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Foreign Service Journal (ISSN 0146-3543), 2101 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-2990 is published monthly with a combined July-August issue by the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), a private, nonprofit organization. Material appearing herein represents the opinions of the writers and does not necessarily represent the views of the *Journal*, the Editorial Board or AFSA. Writer queries and submissions are invited, preferably by e-mail. *Journal* subscription: AFSA members – \$13 included in annual dues; others – \$40. For foreign surface mail, add \$18 per year; foreign airmail, \$36 per year. Periodical postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Indexed by Public Affairs Information Services (PAIS). The *Journal* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photos or illustrations. Advertising inquiries are invited. The appearance of advertisements herein does not imply the endorsement of the services or goods offered.

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PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Rebranding the Foreign Service

BY SUSAN R. JOHNSON



There is much talk about the weaknesses of the State Department: its eclipse by an ascendant Defense Department, a longstanding lack of money and people to do the job, confusion over what the job *is*, low morale, inadequate training, increased politicization, decreasing professionalism... The list goes on.

Articles, investigations and reports abound analyzing the problems and proposing fixes, yet no clear path forward has been identified, much less agreed upon. Many compare the huge investment that we have made in our armed forces with the paltry funding for our civilian diplomatic and development agencies, and point to the need to devote significant resources to rebuild these neglected institutions.

All of us support such efforts, of course. Yet it is strange how little has been said about the need for public recognition and appreciation of those who wield the instruments of soft power. Indeed, their image remains sadly out of focus and out of date.

It is time to transform the archaic public perception of the diplomat as a striped pants-wearing cookie pusher hanging out at official receptions, and the demeaning stereotype of the USAID bureaucrat who is more con-

cerned with “managing” the portfolios of fat-cat contractors than bringing about real change on the ground.

If we want buy-in from the American people and their elected representatives,

we need to foster greater appreciation of the dangers and sacrifices that confront thousands of dedicated Foreign Service members — whether from State, USAID, FCS, FAS or IBB — and their families each day in every corner of the globe.

Toward that end, here are two simple proposals, the first of which would cost almost nothing. Both would be highly effective means to rebrand the Foreign Service.

One place to start is in the speeches and testimony of the Secretary of State and the top political leadership, both in the White House and Congress. We regularly hear our president and elected representatives and senators from both parties publicly acknowledge the service of our military colleagues, as well as the sacrifices their families make. That is as it should be, but could not the following words be added to such plaudits: “and that of our diplomatic and civilian personnel deployed abroad”?

Regular high-level recognition of all the ways in which civilian employees of foreign affairs agencies contribute to our national security would help focus

public attention on the *real* Foreign Service.

A second important initiative would be the construction of a public memorial to the hundreds of diplomats and development workers who have given their lives in service to their country.

Since the earliest days of our nation, 231 civilian employees of the State Department and the other foreign affairs agencies have died in the line of duty. Two-thirds of them — 160, including seven ambassadors — have been killed since 1948, most in terrorist attacks.

The AFSA Memorial Plaques in the C Street lobby of the State Department, established in 1933, already bear eloquent witness to the sacrifices of these brave individuals. But that location also keeps them from achieving the visibility they deserve.

An outside memorial near State, accessible to the public, would not only pay fitting tribute to this honor roll, but would also help inform and educate the American public about the nation's diplomatic service. It would remind all who see it that there are thousands of unarmed federal employees around the world dedicated to promoting peace and development through civilized discourse and compromise, rather than through violence and coercion.

I welcome your thoughts on the pros and cons of these two suggestions, and ways to implement them. Please e-mail me at Johnson@afsa.org. ■

Susan R. Johnson is the president of the American Foreign Service Association.



CYBERNOTES

Story Not Available in China

Advocates of Internet freedom won a substantial victory on Aug. 13, when China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology scrapped its long delayed and heavily contested Green Dam Youth Escort program (www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/16/AR2009081601697.html).

This program, introduced as mandatory pornography filter software on all new computers sold in China, blocks political content as well as pornography. It could enable Beijing to install a censor on every new computer in the nation.

Although the major U.S. computer vendors in China did not challenge Green Dam, a host of other technology companies and lobbies openly opposed the project and pushed the Obama administration to decry it (www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12580793?nclick_check=1).

The discontinuation of China's mandate that Green Dam be included on all new computers was lauded as a sign of the success of the global outcry and corporate conscience in altering Chinese policy. American pressure may not be behind the decision to reduce the project scope, however.

Rather, practical concerns and failures may have precluded its nationwide release. The filter, for instance,

Those who used to chastise America for acting alone in the world cannot now stand by and wait for America to solve the world's problems alone. We have sought — in word and deed — a new era of engagement with the world. Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges.

— President Barack Obama,
U.N. General Assembly,
Sept. 23, www.whitehouse.gov

was only operational on Internet Explorer, not on Firefox or Google Chrome. Moreover, flaws in the software would have exposed personal data to Internet spammers, potentially turning the entire Chinese computer system into the world's largest junk mailer (www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/06/AR2009070603305.html?nav=rs_opinions).

Despite such flaws, Green Dam will nonetheless be installed in all Internet cafés and on university computers in China.

Green Dam is just one brick in Beijing's wider Internet censorship program, popularly known as the Great Firewall of China. Comprised of filter

programs and rooms of party employees trolling the Internet for sensitive content, the censorship operation is a massive entity and difficult to follow. But certain sites are dedicated to tracking stories about it (www.newser.com/tag/24612/1/great-firewall-of-china.html?utm_source=ssp&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=tag).

To learn more about the Great Firewall and see which sites have been blocked, go to <http://greatfirewallofchina.org>. To learn what is being done to evade censorship within China, visit www.internetfreedom.org.

For a transcript of the Sept. 10 hearing on China's media and information controls sponsored by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, go to www.uscc.gov.

Do-It-Yourself Project Goes Wrong for State

A long-awaited Government Accountability Office report analyzing the 2005-2006 restructuring of the Nonproliferation, Arms Control, and Verification and Compliance Bureaus of the State Department was released on July 15 (www.wtop2.com/index.php?nid=15&sid=1721196).

The restructuring aimed to consolidate the three bureaus into two in an effort to eliminate overlap, thin top-heavy management, and better address arms and nuclear issues in the post-9/11



world. But the GAO found that State failed to meet its own goals.

Though the number of offices and senior executives were cut, overall executive staff numbers increased, while overlap and poor matching of workload to staff size persisted. The GAO suspects that the bulk of continued overlap is due to a failure to define bureau roles or follow established procedures in their mergers. The GAO itself had created a report outlining standard procedure for such actions in 2002 (www.gao.gov/new.items/d03669.pdf); but few, if any, of the steps outlined were employed by State.

Inspectors saw little hope for improving the agencies in their current incarnations, favoring a return to the drawing board. The report recommends that State either fully overhaul the process and create two new and separate arms control and nonproliferation agencies, or gradually pursue organizational changes within the existing agency structure.

The full report is available at www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-738.

New Poll Shows Diplomats Are People, Too

A new opinion poll, whose completion was announced Aug. 19, could change the way high-level diplomacy is done in Washington, D.C. The poll, titled "Washington in the Eyes of the International Community," was conducted by *The Washington Diplomat* and APCO Worldwide, a global communications consultancy. It sought to assess the views of foreign diplomats serving in Washington on issues of importance to the United States and the world.

Survey questions focused on broad issues: What are the top three global challenges? Where should the Obama administration focus its attention?

What was the most/least effective foreign policy move by the Bush administration? The results revealed striking similarities between the concerns of foreign ambassadors and American voters, as well as a hopeful perspective on the new U.S. administration (www.washingtondiplomat.com/August%202009/a6_08_09.html).

Of the 184 ambassadors receiving a copy of the poll, 27 completed it, for a response rate of 15 percent — respectable for a first effort. APCO says that the response rate by region closely mirrored the overall response rate. There is no way to know whether or not the response rate was shared through all levels of development, income or several other important factors, however. Neither does APCO define what it considers to constitute a region of the world.

Bill Dalbec, senior vice president of APCO Insight (APCO Worldwide's opinion research branch), acknowledges that the survey was not all that it could have been, but hopes it will become an annual event.

Devinda Subasinghe, Sri Lankan ambassador to the United States from 2002 to 2005 and a member of APCO's international advisory council, sees the poll as a potentially powerful diplo-

matic tool. "We have 180 ambassadors in this town, and everyone's competing for the attention of a very small group of individuals," says Subasinghe. "This is one way for the ambassadors to express their opinions and get them heard without being attributed."

For more information, visit APCO's press page at www.apcoworldwide.com.

The Great African Blame Game

Acting State Department Inspector General Harold Geisel has come under attack from many at State over his August report on State's Bureau of African Affairs (<http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/category/topic/aids>). The report acknowledges that AF faces substantial pressures and has insufficient resources. But it describes the bureau, especially under previous management, as woefully inadequate and sometimes downright incompetent.

The harsh language directed toward past officials and operations has left some department Africa hands feeling persecuted by Geisel. One former senior State official complained to *Foreign Policy* that the report is "a massive slam" against Jendayi Frazer, the former Bush administration assistant secretary for African affairs.

50 Years Ago...

How best to organize the State Department and the American Foreign Service is a problem which is still open. It will come to the fore, from time to time, for one or more reasons, such as these: New developments or increased complexities in international relations will make it necessary to streamline the current organization; the inauguration of new programs will necessitate a decision as to how they shall be administered; and new brooms, arriving in the department, will find ways of sweeping corners which have suffered previously from neglect.

— William Gerber, "Organizational Reform since World War II," November 1959 *FSJ*.





The report is based on an evaluation done between April 20 and June 5, 2009. Until May 7, when Obama administration nominee Johnnie Carson was sworn in, AF was led by acting Assistant Secretary Philip Carter III.

While the report criticizes former management, its harshest language was reserved for long-term institutional failures. Geisel dismisses the bureau's public diplomacy program as "failed." And he pins the blame for content-poor Mission Strategic and Bureau Strategic Plans on sheer "procrastination [...] or poor understanding of performance measurement on the part of missions and other officers."

The report also criticizes AF's approach toward relations with the United States Africa Command, claiming that AFRICOM is "misunderstood at best, if not resented and challenged by

AF." Geisel caps off this criticism by recommending that AFRICOM take over some of State's duties if it fails to better manage its portfolio.

The report concludes with a series of 19 recommendations (<http://oig.state.gov/documents/organization/127270.pdf>). The bureau will have to produce regular reports on its progress for the Office of the Inspector General, the first of which was completed at the end of August.

Follow updates and reports on this topic at OIG's Web site (<http://oig.state.gov>).

Burma Back in the News

On Sept. 18, Maj. Gen. Nyan Win, foreign minister of Burma (also known as Myanmar), arrived in Washington — the first time in nine years that permission to do so was granted to a Burmese

official. The one-day visit was for meetings with embassy staff, a U.S.-Asian business council and Sen. James Webb, D-Va. According to the State Department, Win did not meet with administration officials. But a thaw in the bilateral relationship and a search for new approaches are clearly under way.

A month before, on Aug. 14, Sen. Webb had been in Rangoon (also known as Yangon), where he negotiated the release of Virginia citizen John Yettaw, who had just been sentenced to seven years in prison for illegally visiting democratic opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Webb was the first American political leader in 10 years to visit the country and the first ever to meet junta leader General Than Shwe.

Upon his return, Sen. Webb wrote an op-ed for the *New York Times* arguing that the U.S. cannot afford to ignore Burma and advocating a change in approach. Webb criticized the sanctions policy and asserted that reopening doors to the West would allow the Burmese people to escape their current miserable economic status (www.nytimes.com/2009/08/26/opinion/26webb.html).

In a story on the Nyan Win visit, *Washington Post* writer John Pomfret reports that U.S. policy toward Burma has been under review for nine months and the results are expected soon (www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/22/AR2009092202911.html).

According to Pomfret, sanctions may not be lifted, but they won't be tightened, either. And more humanitarian aid may be channeled to the country, as well. Bolder moves, like a resumption of military-to-military relations and counternarcotics cooperation have also been under consideration, he says.

Site of the Month: www.freerice.com

Help end world hunger and expand your education, all from your office chair, with www.freerice.com. This simple and elegant site challenges users to pick the right word, identify the right country and otherwise test themselves on a variety of subjects. For each correct answer, the revenue generated by ads on the page pay for 10 grains of rice to be donated to the United Nations World Food Program.

This may not seem like a substantial donation (it takes approximately 19,200 grains of rice per day to feed one person), but the game is addictive and most users find themselves donating over a thousand grains in one round. With thousands playing at any moment around the world, the site is able to donate about 50 million grains of rice every day — and more than 67 billion grains since its inception in October 2007, feeding millions of people in 75 countries.

While [freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) would be commendable even for its primary function and achievements, the site is notable for its additional resources. The site offers detailed information and links to further resources on the current state of world hunger and campaigns against it.

Until March 2009, [freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) was operated and owned by John Breen, but he has since donated the site to the United Nations World Food Program and enlisted the support of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. With this newfound support and an expanding range of subjects, [freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) surely has a bright future ahead of it.

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Meanwhile, the administration has moved ahead to engage Rangoon officially. In the context of the U.N. General Assembly gathering in September, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton attended a meeting of the Group of Friends of Burma, established by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell met Prime Minister Gen. Thein Sein, the most senior official to attend the UNGA since 1995.

In late summer, in an apparent effort to encourage the opening, the Burmese government released some 119 political prisoners (out of an estimated 2,000). Back in June, however, the junta again arrested and convicted opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on security charges stemming from the incident in May involving Yettaw. She was sentenced to an additional 18 months of house arrest, ensuring that she will not be involved in the election campaign scheduled for next year. The junta is clearly determined to avoid a repeat of 1990, when Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, won a landslide victory.

Whether or not easing sanctions will have a positive effect is a subject of continuing debate. Advocates argue that without Western parties to trade with, Burmese businesses will be forced into closer connections with forces that are unresponsive to U.S. interests. Rangoon already deals mainly with China, Russia and North Korea. But the country also trades with India and South Korea, and its ties with less democratic trading partners are not ironclad.

