



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

February 2022

A Postmortem on US Involvement in Afghanistan

(Rescheduled from January 2022)

Professor Thomas H. Johnson

Department of National Security Affairs

Naval Postgraduate School

Friday, February 25, 2022

11:00 am: Registration 11:50 am: Luncheon 12:50 pm: Program

**** Hilton Garden Inn, Aguajito Road, Monterey ****

After his luncheon talk in January was canceled due to the omicron variant, Professor Thomas Johnson of the Naval Postgraduate School has graciously agreed to reschedule that talk to February. Thank you, Professor Johnson, for your flexibility!

After the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the communist government in Kabul, the United States provided support to Afghan insurgents in their fight against the Soviets. In 2001, following the attacks of September 11, the United States and NATO invaded Afghanistan to evict the Taliban regime, which had given al-Qaeda safe haven in which to plan and train for 9/11. The war that was triggered by that invasion lasted for two decades, costing over \$1 trillion and the lives of more than 3,500 US and allied soldiers. The spectacle of the hasty withdrawal of US troops this past summer, and the Taliban's rapid return to power, have raised many questions about what went wrong with US policies toward Afghanistan.

In his talk, Professor Johnson will focus on a variety of cultural, political, governmental, and ethnic reasons to



address why the United States was not successful in Afghanistan. He will discuss the lack of a coherent strategy and the poor choice of tactics that were used to fight this type of insurgency.

Thomas H. Johnson is a research professor in the National Security Affairs department at NPS, and the Director of the Program for Culture & Conflict Studies. For three decades, he has conducted research and written about Afghanistan and South Asia. He is the author of the best-selling book, *Taliban Narratives: The Use and Power of Stories in the Afghanistan Conflict* (Oxford University Press, 2018), and has recently updated and expanded Ludwig Adamec's seminal book, *The Historical Dictionary of Afghanistan*. He has published numerous scholarly articles, and has contributed to many news outlets, from National Public Radio and PBS NewsHour to the *New York Times*. From 2008 to 2009, he served as the Senior Political and COIN Advisor to Gen. Jon Vance, the commander of all Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. He has been awarded the Charles E. Merriam Award for Outstanding Public Policy Research from the U. of Illinois.

All Attendees Must Provide Proof of Vaccination and Booster.

See inside for further information.

Great Decisions is Underway!

Great Decisions, the country's largest discussion program, is produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America. This weekly program provides background information and policy options for some of the most critical issues facing the United States right now.

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area offers two *Great Decisions* groups this year: one solely through WACMB, and one in collaboration with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUMB. Both groups meet online in their own Zoom rooms every Monday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Each session begins with a thirty-minute Master Class lecture, followed by a moderated group discussion. Moderators are Boyd Haight, Linda Dilger, and John Hetz.

Great Decisions 2022 Schedule

Week 2, February 7: Outer Space

Week 3, February 14: Climate Change

February 21: President's Day: No meeting

Week 4, February 28: Russia

Week 5, March 7: Myanmar and ASEAN

Week 6, March 14: The Quad Alliance

Week 7, March 21: Industrial Policy

Week 8, March 28: Drug Policy in Latin America

Week 9, April 4: Biden's Agenda

(The OLLI group concludes after week 8; only the WACMB group will meet for week 9)

Welcome to our New Members!

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is delighted to welcome our newest members.

Margaret Badger

Gerde Bode and Julie Brooks

Mindy Li and Bo Cisyk

Bryan Curl

Senator William Monning

We're so glad you've joined us, and look forward to meeting you in person soon!

Luncheon Price Increase

Due to unexpected and significant increases in the luncheon prices of our usual venues, it will soon become necessary to raise the prices for our luncheons.

You should know that your WACMB does not make a profit from luncheons; our prices are driven by the prices charged by the venues, plus a small amount to cover administrative costs such as credit card fees. Our Arrangements Committee has done extensive research and has reached out to quite a number of possible venues, only to discover that luncheon prices are increasing just about everywhere.

As always, we strive to provide our members with quality content and a delicious lunch in a comfortable setting. Furthermore, we are pleased to report that the cost for the February luncheon remains \$36 for members and \$42 for guests.

Please join us!

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations due February 21. Luncheon is at the Hilton Garden Inn in Monterey.

Registration: 11:00 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 @ \$36 _____

Guests @ \$42 _____

Total \$ _____

A Postmortem on Afghanistan

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

Important: You Must Provide Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination and Booster to Attend Luncheons

In order to maximize health precautions and protect our members, all those attending February's luncheon (and future luncheons, at least for the time being) must show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination, including a booster.

Please come prepared to show either your vaccination card, a picture of your vaccination card, or your State of California QR code that proves vaccination status. We recommend arriving at least fifteen minutes earlier than you normally would so that we may seamlessly carry out the tasks of verifying vaccination status and checking you in at the reception table.

There will be no exceptions to the proof-of-vaccination rule. Thank you for your patience and consideration as we break bread together for the first time in two years. We look forward to seeing you there!

LUNCHEON MENU

- Asian Salad with Oranges, Almonds, and Sesame Dressing
- Teriyaki Glazed Salmon with Mango Cucumber Salsa
- Coconut Rice
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Fresh Bread and Butter
- Sweet Mango Cheesecake
- Coffee

VEGETARIAN OPTION

- Grilled Sweet Potato "Steaks" with Mango Cucumber Salsa

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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- Benefactor \$1,000
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