welcoming David Martin to the WACMB Board!

Marilynn Gustafson, MPC's longtime liaison to WACMB, has retired from the MPC Board of Trustees and so is stepping down from the WACMB Board. Thank you, Marilyn, for your many years of exemplary service! Enjoy your retirement!

Welcome to Our New Members

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area extends a warm welcome to our newest members!

James and Ginger Andrasick

Susie Brusa

James and Sharon Burnis

Catherine and Richard Hambley

Rebecca Perry

Frank Shields

Christine Sleeter

We Have a New Email Address

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area has a new email account:

info@wacmb.org

Please note this change in your address book to ensure that the emails you send to the office are received.

. . . and a New E-Blast

You may have noticed a new communication from your WACMB with the subject line "Something Possibly of Interest" in your inbox recently. Welcome to our new e-blast! There is an abundance of content available regarding world affairs these days. The WACMB e-blast aggregates items of particular interest to our members, providing links to make it easy for you to access these interesting websites. Watch for further e-blasts in the weeks ahead, and be sure to let us know if you have any suggestions.

. . . and Did We Mention the Video Library?

As we may have mentioned once or twice, every presentation in our "Quick Takes" series is available online for viewing at your leisure. In addition, quite a few of our luncheon talks (remember those?) can also be viewed online. So if you'd like to see Robert Tomlinson discussing the impact of Covid-19 on US national security choices or Anna Grzymala-Busse addressing the erosion of democracy in Hungary and Poland, go to www.wacmb.org. Scroll down to the "General Information" menu on the right side, and click on "Speakers, Topics, and Videos" to go to the video library, where you'll find the entire list of videos.

Great Decisions 2021 is Coming!

WACMB is pleased to present the 2021 *Great Decisions* program. This discussion series begins on Monday, February 1, and runs for eight weeks. Produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America, *Great Decisions* is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program provides background information and policy options for eight of the most critical issues facing the United States each year, providing the focus for discussion groups across the country.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 *Great Decisions* program will be offered entirely online. The program is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. WACMB will offer two groups this year: one solely through WACMB and one in collaboration with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB. Both groups will meet on Monday evenings from 4:00 - 5:30, and will follow the same schedule, which is listed below. **These programs fill up fast! Register early to avoid disappointment.**

The Foreign Policy Association produces a Briefing Booklet to be used with *Great Decisions*. The Booklet costs \$32 plus shipping, and is highly recommended for those in the program. To order, either call the Foreign Policy Association at 1(800) 477-5836 or go to their website at https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials. **Briefing Booklets are no longer available for purchase locally; they must be ordered from the Foreign Policy Association.**

WACMB *Great Decisions* Group: This group will be moderated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. Please register in advance by sending an email to WACMB at our new email address: info@wacmb.org. Once registered, you will be sent Zoom links for each session of the discussion group, and information about how to view the video documentaries that provide additional context for the discussions. Participants should plan to view the videos on their own prior to the meetings.

WACMB/OLLI *Great Decisions* Group: This group will be moderated by John Hetz. Please register in advance online at <https://olli.csUMB.edu/courses/>. Registration opens on January 21 at 10:00 am. Once registered, you will be sent Zoom links for each session and information about how to access the video documentaries, which you will view on your own prior to the meetings.

2021 Great Decisions Schedule

Week 1, February 1: Global Supply Chains and National Security

Week 2, February 8: Persian Gulf Security Issues

February 15: No Class for Presidents' Day

Week 3, February 22: Brexit and the European Union

Week 4, March 1: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic

Week 5, March 8: China's Role in Africa

Week 6, March 15: The Korean Peninsula

Week 7, March 22: Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic

Week 8, March 29: The End of Globalization?

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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- *California State University Monterey Bay
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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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