A recent report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, for instance, dispels fears of a Burmese nuclear program aided by North Korea ([\[nus.net/artman2/publish/International_3/No_Proof_of_Secret_Myanmar_Nuclear_Program.shtml\]\(http://www.ocnus.net/artman2/publish/International_3/No_Proof_of_Secret_Myanmar_Nuclear_Program.shtml\)\). And Beijing has expressed its displeasure with Rangoon over continued fighting with ethnic minorities in northern Burma that has pushed thousands of refugees into China \(\[www.reuters.com/article/asiaCrisis/idUSPEK291010\]\(http://www.reuters.com/article/asiaCrisis/idUSPEK291010\)\).](http://www.oc</p>
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Journalist Brian McCartan concludes in a recent *Asia Times* article that dropping sanctions may slightly ease the population's suffering. But, he adds, the policy shift "would further enrich and entrench some of the region's most controversial business groups" (www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/KH26Ae01.html). In 2008, Transparency International ranked Burma as the second-most corrupt nation in the world (www.transparency.org/news_room/in_focus/2008/cpi2008/cpi_2008_table). And some analysts point out the rampant corruption, along with ineffective governance, had hobbled the country even before the 1997 sanctions were imposed.

To follow these developments online, tune in to the voices of those in Burma working from the underground for democracy (www.burmabloggers.net/), the words of Burmese officials (www.mewashingtondc.com/) and the analysis of country experts (<http://uscampaignforburma.org/>, www.usip.org/countries-continents/asia/myanmarburma).

And for background on the sanctions, visit the Council on Foreign Relations Web site (www.cfr.org/publication/14385/understanding_myanmar.html?breadcrumb=%2Fregion%2F297%2Fburmamyanmar). ■

This edition of Cybernotes was compiled by Editorial Intern Mark Hay.



SPEAKING OUT

Merge USAID Fully into State

BY RAYMOND MALLEY

In recent years the American foreign policy establishment and informed public opinion have again come to realize the key importance of bilateral economic development assistance — foreign aid — in foreign policy.

Development assistance is “soft power.” It fills an essential role not only in attaining international political objectives and dealing with global poverty, but also in addressing the growing challenges of humanitarian crises, failed states, terrorism, disease, climate change and a host of additional problems. As such, it is one of “the three Ds” of foreign policy — diplomacy, development and defense.

Yet just when we most need an effective apparatus to deliver bilateral development assistance, the structure we have remains grossly underfunded and understaffed. While attention is now (belatedly) being given to these deficiencies, development is still a “poor cousin” of diplomacy and defense.

Too Many Aid Spigots

To be sure, many agencies and entities provide and manage U.S. bilateral economic development assistance. But there are too many spigots, each with its own manager, staff and budget. Frequently they compete for personnel and projects, leading to disputes

*Just when we most
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foreign aid, USAID is
grossly underfunded
and understaffed.*



over who is in charge. Much time is spent both in Washington and the field attempting coordination, yet recipient governments and other aid donors remain confused. These inefficiencies waste a significant portion of our annual bilateral assistance budget.

Contrary to popular belief, the U.S. Agency for International Development manages less than half of our annual development assistance budget. And even that figure includes food aid programmed in cooperation with State and Agriculture.

The George W. Bush administration deliberately placed two massive new programs outside the purview of USAID, setting up the Millennium Challenge Corporation as a separate agency and placing the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and several other new health initiatives in State. The department also has offices dealing with humanitarian crises,

refugees and educational exchanges, and manages U.S. contributions to development programs of the United Nations.

The Department of Defense devotes increasing attention and resources in many countries to activities that used to be the responsibility of USAID, such as community development, roads, schools and clinics. This trend has reached the point that Army officers these days often talk and act like USAID mission directors.

Meanwhile, many Cabinet agencies — Treasury, Justice, Labor, Agriculture and Health & Human Services, among others — have created their own development assistance offices. In addition, Treasury manages relations with multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank, and administers debt relief for developing countries.

Two other government agencies were spawned in USAID, but later spun off: the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency (which I once briefly headed). Both assist American companies to invest in developing countries, using tools such as political risk insurance, loan guarantees and feasibility studies. They also encourage such countries to purchase goods and services from the U.S. Finally, there is the Peace Corps, a development assistance agency that has always



been outside USAID.

In addition to all this proliferation, and the resulting inefficiency, USAID itself is now in a sort of limbo: partly inside State and partly outside, “neither fish nor fowl.” Its core office responsible for policy, programming and the budget, the former Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, was merged into State several years ago, and the USAID Administrator and some staff are now physically located in the department. Yet most other USAID units, including the geographic bureaus, field missions and the personnel system offices, remain outside.

Fixing the Problem

There are those in Washington who advocate leaving this mess alone. After all, in its staggered and ineffectual manner the current system still “works.” At most, they favor tinkering at the margins, promoting the perennial panacea of “more and better coordination” among the various spigots.

But a wiser, more responsible course is to try to improve the existing situation. One way is to merge the various entities into a large, revamped and reinvigorated USAID, possibly with another name. In other words, we could recreate the powerful foreign assistance agency that existed from 1961 into the 1980s — the one that was almost on a par with State and DOD, reported to the White House, was led by prominent Americans, continually attracted top talent, and played an essential role in winning the Cold War. This time it might even be made a Cabinet department equal to State and Defense, as is the case in the United Kingdom and some other countries.

For me, as for countless experts and groups who have studied the problem over the years, this would be the prefer-

able course. But politically, it is a non-starter. The Obama administration would face the usual resistance to change from interested parties and groups that profit from the existing inefficiencies. So it would have to expend massive political capital and time to effect significant changes, and do so in the midst of battles concerning the more gripping national priorities on its plate.

Further, and possibly even more important, State not only controls most development assistance programs, but treats aid as a foreign policy matter. It addresses problems with money, and money is power. Now that State controls key portions of it, it is unlikely ever to willingly give them up.

So if anything significant is to be done to make the administration of foreign aid more rational and efficient, we must go to the next best option: incorporating the rest of USAID, and as many of the other agencies and entities mentioned above as possible, into State. This would entail the following steps:

- Abolish the position of USAID Administrator and its staff;
- Merge the geographic bureaus with their State equivalents;
- Merge USAID country missions into the embassies;
- Make development assistance a separate State bureau and specialty, taking advantage of the fact that State already controls several aid spigots; and
- Lobby for legislation to incorporate the Millennium Challenge Corporation and OPIC into the new bureau as separate operating units. (The small TDA should be absorbed into OPIC, as well.)

At the same time, we should *not* try to eliminate the aid spigots of other departments of government, which are

very important resources. Instead, let us pass clear, strong legislation that puts all U.S. assistance activities in developing countries under the control and oversight of State.

This approach may sound unwieldy, but I can attest to the fact that it works. When I served in Pakistan, the USAID mission wanted to assist the Pakistanis in improving the safety of their coal mines around Quetta. We contracted with the U.S. Bureau of Mines to provide an expert team for several years to carry this out. This initiative succeeded, in large part because one of my project officers worked with the team, while the team director reported to me as well as to his superiors in Washington.

State should also make efforts to take control of U.S. relations with the multilateral financial institutions from Treasury, although such attempts probably will not succeed. But at least the department can thereby step up its influence over Treasury’s activities in this area, as well as those related to debt relief considerations. As for the Peace Corps, it should remain outside State, if for no other reason than to avoid the appearance of being tied to short-term political considerations.

Development Objectives Remain Important

These recommendations will disappoint some and be strongly opposed by others — in particular, those development professionals, sometimes labeled “purists,” who believe that foreign assistance should be used only for development purposes, not short-term political ends. Of course, many of them are convinced that foreign assistance is *already* controlled by State.

Theirs is a longstanding argument. Though well intended, it is neither re-

SPEAKING OUT



alistic nor practical. Our bilateral assistance program has always served U.S. political objectives, however short-sighted they may be, and will continue to do so. Any administration will insist upon this, so there is no getting away from it.

But that does not mean that the program cannot also serve development objectives. I have managed large aid programs in countries of great political importance to the U.S. — Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), for example. The assistance we provided to those countries at the time was meant to help achieve political objectives. But we used those resources to meet real development needs and carry out effective poverty

We should not try to eliminate the aid spigots of other departments of government, which are important resources.

alleviation projects: agricultural growth, health, roads, training, civic participation and the like.

This pattern has been repeated in numerous countries; Egypt is a prime example. Usually there is no contra-

diction or conflict between political and development objectives, so in my view the purists have exaggerated the scope of the problem.

Those who want U.S. economic assistance to be used only for development purposes without any political content should push for greater contributions to the programs of the multilateral entities like the World Bank, the various regional banks and the United Nations. These institutions generally do not have political objectives, and Washington carries great weight in them. Yet only about a fourth or less of total U.S. economic development funds are channeled through them. Raising the multilateral percentage to one-third or more of total assistance might be a realistic objective.

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Make Development Assistance a Separate Specialty

Within State, I believe that development assistance should be made a separate cone (specialty), akin to existing generalist career tracks such as political, economic, public diplomacy and consular. USAID and other merged agency professionals would become fully equal to their State colleagues, and able to take advantage of similar growth opportunities (which often is not the case today). They would be expected to spend part of their careers outside their specialty, serving as an economic officer, for example.

As part of such an approach, political-cone FSOs and other generalists might spend tours as foreign aid program officers. Senior development

professionals could reasonably aspire to become ambassadors, while other officers might become directors of bilateral aid programs. This would boost morale and performance across the Foreign Service, and help recruit the best people for the key work of economic development.

There is one other major advantage to merging USAID and other development assistance spigots into State. It would increase their cumulative power and ability to fight the turf battles that Washington agencies are always engaged in, especially vis-à-vis Defense and Treasury in the case of foreign aid.

Our nation's international and domestic problems, to say nothing of the massively antagonistic nature of current political and civil discourse, make

adoption and implementation of these recommendations a tall order. Still, the case for action is compelling, and the long-term advantages to U.S. foreign policy are obvious. ■

Raymond Malley, a retired Senior Foreign Service officer, spent 23 years in operational and management positions with USAID, and performed numerous consulting assignments for the agency thereafter. After retiring from the Foreign Service, he pursued a second career as a senior executive with a large global Korean industrial manufacturing group. A resident of Hanover, N.H., and McLean, Va., he now teaches international affairs at the Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth College.

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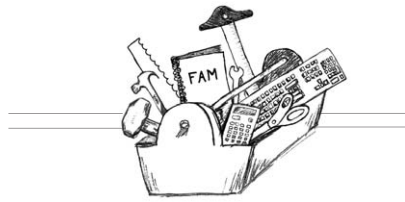
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FS KNOW-HOW

Coping With Dietary Restrictions Overseas

BY KELLY ARMSTRONG

You've just gotten the news: One of your family members has a serious food allergy or intolerance. If it's just a matter of avoiding certain foods (say, peanuts), that is challenging enough. But what do you do when entire segments of the diet — soy, gluten, wheat, milk or eggs, for example — have to be cut out completely? How can you possibly make the changes required, especially while living overseas?

When our middle child was 5 we learned, largely by trial and error, that he and his little brother are unable to tolerate wheat and milk. Goodbye to bread, cookies, cakes, crackers, noodles, yogurt, ice cream, milk, cheese and pizza! I was sure my children would starve before I could learn what to feed them.

If you find yourself in a similar situation, and overseas on the far side of the world to boot, don't panic. Read on to find some practical nuts-and-bolts information on how to start restructuring your life.

Establish a Secure Supply Line

If you are the cook in a family like ours, and find that your entire diet needs to be rebuilt from the ground up, you will quickly learn that you need a lot of ingredients you might never have heard of before. The first and most important thing to do is to establish a rou-

*Research, patience
and creativity will
enable FS families to
make even major
dietary changes.*



tine for obtaining those supplies.

Fortunately, if you have an Internet connection and access to the unclassified diplomatic pouch, then almost anything you could find in the United States will be available to you. Amazon.com's grocery section has a phenomenal selection of items to suit almost any specialized diet, including gluten-free, wheat-free, milk-free and soy-free products. It will ship to diplomatic pouch addresses; and with an "Amazon Prime" membership (which will likely pay for itself in short order), shipping is free.

A little additional research will likely turn up online specialty or health food stores that cater to your specific requirements. If possible, set up subscriptions to items you need in bulk or order frequently, so that you'll always have those supplies on hand.

Online international forums such as those on Yahoo! can help you locate others with similar restrictions and find local specialty stores. You'll also want to find out what specialty ingredients

are available locally. Depending on where you live, grocery stores, pharmacies or health food stores may even carry much of what you need.

Ask around the embassy and expatriate community, as well. For example, a chance meeting at a friend's house led me to a gluten-free baker in San Jose, Costa Rica. And a trip to the drugstore in Zagreb revealed a source of cookies and crackers suitable for my family.

Finally, don't forget to talk to your local doctor at post; he or she can give you excellent advice on how and where to obtain the many ingredients. I learned from my doctor in Zagreb that gluten-free flour is actually available through the larger pharmacies in Croatia, and can even be prescribed for children with celiac disease, who require a gluten-free diet.

Cook Fearlessly

The Internet is your friend in searching for ways to feed your family. Whatever your dietary needs, you can find blogs and discussion groups that will address them, as well as cookbooks and countless free recipes. Besides moral support, you'll find suggestions you might never have thought of otherwise. I was having difficulty finding substitutions for milk in many of my recipes until, by way of an Internet forum and a used book sale, I stumbled onto a cookbook that recom-



mended using soy-based infant formula.

Don't be afraid to try new recipes, make interesting substitutions or adapt favorite recipes to new ingredients. This will require a bit of imagination, but sometimes the results are surprisingly good. Our family loves frittatas (an Italian egg dish rather like a crustless quiche), but given our problems with dairy products, using milk and cheese was completely out of the question. In desperation one day, I instead added chicken stock to the eggs. The results were spectacular, and now I do the same with plain scrambled eggs. Even my picky eaters devour them.

Get a good cookbook and go on a culinary world tour! Many Asian dishes use little or no dairy or wheat, making them perfect for a large number of allergic or intolerant people. And historically, soy was unknown in the Middle East, making many dishes from that region suitable for those who can't ingest that plant.

Be patient. Don't forget that when implementing a new diet, it takes time to find something all of you can live with — especially if your house, like mine, is full of picky eaters. Talk to your doctor or pediatrician about the necessity for multivitamins, and investigate cookbooks like Jessica Seinfeld's *Deceptively Delicious*. She provides practical, step-by-step instructions for 'secretly' introducing fruits and vegetables into dishes; I find her ideas an excellent starting place for ways to round out our family's nutrition.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to fail. There are bound to be meals that looked good in the cookbook but that no one, not even the cook, wants to eat. When I find I've prepared something horrible, I happily throw it away and mark the recipe out of my cookbook.

The Internet is your friend in searching for ways to feed your family.

