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

Quick Takes is a series of short video presentations by leading experts in international affairs. There are two Quick Takes posted to our website each month: one on the 15th and one on the 30th. Once posted, they are permanently available for you to view at your convenience. To access the latest video, go to www.wacmb.org, where you will immediately see it on the home page. To view previous videos, look just below that image from the latest video on the home page to find this link: “To see the full list of Quick Takes and other videos, click here.”

July 15, 2021: Andrew Bacevich, Quincy Institute
After the Apocalypse: America’s Role in a World Transformed

Dr. Andrew Bacevich discusses his highly acclaimed book After the Apocalypse (Metropolitan Books, 2021), in which he offers a bold and urgent perspective on America’s place in the world. Confronting the threats of the future—accelerating climate change, a shift in the international balance of power, the ascendance of information technology over brute weapons of war—his vision calls for a profound overhaul of our understanding of national security.

Andrew Bacevich is the founder and president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a bipartisan Washington think tank dedicated to foreign policy. He is Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History at the Boston University Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies. He holds a PhD in American Diplomatic History from Princeton University, and is also a retired career officer in the Armor Branch of the US Army. Dr. Bacevich is the author of The Limits of Power, Washington Rules, and The Age of Illusions: How America Squandered its Cold War Victory.

Lessons for Americans? A Comparative Analysis of Health Systems Abroad

Revamping the US healthcare system—the Affordable Care Act and public health in particular—will be a priority of the Biden administration. Can looking abroad inform policy debates at home? Dr. Victor Rodwin, who has devoted his career to studying health care systems abroad, discusses how other countries have succeeded in spending less than the United States while providing more effective health care to their citizens.

Victor Rodwin is Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Management at the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University (NYU), and Co-Director of the World Cities Project, which focuses on urban aging, emergency preparedness, and the health care systems in New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Hong Kong. Before joining the faculty of NYU, he was Assistant Professor of Health Policy at the University of California, San Francisco. Professor Rodwin earned both his PhD in City and Regional Planning and his MPH in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley.
Affiliate Report:
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

For nearly a decade, WACMB has partnered with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. Larry Johnson is WACMB’s liaison to OLLI, which is a dynamic learning community for adults age 50 and up. It offers a rich selection of curated courses (with no exams or grades) taught by CSUMB faculty and distinguished experts in their fields. Subjects are wide-ranging, including current events, literature, music, science, and many others. Fees vary by course, from none to $70; a $20 membership fee is required to participate in the full range of OLLI’s offerings.

In addition to its freestanding discussion group (see the next column), WACMB typically offers a discussion group through OLLI. This fall, however, the WACMB Discussion Group at OLLI will take a break. Don’t worry, though: it will reconvene in February 2022 for the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program.

Even though the WACMB Discussion Group at OLLI will be on hiatus this fall, WACMB members are welcome to participate in other OLLI offerings. The fall 2021 semester will run from August 20 to December 10. The OLLI Fall Catalog will be available online on July 27, and registration opens on August 5 at 10 am. These courses fill up quickly, so if you’re interested in taking one (or more), don’t delay!

For more information, visit https://olli.csumb.edu or email olli@csumb.edu

Teen Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the second WACMB Teen Essay Contest! Entrants were asked to write an essay about a current topic in world affairs. The Scholarship Committee chose nine winners this year.

Ivan Amador, Grade 11, Soledad HS
Chloe Bock, Grade 12, Soledad HS
Melanie Chavez, Grade 10, Soledad HS
Jason Contreras, Grade 10, Soledad HS
Kilene Gonzalez, Grade 11, Soledad HS
Anirudh Kotamraju, Grade 11, The Harker School
Elena Oh, Grade 10, Santa Catalina School
Karla Vasquez, Grade 12, Soledad HS
Karina Villaruel, Grade 11, Soledad HS

Discussion Group

The WACMB Discussion Group will meet on Monday, July 12, to consider the concept of Accelerationism: The International Apocalyptic Doctrine That’s Unifying the Far Right, based on the Quick Take of the same name by Alex Newhouse, Deputy Director, Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism at MIIS. The Quick Take video can be viewed at your convenience at https://youtu.be/1BNSqhRZJec or by following the directions found just under the headline on the front page of this Passport. We are pleased that Mr. Newhouse will be able to join the discussion, which will take place from 4:00-5:30 via Zoom.

The WACMB Discussion Group is facilitated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. If you are interested in participating in the group, please send an email to info@wacmb.org and let them know. Come join the conversation!
Congratulations to Our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

Ari Korreshi: MIIS, May 2022

Born in Albania when it was still a communist state, Ari came to the United States as a child. After learning the value of hard work by watching his parents as they made a new life for their family here, Ari worked his way through community college and while obtaining his BA in Linguistics. He followed that with a stint in the Peace Corps, teaching English in Albania at the pre-high school level. After he receives his Master’s degree in Public Administration from MIIS, Ari hopes to work for the US State Department in the Foreign Service, and would ultimately like to become Secretary of State or National Climate Advisor.

Morgan Moore: MIIS, May 2022

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Morgan graduated cum laude from Xavier University with a major in Political Science and a minor in Spanish. After graduation, she served in the Peace Corps as a Community Economic Development specialist in Paraguay. She is pursuing a joint master’s degree in International Policy and Development (IPD) and International Trade and Economic Diplomacy (ITED) at MIIS, where she is a Paul D. Coverdell fellow. Morgan plans to begin her career in the civil service, an NGO, or the private sector, and then to enter the Foreign Service, either with the State Department or USAID.

Julius Clay Moye: MIIS, December 2021

Julius grew up on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and received his bachelor’s degree from Tufts University. He then served for almost three years in the Peace Corps in Ukraine, where he taught English in a small town and played English-language music concerts across the country. He is currently in a joint master’s program at MIIS in International Trade and Economic Diplomacy (ITED) and Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies (NPTS) with a specialization in Financial Crime Management. A Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist, Julius looks forward to a career in international trade consultancy and economic and social development in Eastern Europe.
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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WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(831) 643-1855  FAX: (831) 643-1846
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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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