



The Passport

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

March 2021

Quick Takes: World Issues in the Age of Covid-19

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

This month, the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area continues its special eight-part thematic series of *Quick Takes* exploring the political and economic landscape the Biden Administration will encounter as it reformulates US foreign policy.

March 15, 2021: Thomas Fingar, Stanford University

Does China Have a Grand Strategy?



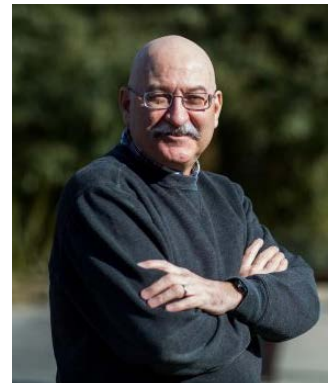
Many have proclaimed China to be a “strategic competitor” with a “grand strategy” to dismantle the US-led world order. Does China actually have such a strategy and, if it does, what are the chances it can be realized? What are the implications for the United States? Dr. Thomas Fingar discusses China’s goals, what drives and shapes its international behavior, and how the US should respond. Thomas Fingar is a Shorenstein APARC Fellow in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, where he leads a project on *China and the World*. His most recent book (with Jean Oi) is *Fateful Decisions: Choices That Will Shape China’s Future* (Stanford University Press, 2020). Dr. Fingar served twice as Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and as the first Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis. He earned his BA at Cornell and his MA and PhD at Stanford University, all in political science.

March 30, 2021: Frank Hawke

Former China Director, Stanford University Graduate School of Business

China’s Development Model: Is It Sustainable?

In the 1980s, no one could have foreseen the incredible growth and development that China’s “market socialism” has been able to generate for hundreds of millions of its citizens while continuing to maintain its authoritarian political system. Now, however, China’s tremendous economic growth is slowing down. Frank Hawke discusses the economic challenges faced by the Chinese Communist Party today. Until recently, Frank Hawke was the Director of the China Program at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. He previously spent 40 years in China, primarily in Beijing, in various business and teaching capacities. Professor Hawke earned a BA in economics and an MA in political science from Stanford University. In 1979, he attended Peking University as one of the very first group of American exchange students to study in China.



PSA from your WACMB: Wear your mask! Wash your hands! Social distance!

***Great Decisions* is Underway!**

The 2021 *Great Decisions* discussion series, which began in February, continues through the end of March. Produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America, *Great Decisions* is the country's largest discussion program on world affairs.

Your World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is offering two discussion groups that use FPA's materials to guide this eight-week-long program. One group is moderated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. The other group is moderated by John Hetz, and is offered in partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB.

Both groups meet online on Monday evenings from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Both groups follow the same schedule, which is printed below.

2021 Great Decisions Schedule

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?

After the conclusion of *Great Decisions*, WACMB will resume its regular discussion group schedule. Like the *Great Decisions* groups, there will be two of these regular discussion groups: one offered entirely through WACMB, and one offered in partnership with the OLLI program at CSUMB. If you are interested in attending a discussion group, please send an email to info@wacmb.org to indicate your interest.

Affiliate Report: The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) is one of WACMB's affiliated partners. It has been a long and fruitful partnership. Eva Gudbergsdottir is MIIS's liaison to WACMB; as such, she has served on the WACMB board for nearly ten years. At MIIS, Eva is the Director of Communications, managing media and public relations, social media content, and marketing.

Eva reports two exciting pieces of news:

- After moving instruction online during the Covid-19 pandemic, MIIS is planning to return to primarily in-person instruction in the fall.
- Renovations are underway to convert a commercial office building in downtown Monterey into a residence hall for MIIS students. It is expected to open this fall.

There are also two online MIIS events of interest that are free and open to the public.

- On Wednesday, March 3, from 12:30-1:30, as part of the Worldviews 2021 lecture series, Professors Netta Avineri and Mahabat Baimyrzaeva will speak on "Covid-19 as a Prism to Re-examine the Past and Imagine the Future."
- On Tuesday, March 9, from 12:30-1:30, Dr. Christina Kwauk will deliver the MIIS Tyler Visiting Fellow Talk on "Leveraging Girls' Education for a New Green Learning Agenda."

To register, go to www.miis.edu, click on the "Events" link, and use the calendar to choose the appropriate date. Then click on the event of interest and follow the prompts to register.

The Second Annual WACMB Teen Essay Contest

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is delighted to announce its second annual Teen Global Studies Essay Contest! Spearheaded by WACMB board member Michelle Amirkhanian, the essay contest is designed to encourage interest in global studies and international affairs among local high school students.

Winners will receive awards of \$150.

To enter the contest, students must write a 350-400 word essay addressing one of the following topics:

- Does social media influence the world for better, for worse, or both?
- If elected to lead a free nation, what would you do to improve our world?
 - What is the most important fundamental human right?
- What, if any, are the responsibilities of the superpowers for the world at large?
 - How can we create a worldwide demand for peace?
- What steps should we take to stop climate change? Why should the world take your advice?

The contest is open to all teens who are high school students in Monterey County.

The deadline for entry is Sunday, March 21, 2021.

Essays should be sent to Michelle Amirkhanian at nonprofiteducationdiscovery@gmail.com

If you know students who meet these criteria and who might be interested, please encourage them to apply!



Topical Webinar from the Los Angeles World Affairs Council

The Los Angeles World Affairs Council and Town Hall offers a free weekly webinar entitled “Politics in the Time of Coronavirus.” Led by Dan Schnur, professor at USC’s Annenberg School of Communications and lecturer at UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies, the program will analyze the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the political landscape from the local to the national level.

Webinars are Tuesdays at 11:00 am, and sessions are recorded for viewing later.

To register, go to <https://www.lawac.org/EventDetail/eventid/30832>

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 * \$15

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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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