Get Organized

Radical dietary changes sometimes require making from scratch many of the foods you used to buy pre-packaged. If so, make sure you get the equipment you need. Internet forums and specialty cookbooks are excellent sources for tips on what others with similar problems have found useful. For instance, a gluten-free household will likely need both a breadmaker and a heavy-duty mixer. Our wheat- and dairy-free household also uses a tortilla maker and soymilk maker weekly, if not daily.

Whatever you purchase, make sure you get a product that will stand up to frequent use. Online product reviews by satisfied, or dissatisfied, customers are an excellent way to judge whether a product will be right for your family. The tortilla maker I purchased was actually panned in the reviews, but the reviewers' stated needs were so different from mine that I knew it would work perfectly for me. It turned out to be the best thing I could have purchased.

Once you've gotten the equipment you need, make sure your kitchen is organized to support the cooking you do most frequently. I make bread about six times a week, so everything I need, including the recipe, is either on the counter or in a basket under my

workspace. From start to finish, I can have a loaf in the breadmaker in less than five minutes. I also frequently bake some variety of muffins or banana bread, so I have a shorthand version of those recipes written down and taped up inside my cabinet at my workspace. With everything within reach, I can get a pan of muffins into the oven and have the bowl washed in less time than it takes the oven to pre-heat.

In the process of restructuring your family's diet, you may find yourself spending a lot of time doing things you never even thought of before. Whether it's shopping for esoteric ingredients or baking something every day, you may quickly find that what was already a busy schedule can become overwhelming. But the good news is that you will eventually settle into a new routine, especially if the whole family pulls together.

If finances allow, consider hiring extra help around the house, at least for the first few months. Whether it's a maid who comes in once a week to do the cleaning or a high school student who works off some community service hours as a mother's helper, every little bit helps.

The lifestyle changes that often come with a change in diet can be huge. But with a little research, patience and willingness to try the unusual, you *can* make the transition work. ■

Kelly Armstrong is a freelance writer, Foreign Service spouse and former State Department employee who served in Frankfurt and Tel Aviv. She has since lived in Jakarta, Frankfurt and Zagreb, and currently resides in San Jose with her husband and three children.

FOCUS ON FS AUTHORS

IN THEIR
OWN WRITE



OUR ANNUAL COMPILATION OF RECENT BOOKS BY FOREIGN SERVICE AUTHORS CELEBRATES THE FS COMMUNITY'S WEALTH OF LITERARY TALENT.

The *Foreign Service Journal* is pleased to present our annual Foreign Service authors roundup, in plenty of time for holiday orders. This year, in conjunction with steps to upgrade the *Journal's* online presence, we are also proud to announce an expanded and updated online bookstore where you will find all of these books, as well as the volumes that have been featured in these roundups over the years — and more (www.afsa.org/ads/books/).

Here is an annotated list of some of the titles written or edited by Foreign Service personnel and family members in

2008 and 2009. The roundup was assembled with the help of editorial interns Elizabeth Swift, Mark Hay and Amanda Anderson.

This year's selection contains a number of high-quality histories, a very strong policy and issues section, a variety of engaging and important memoirs, nine works of fiction and two striking and unusual coffee-table books. As in the past few years, a significant portion of our titles are self-published.

Our primary purpose in compiling this list is to celebrate the wealth of literary talent within the Foreign Service community, and to give our readers the opportunity to support colleagues by sampling their wares. Each entry contains full publication data along with a short commentary.

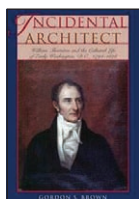
As has become our custom, we also include a selection of books "of related interest" that were not written by FS authors (see pp. 36-40).

While many of the titles are available from bookstores and other sources, we encourage you to use the AFSA Web site's Marketplace Bookstore to place your orders. The AFSA Bookstore listings are linked to Amazon and, at no extra cost to you, each book sold there brings a small bonus to AFSA. For the few books that cannot be ordered through Amazon, we have provided alternative links or, when the book is not available online, the necessary contact information.

But enough crass commercialism. On to the books!

— Susan Maitra, Senior Editor

HISTORY



Incidental Architect: William Thornton and the Cultural Life of Early Washington, D.C., 1794-1828

Gordon S. Brown, *Ohio University Press*, 2009, \$49.95, *hardcover*, 192 pages.

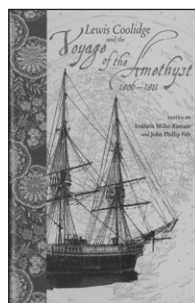
Gordon Brown's newest offering fills a vacuum in scholarship on the early history of Washington, D.C. In exploring the life of William Thornton, a leader and archetype of the early days on the Potomac, Brown focuses less on the emerging politics and architecture of the nascent capital, and more on the intellectual and social developments so integral to its character.

Although Thornton famously designed the iconic Capitol Building at the heart of Washington, Brown brings to light his greater, but more subtle, impact on the capital. A student at Edinburgh, Thornton brought

the values of the Scottish Enlightenment to the swampy backwater outpost that would become his home.

During his life on the Potomac, Thornton served as city commissioner and director of the patent office. He and his wife were also central to the burgeoning social scene of the age, helping to create the networks and resources that served as the foundation for Washington's first cultural and intellectual centers. Brown's account of the life of this extraordinary figure offers rich insights into the early vibrancy and evolution of the culture now taken for granted as a fundamental part of Washington, D.C.

Gordon S. Brown is a retired FSO and former ambassador. He served as General H. Norman Schwarzkopf's political adviser during the Persian Gulf War and is the author of two previous books, *Toussaint's Clause: The Founding Fathers and the Haitian Revolution* (University Press of Mississippi, 2005) and *The Norman Conquest of Southern Italy and Sicily* (McFarland, 2003).



Lewis Coolidge and the Voyage of the Amethyst, 1806-1811

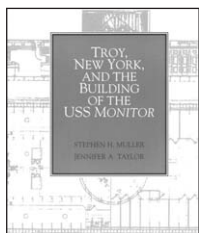
Evabeth Miller Kienast and
John Phillip Felt, editors,
*The University of South
Carolina Press*, 2009, \$29.95,
hardcover, 125 pages.

Lewis Coolidge, whose diaries form the basis for this account of a 19th-century sailing expedition, was the nephew of Billy Dawes, the man who accompanied Paul Revere on his historic midnight ride. Evabeth Kienast and John Felt have edited Coolidge's diaries of the five-year voyage aboard the *Amethyst*, a ship with a mission to catch fur seals in exchange for delicacies such as tea, porcelain and silk. For Coolidge, a highly literate Bostonian and the great-great grandfather of John Felt, the trip was the adventure of a lifetime. His diaries give a first-person perspective on the sealing trade and also provide thoughtful commentary on U.S. maritime culture.

The text is supplemented by 18 illustrations and a survey by Felt on the "Old China trade" enterprise, as well as his account of Coolidge's life following the voyage. William N. Peterson, the Carl C. Cutler Curator at Mystic Seaport, calls it a "worthy companion to classic sea narratives" that "sheds new light on the early American maritime trade to the Far East."

A native of central Illinois, Evabeth Miller Kienast (1912-2007) was a reporter and arts columnist from 1934 to 1959 for the *Peoria Star*, where she worked with

Lewis Coolidge's granddaughter, who first introduced her to his maritime diary. Also an Illinois native, John Phillip Felt served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and as a Foreign Service officer with the State Department. Now retired, he lives in Alexandria, Va.

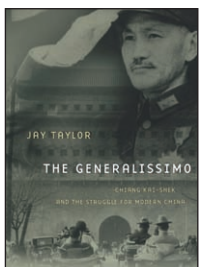


Troy, New York, and the Building of the USS Monitor
Stephen H. Muller and Jennifer A. Taylor, Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, 2009, \$8.95, paperback, 35 pages.

Wasting no space, this deceptively slim monograph on the first oceangoing U.S. ironclad of the Civil War packs a great deal of information into its 35 pages. While focusing primarily on the relationship between Troy industrialists John Griswold and John Winslow and *Monitor* designer John Ericsson that facilitated the warship's construction, Muller and Taylor also explore the history of ironclad development, design and performance. In particular, they describe the *Monitor*'s arch-nemesis, the CSS *Virginia* (better known as the ex-USS *Merrimac*), and the standstill battle between the two behemoths at Hampton Roads in 1862.

Muller's special interest is in industrial, Civil War and local history, and he focuses on the central part that Troy, N.Y., and her industrialists played in supplying the iron plates for the ship's hull and armor. Muller and Taylor's work fills in the details of a monumental chapter of American history that is still a point of pride for Troy locals.

Stephen Muller served in the Foreign Service as an economic officer for 26 years until his retirement in 2000. He moved to Troy in 2003, where he writes for several electric utility industry newsletters. To purchase this monograph, contact Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, 1 East Industrial Drive, Troy NY 12190.



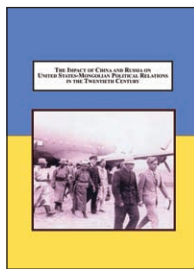
The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-Shek and the Struggle for Modern China
Jay Taylor, Harvard University Press, 2009, \$35, hardcover, 736 pages.

Conventional history has viewed Chiang Kai-shek with considerable disdain for his perceived ineptitude, corruption and, most importantly, his loss of mainland China to the communists. Recently released documents, however, including Chiang's personal diary, have prompted a dra-

matic re-evaluation of the man. Jay Taylor's hefty biography boils down this wealth of new information into a nuanced, authoritative and often sympathetic account of Chiang's struggles.

After rising to power following the death of Sun Yat-sen in 1925, Chiang waged 20 years of constant war — first with warlords, then the Japanese and, finally, the Chinese Communists. Taylor reveals how Chiang, far from squandering aid and losing to a manageable insurgency, heroically endured heavy losses only to face a fresh and consolidated enemy, resulting in his expulsion to Taiwan and international ridicule. Yet Chiang persevered, forging Taiwan into a wealthy nation and a model for Chinese democracy while the mainland underwent the Great Leap Forward. Taylor does not deny that these accomplishments were accompanied by substantial blunders and brutality, but the figure he presents is a complex, real man, not the two-dimensional scapegoat of popular accounts.

Jay Taylor served as an FSO in Hong Kong during the Cultural Revolution. He is the author of five books, including *The Generalissimo's Son: Chiang Ching-kuo and the Revolutions in China and Taiwan* (Harvard University Press, 2000), and is a research associate at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University.



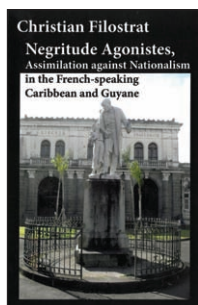
The Impact of China and Russia on United States-Mongolian Political Relations in the Twentieth Century
Alicia J. Campi and Ragchaa Baason, The Edwin Mellen Press, 2009, \$139.95, hardcover, 572 pages.

"This book is a much-needed contribution to the critical area of Northeast Asian history — an account that has long been obscure," declares China expert and Brigham Young University Professor Paul Hyer, adding that it "promises to be the definitive study on the topic."

Written by two former diplomats, this work is the first in-depth analysis of the political relationship between the United States and Mongolia. The study elucidates why, despite more than a hundred years of substantive interactions between the two countries, formal diplomatic relations were not established until 1987. Beginning with the experiences of the earliest American officials, missionaries and adventurers in Mongolia, the account continues through secret meetings in Peking and Urga, the opening and subsequent closing of the

Kalgan consulate, the establishment of informant networks, military reports, the Yalta Conference and negotiations in Tokyo. It includes the roles played along the way to eventual diplomatic relations by Samuel Sokobin, Owen Lattimore, Edgar Snow and Mike Mansfield, among others.

Alicia Campi, a former FSO, is president of the Mongolia Society and the U.S.-Mongolia Advisory Group, and heads the Chinggis Khan Foundation. She is on the staff of the American Foreign Service Association. A career diplomat, Ragcha Baasan served as first secretary in the Mongolian Embassy in Washington, D.C., with dual accreditation to Mexico, from 1997 to 2000. After retirement in 2001, she was a special researcher in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University. She is now a freelance consultant in Ulaanbaatar.



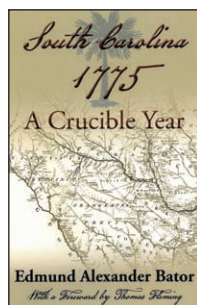
Negritude Agonistes: Assimilation Against Nationality in the French-Speaking Caribbean and Guyane

Christian Filostrat, Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, 2008, \$36.00, paperback, 240 pages.

This account of the consequences of the French colonization of the Caribbean and Guyana gives a general overview of the history and an analysis of the relation of forces and people in Haiti, Guyana, Guadeloupe and Martinique. According to Filostrat, it is an effort to come to grips with the differences between “Haitianism” and “Negritude” in terms of the historical, sociopolitical and literary roots from which both arose.

While *Negritude Agonistes* is certainly an accessible and informative primer on French colonialism and reactions to French policies in the West Indies from the 16th century to the 20th, the real meat of Filostrat’s work comes from his scholarship on the Negritude literary and political movement of the 1930s. In particular, the book includes excerpts from a previously missing issue of *L’Etudiant Noir Journal Mensuel de l’Association des Etudiants Martiniquais en France (The Black Student Journal)*, in which Aimé Césaire first used the term Negritude. For years, scholars had doubted that the issue — Volume 1, Number 3 (May-June) — still existed. Filostrat also identifies some of the overlooked or forgotten platforms of the movement in its early days, and presents previously unpublished poetry by Léon Damas and an interview with Frantz Fanon’s widow.

Christian Filostrat, a retired FSO, served overseas in Senegal, Congo, Romania and Haiti. His last posting was as diplomat-in-residence at Howard University from 1999 to 2002. Currently living in Paris, where he works to support the rights of minorities around the world, Filostrat is also the author of a novel, *The Beggars’ Pursuit* (see p. 32).



South Carolina 1775 — A Crucible Year

Edmund Alexander Bator, American History Imprints, 2009, \$26.95, hardcover, 352 pages.

“This is a book that every American interested in the real story of the nation’s history should read,” says historian Thomas Fleming in his foreword to *South Carolina 1775*. “With careful attention to seemingly minor details and the role that personality and self-interest play in unfolding events, Edmund Bator has told us in this account of the first year of the American Revolution in South Carolina just how fragile and tentative the enterprise was, beyond the borders of New England.”

Bator’s account chronicles the reaction in South Carolina to the call of the First Continental Congress for the colonies to unite against Great Britain. “Low-country” leaders tended to lean toward the rebels, while “back-country” leaders were less sure of the utility of breaking ties with the motherland. Based primarily on original sources, including letters and diaries of the individuals involved, the book affords unique insights into the difficult and turbulent political process in South Carolina as the Revolutionary War got under way.

Edmund Alexander Bator is a retired FSO, whose 25-year diplomatic career took him to Finland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Kuwait and Washington, D.C. After retiring, he became a guest lecturer on the Middle East at Oglethorpe University while continuing to pursue research in early American history and genealogy.

Cold War Confrontations: U.S. Exhibitions and their Role in the Cultural Cold War

Jack Masey and Conway Lloyd Morgan, Lars Muller Publishers, 2008, \$49.95, hardcover, 424 pages.

In this book, Jack Masey and Conway Lloyd Morgan demonstrate the importance of world fairs and international exhibitions to the political, cultural and commercial battles of the Cold War.

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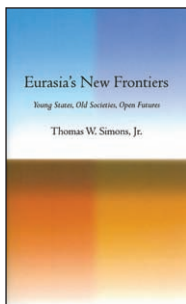


Well-known American architects and designers, including R. Buckminster Fuller, Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson, Peter Blake, Ivan Chermayeff and Thomas Geismar, played major roles in designing the U.S. presence at important world expositions. In 10 chapters devoted to particular fairs and types of exhibitions, the authors present the contributions made by these and other artists, architects and designers.

The story of how each exhibit was put together and the response it received is illustrated with fully restored photographs of the event. The text draws on Masey's recollections, recently declassified documents, unpublished memoirs and photographs, interviews with surviving members of U.S. design teams and others.

Jack Masey served with the United States Information Agency from 1951 to 1979, spending many years there as director of design. In 1979, he formed his own design office that, in partnership with Chermayeff & Geismar, designed the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and the Statue of Liberty Museum in New York City. Conrad Lloyd Morgan is a senior lecturer at the University of Wales's Newport School of Art, Media and Design in Newport, R.I. He has published more than 20 books on contemporary design, architecture and design history.

ISSUES & POLICY



Eurasia's New Frontiers: Young States, Old Societies, Open Futures

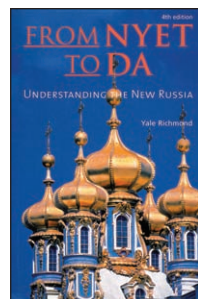
Thomas W. Simons Jr., Cornell University Press, 2008, \$25, hardcover, 177 pages.

Since 1991, Americans have generally ignored developments in the 15 post-Soviet successor states. That such a strategically important region could be left to stagnate under partial or full-blown authoritarian regimes with sickly civil societies is unacceptable to former Ambassador Thomas Simons. As he explains in his book, the U.S. has the potential to drastically change the region for the better, with substantially less risk and cost than was incurred during the Cold War.

Simons sees the ailing civil societies of post-Soviet nations as possibly the greatest challenge to stability and

vibrancy in the region. This lack of community leads to the development of ethnic- and religious-based nationalism, a divisive and harmful force. If the U.S. seeks stability and the advancement of its own ideals in these newborn states, he argues, it must lend a hand in the formation of an effective and inclusive civil society. According to Simons, these nations' Soviet heritage has left a "secret gift" of potentially strong state institutions that should make the task easier. Building on this, Washington should adopt a pragmatic and individualized policy toward each nation is needed. It may take time, but American ideals and interests can still take hold in this strange, new frontier — if we are willing to make the effort.

Thomas W. Simons Jr. was a Foreign Service officer from 1963 to 1998. He served as ambassador to Poland and to Pakistan and as coordinator of U.S. assistance to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Amb. Simon is a visiting scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and a lecturer in government at Harvard University. He is the author of three previous books, including *Islam in a Globalizing World* (Stanford Law and Politics, 2003).



From Nyet to Da: Understanding the New Russia

Yale Richmond, Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2009, \$24.95, paperback, 168 pages.

For many, Russia remains an enigmatic political entity and mysterious land. This book is for us. As Russia expert Marshall Goldman says, it is the "ideal book for the foreigner who seeks to understand why Russia is and is not just like other European countries."

Highly readable, *From Nyet to Da* addresses all aspects of Russian life, from interpersonal mores to geography, cultural issues, government institutions and negotiation tactics. Initially published in 1992, this fourth edition provides an updated look at the Russian character and current geopolitical situation. It sheds light on the dynamics of traditional Russian culture in the framework of events such as the March 2008 elections and the Georgian conflict of August 2008.

"Whatever form of democracy emerges in Russia, history tells us that it will be based on many of the same forces that have shaped Russia in the past — geography, religion, culture and governance. The new state will be neither European nor Asian, but uniquely Russian,"

Richmond wrote in the first edition. And, he says, this is still true.

Yale Richmond, a retired Foreign Service officer with USIA who served in Germany, Laos, Poland, Austria and the Soviet Union, worked on U.S.-Soviet exchanges for more than 20 years, including a tour of duty as counselor for press and culture in Moscow. He is the author of *From Da to Yes: Understanding the East Europeans* (Intercultural Press, 1995), *Into Africa: Intercultural Insights* (Intercultural Press, 1998), *Practicing Public Diplomacy: A Cold War Odyssey* (Berghahn Books, 2008) and *Understanding the Americans: A Handbook for Visitors to the United States* (see p. 26).



**India and the United States
in the 21st Century:
Reinventing Partnership**

*Teresita C. Schaffer, Center
for Strategic and International
Studies, 2009, \$22.95,
paperback, 264 pages.*

The emergence of India as an economic powerhouse over the

last decade has helped drive a sea change in relations between Washington and New Delhi. India has moved beyond its Cold War-era nonalignment and relative isolation and now seeks a greater hand in global politics, economics and security. But at the dawn of the second decade of the new millennium, Ambassador Teresita C. Schaffer observes, U.S.-Indian relations have grown jumbled. While the two nations maintain strong ties, there are few global issues upon which they agree.

In the new era, India's cooperation in the global issues of nuclear proliferation, climate change and international financial reforms will be vital to global stability. These, however, are exactly the issues on which the U.S. and India cannot find common ground. New Delhi refuses to budge, traditionally valuing a foreign policy free of outside influence, while America, expecting to dominate any partnership, presses onward to no avail.

Amb. Schaffer presents a striking analysis of the diplomatic gridlock and offers a path toward integrating the conflicting bilateral and multilateral desires, suggesting that America adopt a candid policy of inclusion to draw India into global leadership councils.

Teresita C. Schaffer served in the Foreign Service for

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30 years, including as ambassador to Sri Lanka and deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asia. Since 1998 she has directed the South Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.



The Iranian Nuclear Crisis: Avoiding Worst-Case Outcomes

Mark Fitzpatrick, *Routledge for the International Institute for Strategic Studies*, 2008, \$16, paperback, 99 pages.

In this analysis of Iran's nuclear program, Mark Fitzpatrick probes its relatively rapid development

and offers suggestions of how to avoid the two worst-case outcomes: an Iran with an atomic bomb and a bombed Iran.

Fitzpatrick reviews Western strategy over the years aimed at denying Tehran nuclear weapons and wonders whether or not Iran can, in fact, be kept non-weaponized. The "denial of supply" approach has been ineffective in halting progress toward a nuclear weapons capability. However, offering a fallback option that legitimizes enrichment in Iran is not the answer, Fitzpatrick concludes. Containment and deterrence, he argues, are two possible strategies that may prove critical in influencing Iran to stop short of building weapons.

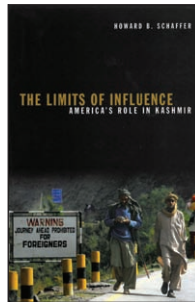
The author states: "A dual policy of engagement and sanctions, with containment strategies targeted at limiting Iranian access to sensitive technologies and materials, is still the best way to test possibilities for Iranian cooperation while maintaining vigilance and controls to limit the nuclear-proliferation threat. If engagement fails, the sanctions strategy maintains a basis for long-term containment."

Mark Fitzpatrick, a retired FSO, is a senior fellow for nonproliferation at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and director of its Nonproliferation and Disarmament Program. His 26-year diplomatic career included a stint as deputy assistant secretary for nonproliferation.

The Limits of Influence: America's Role in Kashmir

Howard B. Schaffer, *Brookings Institution Press*, 2009, \$34.95, hardcover, 260 pages.

Kashmir may have fallen out of popular media attention over the past few years, but it remains a diplomatic hot spot. A confusing issue and one that bristles with tension and periodic threats of nuclear retaliation,



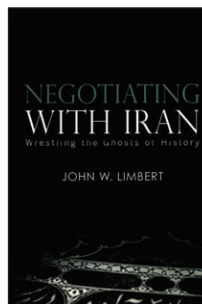
Kashmir is a chronic foreign policy challenge for America.

An issue created by the British partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, the Kashmir imbroglio has engaged successive administrations in Washington for three generations. Despite different levels and approaches to engagement, no resolution has been reached, either by the two powers themselves or brokered by the international community.

Not even the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Pakistan, turning the issue into a possible two-way nuclear conflict, was able to motivate either side to accept a comprehensive peace settlement. Fortunately, as Ambassador Howard Schaffer suggests in this book, the Obama administration may be well placed to explore new initiatives.

In his penetrating policy study, Amb. Schaffer cites new research and applies a wealth of insight based on his own experience in the area to present a comprehensive history of U.S. efforts to resolve the Kashmir dispute. In a concluding chapter, he outlines fresh approaches to the problem. The book is part of the ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Series.

Howard B. Schaffer served in the Foreign Service for 36 years, concluding his career with an ambassadorial post in Bangladesh. Amb. Schaffer is the director of studies at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and the author of two previous works, *Chester Bowles: New Dealer in the Cold War* (Harvard University Press, 1993) and *Ellsworth Bunker: Global Troublesooter, Vietnam Hawk* (Chapel Hill, 2003).



Negotiating With Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History

John W. Limbert, *United States Institute of Peace Press*, 2009, \$40, hardcover, 200 pages.

"A must-read for anyone who hopes for (or fears) an American re-engagement with Iran. Superb diplomatic history focused on lessons learned rather than festering grievances," says Richard W. Buliet of Columbia University of *Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History*. "Limbert is one of our few genuine Iran experts."

This book is most timely. The Obama administration may be tentatively reaching out to Tehran, but

what would happen if negotiations were to be initiated? How can they be conducted successfully?

In a clear, methodical treatment of Iranian engagement, Ambassador John Limbert throws light on the answers to such questions. He presents four historical case studies of both success and failure to show enduring trends of Iranian thought, self-perception and behavior germane to future negotiations: the Azerbaijani crisis of 1945-1947, the oil nationalization crisis of 1951-1953, the American Embassy hostage crisis of 1979-1981 and the Lebanon hostage crisis of 1985-1991.

Based on what these analyses reveal, Amb. Limbert offers 14 principles to guide any American negotiating with an Iranian counterpart — whether the talks are political, commercial or otherwise. In conclusion, he challenges both Americans and Iranians to end decades of mutually hostile mythmaking.

John W. Limbert, a retired Senior FSO, was ambassador to Mauritania and deputy coordinator for counterterrorism. He received the highest honor of the State Department, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Award for Valor after spending 14 months as a hostage in Iran. A former AFSA president, he is now a profes-

sor of international affairs at the U.S. Naval Academy.



**The Next American Century:
How the U.S. Can Thrive as
Other Powers Rise**

*Nina Hachigian and Mona
Sutphen, Simon & Schuster,
2008, \$26, hardcover, 368 pages.*

In *The Next American Century: How the U.S. Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise*, two young foreign policy thinkers — “whose political coming-of-age was marked by the fall of the Berlin Wall, not the war in Vietnam,” as they note in the preface — collaborate on a compelling argument to abandon the “pure zero-sum days of great power relations” in favor of a policy based on strategic collaboration. Nina Hachigian and Mona Sutphen argue that instead of worrying about how and when the new, rising powers will diminish U.S. power, Washington should focus on how cooperation with these powers can further American security, ideology and prosperity.

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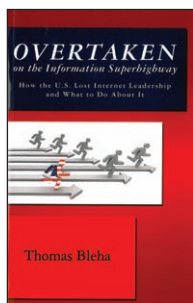
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world runs through what Hachigian and Sutphen call the “pivotal powers” — China, the European Union, India, Japan, Russia and the U.S. — nations that may seek more influence and respect within the international system but are not direct military foes and are not trying to usurp America’s role as a superpower.

Nina Hachigian is a senior vice president at the Center for American Progress and a visiting fellow at Stanford University. Earlier, she was director for the Center of Asia-Pacific Policy and a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation. Mona Sutphen, a managing director at Stonebridge International, is a former FSO who served in Bangkok and Sarajevo, where she worked on implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement.



Overtaken on the Information Superhighway: How the U.S. Lost Internet Leadership and What to Do About It

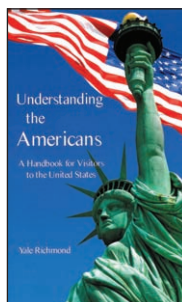
Thomas Bleha, BookSurge Publishing, 2009, \$15.95, paperback, 332 pages.

There is a good chance many readers are viewing this article over a screen, perhaps wirelessly on a handheld device in a moving vehicle. With all the newfangled speed and accessibility of the Internet, it may surprise many to know that, despite how rapidly American “wiredness” seems to be advancing, we have fallen since 2000 from the position of global Internet leader to a middle-rung power. Bleha’s book examines the reasons for America’s fall and the ways to restore our leadership.

Regaining Internet supremacy, says Bleha, is of vital importance to America’s global standing. Increased wiredness could increase productivity, economic growth and job creation, not to mention helping to provide solutions to such wide-ranging national issues as health care, education, security and energy conservation. With so much potential, Bleha’s proposal — that America seek to extend fiber broadband and ultrafast wireless nationwide by 2016 — seems completely rational. In fact, Congress has funded a down payment on such networks, but that is only the beginning of a long process. With the Federal Communications Commission tasked with producing a new strategy for Internet expansion by early 2010, this book has come along at the right time.

Thomas Bleha is a former Foreign Service officer and Japan expert. A recipient of the Abe Fellowship, Bleha spent more than five years researching and writing *Overtaken on the Information Highway*. His article,

“Down to the Wire,” published in the May-June 2005 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, was one of the first to alert policymakers to the decay in America’s Internet power.



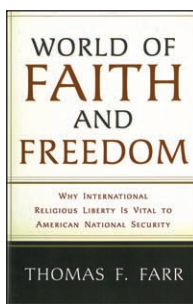
Understanding the Americans: A Handbook for Visitors to the United States

Yale Richmond, Hippocrene Books, Inc., 2009, \$14.95, hardcover, 172 pages.

A slim but jam-packed volume, *Understanding the Americans* is a useful tome of cultural and historical information intended to lessen any potentially awkward situation that may arise for foreigners visiting the United States.

In Richmond’s own words, he intends to “help you understand America and the Americans, to avoid making mistakes and to make your trip a success.” He includes idioms and expressions, recommended reading, a brief tutorial on partisan politics and a discourse on the differences between New York City and Washington, D.C. He also offers practical information on how to extend your visa and a comprehensive list of national holidays.

Yale Richmond is a retired Foreign Service officer who served with the U.S. Information Agency in Germany, Laos, Poland, Austria and the Soviet Union, retiring as a deputy assistant director for Europe. He is the author of numerous books on cross-cultural communications, including *From Nyet to Da: Understanding the New Russians* (see p. 22).



World of Faith and Freedom: Why International Religious Liberty is Vital to American National Security

Thomas F. Farr, Oxford University Press, 2008, \$29.95, hardcover, 384 pages.

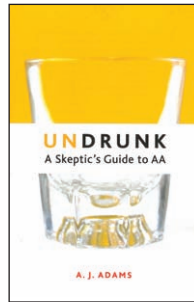
By looking deeper into international “trouble spots” that are accompanied by a religious component, Thomas R. Farr has constructed a cohesive argument discrediting the explicitly secular diplomacy that the U.S. has made it a point to employ.

“The religious enterprise,” he argues, “could benefit not only the individual but also the common good. Religion could sanction ideas of ordered liberty, justice and equality and, in short, become the very engine of a lib-

eral political order.” Anecdotes illustrating the lack of religious freedom in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Israel and Pakistan support Farr’s main point that true religious freedom is a prerequisite for a stable, durable democratic society.

Farr draws an intriguing contrast between the religious freedom promoted in the United States and what he calls a lack of awareness regarding this issue in U.S. foreign policy. He laments an “incomplete understanding of how to root liberal norms and institutions in highly religious societies” and calls for a reversal of what he terms the “religion-avoidance syndrome” in American foreign policy. The book was reviewed in the *Journal* by David Jones (April 2009).

Thomas F. Farr is a visiting associate professor of religion and international affairs at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and a senior fellow at its Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs. Earlier, he taught at West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy. He served for seven years in the U.S. Army and for 21 years in the Foreign Service, and was the first director of the Office of International Religious Freedom in the State Department.



Undrunk: A Skeptic’s Guide to AA

A.J. Adams, *Hazelden*, 2009,
\$14.95, paperback, 199 pages

A.J. Adams recounts his first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting as though it were his first day of junior high — except for the part about arriving drunk. The new faces, strange meeting place and seemingly closed cliques make him want to bolt out the door. Soon, however, he is surprised to find camaraderie, fun and enough motivation to return to the next meeting. And he begins the process of dealing with his alcoholism, evolving from a cynic in denial to a transformed husband and father.

In *Undrunk*, Adams details his own experience using the multifaceted Alcoholics Anonymous approach to recovery. He chronicles the rehabilitation process, in the process dismissing common misconceptions about the organization. From emotional outbursts to the extreme measures employed to hide liquor, Adams jokes about his struggles, providing readers brutally honest insights into life as an alcoholic. The lighter side of what is usu-

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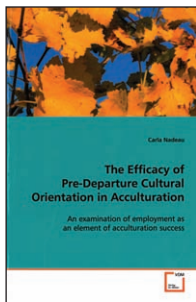
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ally considered a shameful existence is what sets this book apart from others in its genre.

This book is not geared only to alcoholics. In addition to explaining the steps, traditions and history of AA, Adams dedicates an entire chapter to the group's lingo, which potential new members, friends and family could find especially helpful.

A.J. Adams, a former FSO, is a professional writer with more than a year in Alcoholics Anonymous. He writes under a pen name in deference to the traditional AA respect for privacy.



The Efficacy of Pre-Departure Cultural Orientation in Acculturation

Carla Nadeau, VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, 2008, \$63, paperback, 84 pages.

Each year the U.S. resettles thousands of refugees in its cities and towns. The stress of rapid and extreme cultural shifts is often daunting for refugees, and managers of the refugee programs seek ways to prepare them for more rapid and successful acculturation. This study explores the effect of pre-departure cultural orientations for U.S.-bound refugees on their subsequent employment success.

The author analyzed a sample of more than 15,000 refugees from Sudan, Somalia and Liberia to test sociologist John Berry's theory that ethnicity has no bearing on refugees' experience of acculturation stress and success and to explore his recommendation that orientation interventions should be made prior to the refugees' departure. The findings, presented in the form of clear information and statistics via a multitude of charts, tables and graphs, are the basis for practical proposals for policymakers.

Carla Nadeau, an FSO currently posted in Dakar, specializes in international displacement as a manager for the Department of State's refugee programs in the United States, Europe and Africa. She studied displaced populations, political science and women's studies at The Catholic University of America, Howard University and the University of Connecticut.

The Other War: Winning and Losing in Afghanistan

Ronald E. Neumann, Potomac Books, 2009, \$27.50, hardcover, 256 pages.

"Read this book and learn the lessons therein, or fail in Afghanistan," says Richard Armitage, former Deputy



Secretary of State and former assistant secretary of Defense, about *The Other War: Winning and Losing in Afghanistan*, a volume in the ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Series.

Ronald E. Neumann served as ambassador to Afghanistan from 2005 to 2007. In this book, he recounts with candor and rich detail how "the other war" unfolded during that critical period, shedding light on many heretofore unexamined details of operations, tensions and policy decisions.

Straightforward in describing failures as well as successes, the book is must-reading, as much for students of international affairs who want to understand the reality of diplomatic policymaking and implementation in the field as for those who want to understand our nation's complex engagement in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Neumann's insightful account is informed by 38 years of diplomatic experience, mostly in the greater Middle East. Prior to his appointment as chief of mission in Kabul, Amb. Neumann served in Baghdad from February 2004 with the Coalition Provisional Authority and then as the embassy's principal interlocutor with the Multinational Command. A retired member of the Senior Foreign Service, he served previously as a deputy assistant secretary and as ambassador to Bahrain (2001-2004) and to Algeria (1994-1997). Amb. Neumann is president of the American Academy of Diplomacy and lives in Arlington, Va.



Bangladesh and Pakistan: Flirting with Failure in South Asia

William B. Milam, Hurst & Co. and Columbia University Press, 2009, \$35, hardcover, 256 pages.

Bangladesh and Pakistan: Flirting with Failure in South Asia, the 35th volume in the ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Series, makes an especially timely contribution to the current debate on how best to safeguard the stability of South Asia. The book traces the political, military, social and economic trajectories of post-1971 Bangladesh and Pakistan. It is written by a former ambassador to both countries with years of experience and profound empathy for both nations, who has closely monitored their evolution.

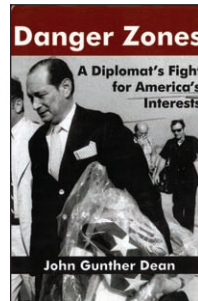
Ambassador William B. Milam takes a hard look at

the realities of both countries, including the jihadi networks that threaten to turn Pakistan into an ideological state, and considers Islam's influence on both societies. He also examines Pakistan's long-standing fear and hostility toward India.

"This brilliant comparative analysis, revealing the inner workings of South Asia's two most troubled states, is a must-read for anyone interested in how and why they have evaded democratic governance," says well-known Pakistani journalist and Central Asia expert Ahmed Rashid, the author of *Descent into Chaos* and *Taliban*.

Amb. William B. Milam, a senior policy scholar at the Smithsonian's Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, retired from the Foreign Service in 2001. He continues to take on temporary assignments for the State Department, most recently as chargé d'affaires at Embassy Tripoli (2007-2008). He was ambassador to Bangladesh (1990-1993) and Pakistan (1998-2000), chief of mission in Liberia (1995-1998), and deputy assistant secretary of State for international finance and development (1985-1990). He writes a biweekly column for the *Daily Times of Pakistan* (www.dailytimes.com.pk).

MEMOIRS



Danger Zones: A Diplomat's Fight for America's Interests

John Gunther Dean,
New Academia Publishing, 2009,
\$26, paperback, 240 pages.

John Gunther Dean's life story could launch a thousand Foreign Service careers. This memoir recounts his devout service to America's best interests, even when following such a path could be fraught with danger. His principled stances in the midst of many heated controversies would suffice to ensure his reputation around the world, but they also led to his being ostracized and, ultimately, forced his resignation from the Foreign Service.

Although born a German, Dean's allegiance was to America from the day he set foot on U.S. soil in 1938 at the age of 12. After a stint in military intelligence during World War II and graduation from Harvard University, he joined the Foreign Service. Assigned in 1970 as deputy to the commander of Military Region 1 for the



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Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support program in Vietnam, Dean quickly gained an understanding of the American military and experience working in a war zone.

A committed peacemaker, he brokered the deal that ended the war in Laos, and faced down an attempted coup d'etat against the Souvanna Phouma government there in 1973. As ambassador in Cambodia, he was the last man out on April 12, 1975, before Khmer Rouge forces moved to take over the city. As ambassador to Lebanon, where he was nearly assassinated in an ambush, Dean reached out to all factions to promote the idea of one Lebanon. *Danger Zones*, part of the ADST Memoirs and Occasional Papers Series, is reviewed in this issue of the *Journal* (see p. 61).

During a distinguished 30-year Foreign Service career, John Gunther Dean first served in Togo, followed by Mali, Vietnam and Laos. He was U.S. ambassador to Cambodia (1974-1975), Denmark (1975-1978), Lebanon (1978-1981), Thailand (1981-1985) and India (1985-1989), after which he retired. He now lives in Paris.



Foreign Service Family – Volume 3

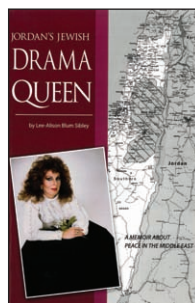
Rita and Eric Youngquist, Voyager Publishing Co., 2008, \$17, paperback, 432 pages.

This is the third and final installment in the memoir of Rita and Eric Youngquist's Foreign Service life. This chapter begins in 1962 as the family moves to Princeton, N.J., where FSO Eric Youngquist pursued his master's degree in public policy over two years. Thereafter, the scene shifts to Washington, D.C., where he served as desk officer for Denmark and Norway from 1963 to 1967. While there, he attended night classes at The George Washington University Law School and served as editor of the law review.

As in the first two volumes, the story of the family's experience is told largely through excerpts from the late Rita Youngquist's many letters to her parents. In this volume, Rita focused most of her efforts on re-decorating their home, educating their children and working as a nursery school teacher for a local church, in addition to representational activities, as the couple sought to maintain their family life through the changes imposed by the Foreign Service.

Eric V. Youngquist served in Bangkok from 1955 to 1957, first as vice consul, then as a commercial officer in the economic section, and later in the political section

dealing with Southeast Asia Treaty Organization affairs. From 1958 to 1962, he was an economic officer in Helsinki. After two years at Princeton University, he was assigned in 1964 as desk officer for Denmark and Norway at the State Department. To purchase this book, contact him at 834 Lynnbrook Road, Nashville TN 37215.



Jordan's Jewish Drama Queen

Lee-Alison Sibley, BookSurge Publishing, 2009, \$18.99, paperback, 332 pages.

A Jew walks into a school in Amman, Jordan, and asks for a job. It sounds like the setup for a horrible joke, but this is the story of Lee-Alison Sibley. Uprooted and dropped into a strange land, she recalls hardships familiar to many Foreign Service spouses. In Sibley's case, she was determined to pursue her love of music and musical education and, through the experience, comes to understand how we may all find peace, even in difficult circumstances.

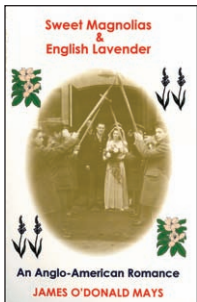
In 1997, Lee-Alison Sibley's FSO husband, George, took a post in Jordan, turning her and her teenage son into a family-in-tow in a land antagonistic to their culture. Undaunted, Sibley, an internationally renowned soprano, became head of the Performing Arts Department of an elite Jordanian school in which the majority of instructors and students were Arabs. Her story of forging relationships and then withstanding her "outing" as a Jew is both intensely intimate and highly instructive for any Foreign Service family member transplanted to a challenging post.

Lee-Alison Sibley holds a master's degree in music and education and has performed and taught music around the world. She was named the Rotary Club's 2004 Woman of the Year in Kolkata, India. She lives in Great Falls, Va., is the mother of two sons, and seeks to continue her mission of spreading music education worldwide.

Sweet Magnolias and English Lavender: An Anglo-American Romance

James O'Donald Mays, New Forest Leaves, 2008, \$36, paperback, 464 pages.

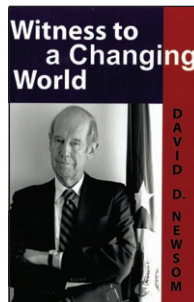
While this memoir spans such perennially fascinating topics as life in the Deep South, conditions during World War II and Foreign Service life in Cold War-era Europe, Mays' story is, above all, a testament to the



ability of love to withstand all odds and flourish. This is not to discount the other, numerous merits of the memoir, including tales from officialdom and family life that are well documented and 140 excellent photographs.

James O'Donald Mays grew up on a cotton farm in Georgia and served as the editor of a small-town weekly newspaper before the Army plucked him up and set him down in Southampton, England, to assist with preparations for D-Day. There Mays met a Land Army girl, Mary, who would soon become his wife (despite her father's objections). After the war, the pair returned to Georgia before Mays decided to go abroad once more to report on Robert Louis Stevenson's travels in the Cevennes.

Soon after, Mays joined the Foreign Service and served in Israel, France and Finland. Upon retiring, the couple relocated to England and settled into village life. Mays now runs a small publishing business, New Forest Leaves. To purchase this book, go to www.newforestleaves.com.



Witness to a Changing World

David D. Newsom, *New Academia Publishing, 2008, \$28, paperback, 388 pages.*

In *Witness to a Changing World*, part of the ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Series, the late Ambassador David Newsom describes three decades of diplomatic experience during which he was often at the center of historic events.

The book, which Amb. Newsom completed in January 2008 at the age of 90, just prior to his death, is "a terrific read," wrote retired FSO Roscoe Suddarth in a review for the *Journal* (September 2009). "Both personal and serious, it is a great admixture of sage observations and amusing anecdotes, including astute personal observations on many world figures. It also includes many delicious sketches illustrating Newsom's superb comic sense."

Perpetually "at the eye of the storm," as the *New Yorker* wrote of him in 1980, Amb. Newsom was involved in handling the Iranian Revolution and hostage

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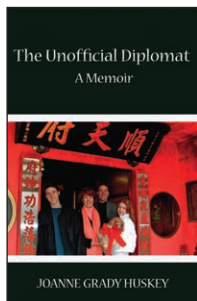
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crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, among many other foreign policy challenges.

During a long and distinguished career, he served as Lyndon Johnson's ambassador to Libya, Richard Nixon's ambassador to Indonesia and Jimmy Carter's ambassador to the Philippines. He also served as assistant secretary of State for African affairs during the Nixon administration, and under secretary of political affairs during the Carter administration.

After retiring, David Newsom was director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and also served as acting dean and professor of the School of Foreign Service. He was the author of several books, including *Diplomacy Under a Foreign Flag: When Nations Break Relations* (Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, 1990) and *The Imperial Mantle: The United States, Decolonization and the Third World* (Indiana University Press, 2001). Amb. Newsom died on March 30, 2008.



The Unofficial Diplomat: A Memoir

Joanne Grady Huskey, *New Academia/Scarith Books, 2009, \$22, hardcover, 208 pages.*

On June 4, 1989, Joanne Grady Huskey was in Tiananmen Square, where she witnessed the horror of a government attacking its own people. On Aug. 7, 1998, she was in the basement of Embassy Nairobi with her two small children when al-Qaida bombed the building.

Unofficial Diplomat, part of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training's Memoirs and Occasional Papers Series, is the memoir of an ordinary American who is married to a Foreign Service officer. Caught in extraordinary circumstances, she was able to do some extraordinary things. In this book, she tells why living and working abroad is critical for Americans, and why she continues to do so, even in an increasingly complex and dangerous world.

In addition to her experiences during the "Beijing Spring" and, later, while helping Kenyan victims of the Embassy Nairobi bombing, Huskey recounts her time in Chennai, when India began to open up, and her work with disabled people in China, guided by Deng Xiaoping's son, Deng Pufang.

Joanne Grady Huskey, an actress and writer, has lived in Beijing, Chennai, Nairobi and Taiwan with her FSO husband and their two children. She co-founded Global Adjustments in India, a company that specializes in cross-

cultural training, and the American International School of Chennai. Earlier, she was international director of very special arts at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She lives in Bethesda, Md.

FICTION



The Beggars' Pursuit

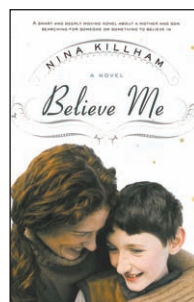
Christian Filostrat, *Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, 2007, \$36, hardcover, 336 pages.*

This novel, first of a projected trilogy, is full of detail, poetry and suspense — the perfect combination for an international political thriller.

Filostrat employs his expertise in African languages and cultures to craft a nuanced world so full of realism and humanity that one may lapse into thinking they are reading artful nonfiction. This work provides a sometimes startlingly accurate (though with an understandable dash of artistic license) reflection of how American foreign policy is perceived and reacted to in certain unstable, at times brutal parts of the world.

Set in the realm of Mobutu-era Zaire, the novel revolves around the betrayal and redemption of Zairian Ambassador to the United States Molu Sakeseba. Bristling with plots and counterplots, the narrative captures the venality and treachery of the opponents of democracy who seized power in some states in the post-colonial period.

Christian Filostrat, a retired FSO, served in Senegal, Congo, Romania and Haiti. His last posting was as diplomat-in-residence at Howard University from 1999 to 2002. Currently living in Paris, where he works to support the rights of minorities around the world, Filostrat is also the author of a nonfiction work, *Negritude Agonistes* (see p. 20).



Believe Me

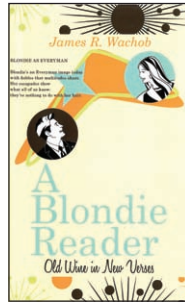
Nina Killham, *Plume, 2009, \$15, paperback, 304 pages.*

How does the son of a firm atheist express his teenage rebellion? By befriending a gang of evangelical Christians and studying the Bible, of course. Killham's latest novel broaches the eternally sensitive topics of faith and estrangement, pain and

love, through the humorous yet touching story of a 13-year-old boy, his mother, an African pastor and unexpected tragedy.

Young Nic Delano is your typical wry, rebellious teenager, save that his mother is a savvy and areligious astrophysicist. While a good chunk of his mind obsesses over the discovery of sex and women, he also becomes fascinated by the lives of his Christian friends. At first Nic attempts to hide his newfound interest in the Bible, but mother Lucy discovers the truth. Distraught as she is, Lucy does not want to alienate Nic, so she agrees to allow an African pastor named Dele to live with them. Then tragedy strikes, revealing the bonds of love and understanding that transcend religious strife and give Killham's story its winning tenderness.

The daughter of an FSO, Nina Killham lived abroad until she was 16. She earned a B.A. in government from the College of William and Mary and is the author of two previous novels, *How to Cook a Tart* (Bloomsbury USA, 2003) and *Mounting Desire* (Bloomsbury USA, 2006). She lives in London, where she is writing her fourth novel.



**A Blondie Reader:
Old Wine in New Verses**

James R. Wachob,
Authorsolutions, 2009, \$10.99,
paperback, 112 pages.

This truly inventive humor book seeks to achieve an age-old goal — to build a better blonde joke. While not all of the jokes are new, their presentation is unique and charming. A veteran of brief verse, Wachob skillfully conveys classic and newly crafted humor through 105 short, memorable poems.

Although the collection consists entirely of “dumb blonde” jokes, Wachob takes great pains to remove the groan-inducing stigma of that trite and dying style. He asserts that his collection of jokes refer not to blondes in general, but instead to a character, Blondie, “standing in for all naïve and guileless individuals — regardless of gender or hair color — with experiences that others find amusing.”

James R. Wachob has served in the U.S. military, the Foreign Service and academia, composing poetry at every stage of his career. Now retired and residing with

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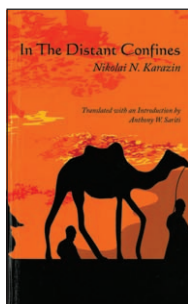


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his wife in Somerset, Md., Wachob continues to write verse for his parish newsletter and volunteers in a Washington, D.C., high school. He is also the author of *Basics of Clause and Sentence Structure: A Handbook for New and Experienced Writers* (Vantage Press, 2007).



In the Distant Confines

Nikolai N. Karazin, translated with an introduction by Anthony W. Sariti, Authorhouse, 2008, \$20.49, paperback, 456 pages.

A tale of the Wild, Wild East, Karazin's first novel (published in the Russian literary journal *Delo* between 1872 and 1873) introduced Russians to their newly conquered and still restless frontiers in Central Asia. With this work, translator par excellence Anthony Sariti becomes the "Karazin of America," not only introducing the relatively unknown Russian artist to the U.S., but bringing Central Asia to popular attention here, as well.

Although the world Karazin depicts has changed in many ways, his novel remains instructive. It offers an enduring ethnographic portrait of the peoples and cultures of the region and — though told with a sympathetic slant that views Russian and native alike with equal sympathy, humanity and satire — a faithful depiction of the depravity and racism of the czarist imperialists.

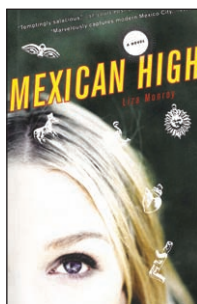
Karazin's tale chronicles the fate of a Russian military officer in Tashkent, Batogov, who has recently returned from the frontier wars with native nomadic peoples. With a loyal Uzbek companion, he navigates the drunken and licentious society of Russian exiles, opportunists and megalomaniacal officials before he is kidnapped by Kirghiz natives.

Anthony W. Sariti holds degrees in linguistics, history and Chinese. He left a life of academia for a career in the Foreign Service in the 1970s, serving in Yaounde, Kuala Lumpur, Tashkent, Beijing, East and West Berlin, Shanghai and Washington, D.C. Fluent in many languages, he has previously translated a work from Chinese and translated this work from the original Russian.

Mexican High

Liza Monroy, Spiegel & Grau, 2009, \$14, paperback, 352 pages.

This novel not only captures the classic drama of the cup of adulthood, but magnifies and revels in it.

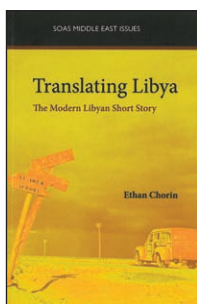


Monroy presents the longing of the displaced and distraught teenager with all the raw urgency of youth.

After a lifetime of nomadism with her single, ex-hippie diplomat mother, Milagro (Mila) Marquez has settled in 1993 in Washington, D.C., for high school.

She is a well-adjusted and successful youth — until a sudden reassignment pitches Mila and her mother into the heart of Mexico City for Mila's senior year. There she is swept up into the exclusive cliques of the rich and famous at the International School of Mexico, quickly descending into a life of clubs and drugs. All the while, Mila pursues her search for identity — partially through a quest to find her mysterious, unknown father.

Liza Monroy, the daughter of a Foreign Service officer, attended high school at an international school in Mexico City. She has been previously published in the *New York Times*, *The L.A. Times Magazine*, *Newsweek* and *The Village Voice*. She is currently an MFA candidate at Columbia University, where she teaches essay writing.



Translating Libya: The Modern Libyan Short Story

Ethan Chorin, Saqi Books, 2008, \$19.95, paperback, 238 pages.

In *Translating Libya: The Modern Libyan Short Story*, author Ethan Chorin presents 16 short stories translated from Arabic to English. Not merely entertaining diversions, the stories — with titles that mention important cities and cultural landmarks — are the medium through which Chorin allows his readers to delve deep into the culture of this North African country.

The book is divided into sections of stories from the east, south and west, reflecting the country's cultural and geographical diversity, and includes short biographies of the various writers. The tales trace the influence of the ancient Romans, the Italian occupation and the current influx of foreign workers from Africa and further afield.

In addition to social satires, love stories and fables, Chorin also includes some of his own memoirs of living in Tripoli. These aim to give readers a feel for the contemporary reality of this rapidly urbanizing country that has been "off the beaten path" for a very long time.

Ethan Chorin, a former FSO, served as commercial

and economic attaché in Tripoli from 2004 to 2006, the first to be stationed there since 1980. He has also served in the United Arab Emirates. During the 2008 presidential race, Chorin was a member of the Obama campaign's Middle East Policy Group.



Far Is the Moon of My Home
Betsy Barnes, iUniverse, 2009,
 \$26.95, paperback, 506 pages.

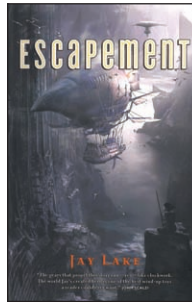
Ted Hlavacek escaped to the United States with his mother and two brothers when he was 6 years old, just before the Nazi invasion. Though he was raised as a Catholic, his grandmother was Jewish, so no one in the family was safe.

Now, in 1975, a recently married U.S. Foreign Service doctor and jazz pianist, Ted is spending the Christmas holiday with his family in Boston when he receives some alarming news from a cousin who lives in communist Czechoslovakia. Their grandmother's death from a supposed heart attack in Prague may not have been what it seemed, and there is also speculation about the cir-

cumstances surrounding his father's suicide years ago.

Pushed by his wife Mona to find out the truth of his family's World War II struggles, Ted accepts a temporary assignment that takes him to U.S. embassies throughout Eastern Europe. What follows is an adventure that moves from wonder and excitement to terror as the couple is brought face to face with the dark secrets of a most painful period in Czechoslovakia's past.


Betsy Barnes and her FSO husband, Harry, served in Bombay, Prague, Oberammergau, Katmandu, Bucharest, Moscow, New Delhi and Santiago. Her first novel, *Unforgiving Heights*, was published by Penguin Books in 2003. She and her husband live in Vermont.



Escapement
Jay Lake, Tor, 2008, \$25.95,
 hardcover, 368 pages.

Escapement — Jay Lake's second offering of steampunk, the term for science fiction set in the Victorian era — crosses the genres of alternative history, science fic-

Continued on page 41



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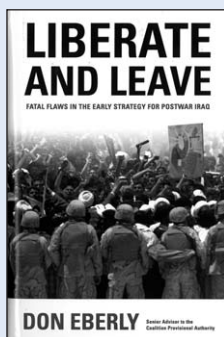
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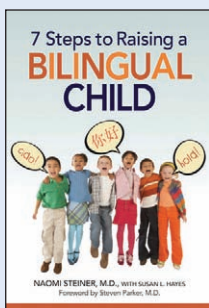
Liberate and Leave: Fatal Flaws in the Early Strategy for Postwar Iraq

*Don Eberly, Zenith Press,
2009, \$28, hardcover,
310 pages.*

Liberate and Leave is full of valuable lessons for diplomats, soldiers and aid workers. In it, Don Eberly, an expert on civil society and economic development who served as a senior adviser to General Jay Garner and, later, to Ambassador Paul Bremer during the earliest phases of the Iraq operation, shows “how unprepared [the U.S.] was to shoulder the burden of constructing a democracy.” Among other things, he cites the conflicting loyalties and confused reporting systems at State and the Pentagon.

A key change Eberly advocates for U.S. stabilization and reconstruction policy is to raise the priority of strengthening civil society. A premature rush to democracy — without first building broad multiethnic voluntary associations that inculcate democratic habits — actually sets back the goals of democratization, Eberly argues. In his view, that is one of the critical omissions from the original plan for Iraq.

Prior to his service in Iraq, Don Eberly was senior counselor for international civil society at USAID. He is a consultant on economic development and reconstruction.



Seven Steps to Raising a Bilingual Child

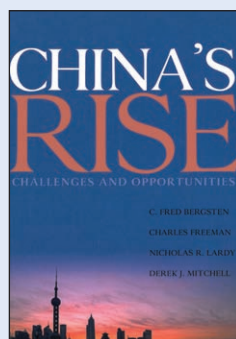
*Naomi Steiner and Susan L.
Hayes with a foreword by
Steven Parker, AMACOM, 2008,
\$14.95, paperback,
224 pages.*

With the advent of globalization, a second, third or umpteenth language has become a nearly indispensable skill in all walks of life. No wonder more parents than ever are choosing to raise their children to be bilingual. Recent developments in cognitive neuroscience have revealed a wealth of information on how the brain learns a new language — and, as may be suspected, childhood is the best time for such learning. The path to teaching

a child to be bilingual, however, has been clouded in myth and misconception.

Until now, that is. This book, written in simple language, makes raising a bilingual child an attainable goal for any family. Especially useful is a section describing common obstacles and solutions.

Naomi Steiner is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Tufts Medical Center. An expert in methods for teaching children multiple languages, she works with many bilingual and multilingual families and is currently raising two multilingual children herself. Susan L. Hayes is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in *Parent & Child*, *Parenting*, *Woman's Day* and other publications.



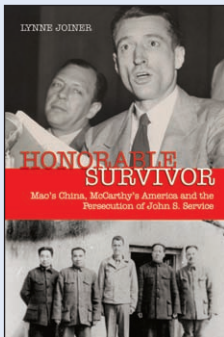
China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities

*C. Fred Bergsten, Charles
Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy
and Derek J. Mitchell,
Peterson Institute for
International Economics,
2008, \$13.95, paperback, 288
pages.*

The latest product of a collaboration between experts from the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Peterson Institute for International Economics explores U.S.-China relations, highlighting the fact that U.S. policy toward Beijing has not changed significantly over the past three decades.

Eschewing such clichéd expressions as “containment,” “isolation” and, for that matter, “engagement,” the four contributors strive to define a more nuanced policy toward China. A competition today between the two countries in education, science and productive capacity is compared to the space race between the Soviet Union and the United States in the 1950s. “On balance,” the authors conclude, “China’s rise could turn out to be a good thing for the U.S.”

C. Fred Bergsten is director of the Peterson Institute. Chas Freeman, a retired FSO and former ambassador, is director of the CSIS Freeman Chair in China Studies. Nicholas R. Lardy is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute, and Derek J. Mitchell is a CSIS senior fellow.



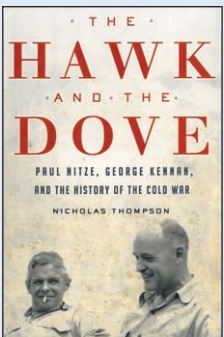
**Honorable Survivor:
Mao's China, McCarthy's
America and the Persecution
of John S. Service**

Lynne Joiner, Naval Institute Press, 2009, \$37.95, hardcover, 450 pages.

The life of John S. Service was one of many unfortunate firsts: the first analyst to predict the rise of Mao and the Chinese Communists, the first diplomat to be laid upon the altar of McCarthyism, the first FSO arrested on espionage charges and the first fired for disloyalty.

In 10 years of exhaustive research and with the aid of newly released personal papers and classified documents, journalist Lynne Joiner has reconstructed Service's turbulent life. The result is a compelling tale of loyalty under fire, great courage and resilience and, ultimately, redemption.

Lynne Joiner is an award-winning broadcast journalist, news anchor and documentary filmmaker. Her work has included assignments for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, NPR, Christian Science Monitor Radio, *Newsweek* and *L.A. Times Magazine*.



**The Hawk and the Dove:
Paul Nitze, George Kennan,
and the History of the
Cold War**

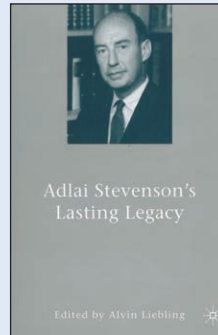
Nicholas Thompson, Henry Holt and Company, 2009, \$27.50, hardcover, 403 pages.

Like the United States and Russia during the Cold War era, Paul Nitze and George Kennan did not agree when it came to policy. Kennan, the "dove," believed America must end its dependence on nuclear weapons, whereas his counterpart, the hawkish Nitze, advocated rearmament. Despite this, they maintained a lasting friendship throughout the Cold War and both played influential roles in policymaking.

Their remarkable careers are certainly deserving of attention in their own right, but through the prism of Nitze and Kennan's lives, author Nicholas Thompson

also illuminates important aspects of Cold War history.

Nicholas Thompson, a grandson of Paul Nitze, has written articles for *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* and is a regular contributor to CNN. He is also an editor at *Wired* magazine.



**Adlai Stevenson's
Lasting Legacy**

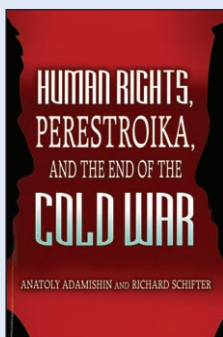
Edited by Alvin Liebling, with chapters by Ambassadors George Bunn, Harlan Cleveland and James Goodby, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, \$24.95, paperback, 272 pages.

This collection of essays is not so much a history as a nostalgic celebration of a man worth celebrating.

Adlai Stevenson II played an influential role in the creation of the modern world. He was essential to the 1945 establishment of the United Nations and served as the U.S. permanent representative to the U.N. from 1961 to 1965. While serving as governor of Illinois, he mounted two presidential campaigns, in 1952 and 1956, and created the basis for modern nonproliferation structures from 1963 to 1996. In this volume, Stevenson's colleagues and family members give insight into his positions on various policy issues, focusing especially on political ethics, international cooperation and leadership, and nuclear nonproliferation.

Editor Alvin Liebling, a retired administrative law judge, former Justice Department and Environmental Protection Agency attorney and Northwestern University lecturer, lives with his wife in Chicago. Ambassador George Bunn was the first general counsel for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and later served as ambassador to the Geneva Disarmament Conference. Ambassador Harlan Cleveland served as President Lyndon Johnson's envoy to NATO and, earlier, as assistant secretary of State for international organization affairs. Retired Senior Foreign Service officer James Goodby served as ambassador to Finland and vice chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks. He is currently a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute and a member of the Bipartisan Security Group.

OF RELATED INTEREST

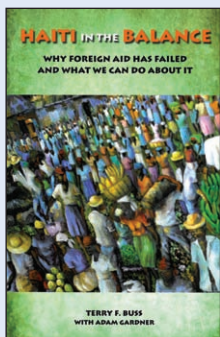


Human Rights, Perestroika, and the End of the Cold War

Anatoly Adamishin and Richard Schifter, *United States Institute of Peace Press, 2009, \$24.95, paperback, 356 pages.*

This joint memoir brings readers behind the scenes on both sides of the Cold War, as it recounts the friendship between Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin, which began in 1987 when the two first met to discuss human rights. Each author offers his own take on the same set of events in alternating chapters, and the result is a body of practical insights into effective diplomacy between Russia and the United States that is still relevant today. As Soviet specialist and retired FSO Jack Matlock observes, Adamishin and Schifter “provide valuable insight into negotiations that have received little attention as compared to those on arms control and geopolitical issues.”

A career diplomat in the foreign ministry of both the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation, Anatoly Adamishin also served as ambassador to Italy and the United Kingdom. Richard Schifter practiced law before entering government service, where his appointments included service as assistant secretary of State for human rights and humanitarian affairs, counselor in the National Security Council and special adviser to the Secretary of State.



Haiti in the Balance: Why Foreign Aid Has Failed and What We Can Do About It

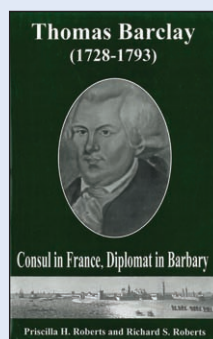
Terry F. Buss and Adam Gardner, *with an afterword by Ambassador Edward J. Perkins, Brookings Institution Press, 2008, \$28.95, paperback, 230 pages.*

Terry F. Buss and his associates at the National Academy of Public Administration set out in this work to address the problems of foreign aid by examining the case of Haiti. Haiti certainly appears to be a bottomless pit for U.S. aid, into which some

\$4 billion has been thrown over 10 years. Yet most Haitians still live on one dollar a day or less, and their country does not show even nominal improvement. While the analysis and the solutions to this dilemma are complex and well-developed, the message is a simple one: foreign aid will be ineffectual so long as the recipient government is so poorly organized and self-serving that the money never reaches its citizens.

A professor at the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University in Australia, Terry F. Buss was previously director of international programs at the National Academy of Public Administration. Adam Gardner is a graduate student of public administration at the University of Southern California.

Edward J. Perkins served as ambassador to Liberia and South Africa, ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. representative to the U.N. Security Council and ambassador to Australia, retiring as a career minister in the U.S. Foreign Service in 1996. He is a professor emeritus of the School of International and Area Studies at the University of Oklahoma.



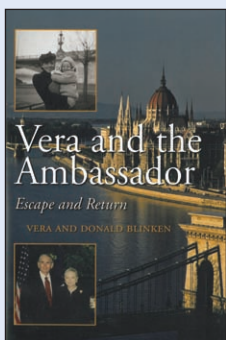
Thomas Barclay, 1728-1793: Consul in France, Diplomat in Barbary

Priscilla H. Roberts and Richard S. Roberts, *Lehigh University Press, 2008, \$62.50, hardcover, 407 pages.*

This is the first biography of Thomas Barclay, the first American consul to serve abroad and also the first to successfully negotiate a treaty with an Arab, African or Muslim nation. Priscilla and Richard Roberts tell the story of this Irish immigrant who moved to Philadelphia in the 1760s and became a successful merchant, ship owner and political activist — especially within the Irish community. Barclay, whose friends included Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, moved to France in a consular capacity in 1781. A man of many firsts, Barclay also became the first American diplomat to die in the service of the United States.

Priscilla and Richard Roberts lived, worked and raised a family in multiple countries for several

decades, including 11 years in North Africa. They bring graduate degrees in library science and international relations and a facility with foreign languages to their scholarly research. Their work corrects much misinformation on the period, and offers a nuanced perspective on an 18th-century subject that is still relevant today.



**Vera and the Ambassador:
Escape and Return**

*Vera and Donald Blinken,
SUNY Press, 2008, \$24.95,
hardcover, 350 pages.*

A uniquely informed, behind-the-scenes look at diplomacy and international relations in post-Cold War Eastern Europe, this dual memoir alternates between the viewpoints of the American ambassador to Hungary, Donald Blinken, and his wife, Vera, dur-

ing President Bill Clinton's first term.

ing President Bill Clinton's first term.

In addition to assisting the efforts of Hungary, an untested democracy, to gain entry into NATO, Ambassador and Mrs. Blinken's challenges and accomplishments included providing restitution to Holocaust survivors, dispelling perceptions of American cultural imperialism and establishing the country's first mobile mammography program.

Donald Blinken, an investment banker, served as ambassador to Hungary from 1994 to 1997 and as secretary-general of the World Federation of United Nations Associations from 2000 to 2004. He is the author of *Wool Tariffs and American Policy* (Public Affairs Press, 1948) and numerous articles on education and international affairs. Vera Blinken escaped from Hungary as a child with her mother as the Iron Curtain came down. A 2002 recipient of Hungary's Middle Cross, she is a member of the executive board of the International Rescue Committee and a vice chairman of the Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies.



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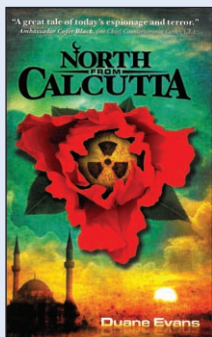
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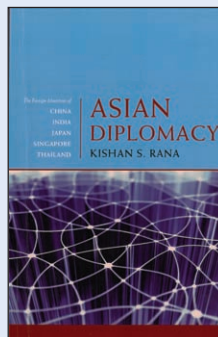


North from Calcutta

Duane Evans, *Pecos Moon*, 2009, \$24.95, hardcover, 348 pages.

In this novel, Pakistani intelligence officer Tarek Durani is assigned to acquire blueprints of a famous dam in neighboring India. During his investigation, he learns of terrorist plans to destroy the dam and kill top officials at its dedication. The dispute over the territory of Kashmir between India and Pakistan, both nuclear-armed powers, means that the success or failure of his mission could be the difference between war and peace in the region. The details of Tarek's clandestine work, his love affair with an Indian woman and his determination to break through the layers of deception surrounding his mission all make for an authentic and gripping narrative.

Duane Evans is a former CIA officer with field tours on four continents, including service as a station chief. He received the CIA's Career Commendation Medal and the Intelligence Star for valor. *North from Calcutta*, inspired by Evans' work in South Asia in 1995, is his first novel.



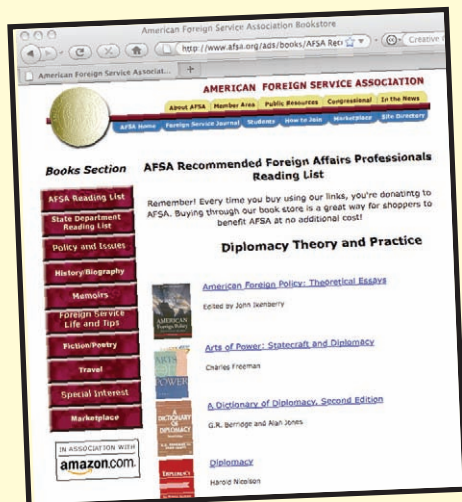
Asian Diplomacy: The Foreign Ministries of China, India, Japan, Singapore and Thailand

Kishan S. Rana, *The Johns Hopkins University Press*, 2008, \$29.95, paperback, 268 pages.

Through painstaking research, Kishan S. Rana has filled many gaps in our understanding of Asian diplomacy. In the process, he crafts an authoritative comparative account of the diplomatic systems of five prominent Asian nations: China, India, Japan, Singapore and Thailand. Ambassador Rana highlights the shared and unique aspects of Asian diplomacy as he attempts to answer the question: what, exactly, is special about Asian diplomacy? This timely work will be of great interest to anyone working in the area and seeking to understand Asia's approach to foreign affairs.

A career officer in the Indian Foreign Ministry, Kishan Rana served as ambassador to Algeria, Czechoslovakia, Kenya, Mauritius and Germany. He was a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in 2005, where the bulk of this book was written.

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tion and fantasy. “Lively and thought-provoking,” says *Publishers Weekly* in a starred review. “Lake effectively anneals steampunk with geo-mechanical magic in an allegorical matrix of empire-building and Victorian natural science.”

Set in the early 19th century, this odd world is full of everything from sorcery to British imperial intrigues and mechanical men. For example, there is a 100-mile-high wall that runs along the equator. A giant brass ring holds the world in place, and the movements of the planets are governed by giant gears.

The narrative is driven by three intriguing characters, who weave in and out of the plot and several subplots as they journey across an imaginative Earth, both separately and together, in a world-building adventure.

The author’s travel experience, fertile imagination and command of historical detail are obvious in the novel, which takes place in Connecticut, Africa and England, as well as on “the Wall.” As John Clute wrote in the *Washington Post Book World*, “Lake has configured his world-dominating empires, one British, the other Chinese, with huge and devoted attention to the last detail.”

The son of retired FSO and former ambassador Joe Lake, Jay Lake lives in Portland, Ore. He has written more than 200 short stories, four collections and a chapbook, along with novels published by Tor Books, Night Shade Books and Fair Press. In 2004, he won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. Lake has published two other novels in this series: *Mainspring* (2007) and *Green* (2009).



Green

Jay Lake, Tor, 2009, \$26.95, hardcover, 368 pages.

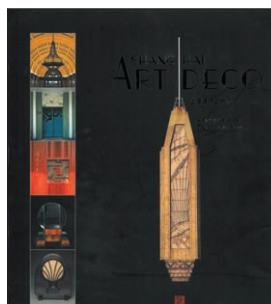
In *Green*, Lake shifts “from steampunk to lush fantasy filled with exotic locales and exquisite descriptions,” says *Publishers Weekly*. Green is an exquisitely beautiful woman in a mystical world, whose first memory was when her peasant father sold her to an immortal noble, the Undying Duke. He takes her to a far-away, European-like country, where she is considered a jewel amongst his collection of women in the Court of the Pomegranate Tree. There she learns the ways of a courtesan.

The book has underlying themes of gender-politics, slavery and race. Green’s dark skin makes her stand out from the other women in the harem. Yet when she later returns to her native country, which seems reminiscent of

India, she is unfamiliar with the traditional language and customs. As she struggles to uncover her past and move forward into a better future, Green, along with two friends, plots to kill the duke by breaking the spell that keeps him alive.

The quest of the fiercely independent Green in this supernatural world offers a fresh take on the relationship between gods and mortals.

COFFEE-TABLE BOOKS



Shanghai Art Deco

Deke Erh and Tess Johnston, Old China Hand Press, 2006, \$80, hardcover, 320 pages.

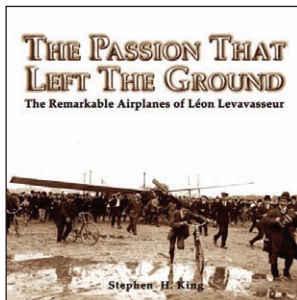
During the 1930s, a striking artistic and architectural movement swept through Shanghai. This new style, reflecting the excitement and optimism of a civilization moving into the modern era, was Shanghai Art Deco — a style not dissimilar to its American cousin, but with uniquely traditional Chinese motifs. Though in various states of disrepair and modification, these relics of a brief, bright era of Shanghai’s history still dot the landscape (mainly in the former French Concession and International Settlement).

Photographer Deke Erh and researcher and archivist Tess Johnston have been collaborating for more than 15 years. Their first photographic collection documenting the Western presence in Old China’s architecture was published in 1993. The present book, their thirteenth volume, contains nearly 1,000 photos of public buildings, apartments, villas, furniture and other objects in the art deco style. A beautiful collection and a fine coffee-table book, the work contains detailed background information on the images in both English and Mandarin.

Tess Johnston retired from the U.S. consulate general in Shanghai in 1996 to devote her time to editing, researching, writing and lecturing. She has spent almost 35 years in Asia on a variety of diplomatic assignments, the past 25 in Shanghai. Deke Erh distinguished himself as one of the earliest freelance photographers in China. The recipient of numerous awards, especially for his photography of architecture, he has pursued an abiding interest in historical research on Shanghai and other parts of China.

To purchase this book, e-mail tessjohnston@ssbg.

com.cn or tessinshanghai@yahoo.com, or write to Old China Hand Research Service, 70 Dong Hu Lu, Bldg. 3, Apt. 201, Shanghai 200031.



**The Passion That
Left the Ground: The
Remarkable Airplanes
of Léon Levassieur**

Stephen H. King,
Word Association, 2007,
\$24.95, paperback,
158 pages.

Very few people alive remember the golden age of aviation, from approximately 1903 through 1914. And, beyond the small world of early-aviation historians, even fewer persons have ever heard of the Frenchman Léon Levassieur.

Yet he is one of the truly great pioneers in the field of aviation. Not simply a pilot, he was a genius who designed and built airplanes — beautiful, graceful, sublime airplanes, some of which were many years ahead of their time. One of his creations, the Antoinette monoplane, is hailed by many as the most beautiful airplane ever built.

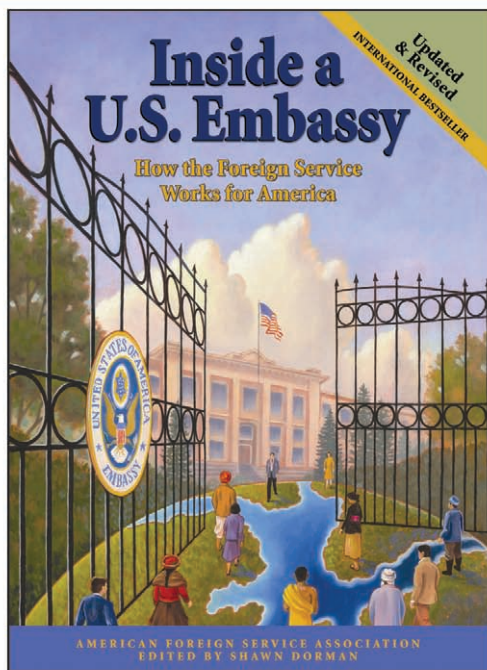
This well-researched nonfiction work on Levassieur and his aeronautical creations features 50 pages of exquisite photographs. Author Stephen King also includes information about Levassieur's ace pilot, the French aviation pioneer Hubert Latham, who flew the monoplane Antoinette in competitions in Europe and the United States and who died tragically in Africa in 1912.

Woven throughout the narrative is important historical background on the French military's attitude toward aviation from 1910 and leading up to the outbreak of World War I, for instance, and other issues affecting aviation in France during that period.

A retired FSO, Stephen H. King has been interested in aviation since his youth as an Air Force brat. His French-born wife is a distant cousin of Hubert Latham, and King's first book, *Windkiller* (Word Association, 2004), is based on Latham's fascinating and turbulent life as a world-class pilot. Though written as a novel to showcase Latham's mercurial and peculiar personality and how it ultimately led him to depression and tragedy, *Windkiller* is rich in details of this early, groundbreaking period in aviation history.

Stephen H. King resides in Northern Virginia. ■

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THE FS BLOGOSPHERE IN 2009

FOREIGN SERVICE BLOGGING HAS BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL TO PROMOTE
U.S. SOFT POWER, FOSTER THE EXPRESSION OF DISSENT AND BUILD CONNECTIONS
WITHIN THE FS COMMUNITY.

BY MARK HAY

Writing in the March 2008 edition of the *Foreign Service Journal* (“Welcome to the FS Blogosphere”), former editorial intern Marc Nielsen praised the community of Foreign Service-affiliated individ-

uals who maintain Web logs for representing “a profound generational shift in the way diplomats see themselves and their work.” That community now appears to be exhibiting the growth spurts characteristic of adolescence, pointing to a promising future.

In 2008, just five years after blogging become a popular phenomenon, the Technorati blog tracker counted more than 70 million active sites — but just 60 or so were run by active-duty Foreign Service personnel. (In this article we consider only non-official FS sites.) Eighteen months later, that number has doubled. So, by even a conservative count, the FS blogosphere is growing at a faster rate than the blogosphere as a whole, which now totals about 120 million sites.

Mark Hay, a student at Columbia University, is a former editorial intern at the Journal.

This rapid growth is all the more remarkable when one considers the above-average mortality rate for FS blogs. Many of the blogs noted in last year’s compilation are no longer operational. Even during the time it took to prepare this article, several blogs under consideration died and were replaced, and ultimately surpassed, by newborn or revived blogs.

*The blogs’ expanding
readership speaks
to their utility for both
the writers and the
wider community.*

This cycle of destruction and rebirth fits the transience of an FS lifestyle, but the blogs’ expanding readership speaks to their utility for both the writers and the wider community. Watching the longevity trends also reveals quite a bit about who within the Foreign Service blogs the most, what types of blogs endure and, on both counts, why.

American diplomatic blogging activity still lags behind that in Russia, Israel and Syria, where blogs by diplomats can be found even at the ambassadorial level. But the FS blogosphere is assured of its place and seems set for further growth.

True, its effects on the nature of the Foreign Service community’s self-perception, tolerance for dissent and contributions to literature are all unknown. But there is no doubt of its potential to promote U.S. soft power, foster the expression of dissent and build connections within the FS community.

Organizing Principles

Keeping up with Foreign Service blogs is not as difficult as it might seem. For one thing, despite its global reach, the FS blogosphere is a rather insular community. One FS blog typically links to others of similar focus, particularly when dealing with the most-read sites. Ultimately, the blog continuum leads the intrepid Internet user, in a remarkably Escheresque fashion, back to the site where he or she started. The catalog of major, enduring blogs below is divided into three broad categories — FS members' journals, family-member accounts and, finally, critical or analytical offerings. Within each, there are various subsets.

The largest category, accounting for more than 50 blogs, encompasses those that act mainly as journals of an FS member's experiences at a post, describing conditions, family, travels, etc. Many of them last only two years or so, until the author moves on. These writers feel little need for anonymity because they rarely voice criticism of their posts (though they do sometimes gripe about furnishings, traffic or an interminable Fourth of July celebration).

While these accounts may seem of interest only to the writer's family and friends, they often have wider appeal (for instance, to FS bidders weighing the pros and cons of possible onward assignments). Many are well written and offer up detailed travelogues, amusing slice-of-life stories and other cultural/regional insights.

The second grouping, accounting for approximately 30 of the currently tracked blogs, are those written by trailing family members. These blogs, as with those written by Foreign Service employees, focus on issues of daily life, travel and culture shock. However, the accounts of spouses and partners often take an introspective bent, shedding considerable light on the challenges of FS marriages, relation-

*Even by a conservative
count, the FS blogosphere
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as a whole.*

ships in transition and families abroad. At the same time, they often offer solutions to those problems. Generally speaking, these blogs have a longer shelf life than those of Foreign Service members and tend to be updated more regularly.

Curiously, however, this group of blogs is eerily void of the voices of youth. With children more wired than ever before, it is surprising that there are so few blogs expressing their perspectives.

The final category is a somewhat amorphous group of 40 current blogs that, for lack of a better term, we'll call "critical." Because many of these authors speak out against or question practices by the State Department or the U.S. government, they frequently retain anonymity.

Their flexible content, increased reader feedback, online discussion forums and occasional use of multiple bloggers to generate content all allow them a longer life than either of the other groupings. And as a bonus, many share how-to guides, tips and tricks on surviving FS life.

These critical blogs have endured the longest and garnered the most reader attention; but, oddly enough, they have the lowest rate of expansion. This low rate of growth in the most rich and fascinating field of FS blogging is due, most likely, to the time commitments required. Technorati estimates that the average active blog-

ger spends between three and 10 hours a week working on their content, which may be more time than the Foreign Service employee already juggling a job and a family can sacrifice.

The following sample of sites is simply a snapshot of the FS blogosphere at this writing. Distinctions between types of blogs are somewhat blurred, as many span multiple genres; but the categorizations have been made based on the content of the majority of the posts on any given site. Neither the *Journal* nor the author can vouch for the continued existence of any of them, although efforts have been made to note only vibrant and enduring blogs.

For a complete list of FS blogs, with brief descriptions, go to www.afsa.org/fsj/2009/cfm#Nov.

The Journal

Changes and Colours (www.changesandcolours.blogspot.com) – The author of this blog presents a broad overview of her life in and the culture of Iceland, combining travel writing, social commentary and personal stories. Well-written and interspersed with photos for effect, this blog offers up insights on life as a diplomat.

At Post (www.at-post.blogspot.com) – This is not a traditional journal blog in two respects. First, there are few to no words. The stories of *At Post* are told through exceptional photographs of the monumental and the mundane. And second, though a single person edits and maintains the blog, it contains posts by Foreign Service members from all over the world, creating stark, compelling contrasts in locations, styles and tones of photographs.

240 to 120 (www.240to120.com) – A rather simple but elegant blog, *240 to 120* tells the story of a Foreign Service specialist currently in Vladivostok, along with commentaries on Russian society, embassy life, travel and all the other run-of-the-mill details of any

journal. What sets this blog apart is that while it started during a tour in Australia, it is still going strong.

Slices of Life

Adventures in Good Countries (www.kakiser.blogspot.com) – This blogger tells memorable stories: witty, direct and exaggerated to the point where absurdity meets credibility. Her posts are brief, sharp commentaries on bridging (or failing to bridge) the gap between Arab and American culture and on dealing with the bizarre, maddening requests of Americans abroad.

The Guatemala Holla (www.guatemallaholla.blogspot.com) – This blog, which started out chronicling the experience of “a low-level American diplomat living in Guatemala,” is now focussed on his new assignment in Riga. The stories center on the strange and unexpected beauties of Baltic and post-Soviet culture, relics and art. If you have never considered a trip to Latvia, this blog’s charming, romantic and often humorous tales, not to mention the beautiful photography, will provide some incentive to reconsider.

Red Licorice and Jujubes (www.atexgal.blogspot.com) – Until recently, this blogger’s stories were meandering pieces of commentary on life abroad and comparative tales of the differences between Honduras and America — amusing, but not extraordinary. However, she has risen to the challenge of reporting the buzz and turmoil surrounding the fate of ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya and is now producing fascinating stories illuminating developments in the Honduran political firmament.

The Training Journal

The rarest and most finite of all journals, these blogs are worth reading even when they have died (although none of the ones listed here have), as they tell a definite tale. Typ-

FS youth typically have the time and resources to contribute their insights, so their relative lack of participation in blogging is puzzling.

ically a training journal begins with the blogger’s preparations to take the Foreign Service Oral Test and stretches all the way to the first tour. For the prospective or curious diplomat, these blogs provide invaluable details on the steps along the path to a career in the Foreign Service.

Absentee Voter (www.absenteevoter.blogspot.com) – This account spans the process from registration to consular training and contains an exceptional level of detail. The personal angle and palpable emotion make it a far more engaging guide than most other available resources.

The Warpiper (www.thewarpiper.blogspot.com) – Warpiper (so named not out of belligerence, but a love of bagpipes) differs greatly from most other training journals. It provides the unique perspective of a second-career FSO, who describes himself as a “Foreign Service officer, former cop, gun and bible clinger, player of the Great Highland Bagpipe, Southerner with a capital S, malt whisky drinker, and Tater’s Dad.”

Diplomatic Incidents (www.diplomaticincidents.blogspot.com) – Although similar in many ways to Absentee Voter, Diplomatic Incidents offers a little more attitude. Blogger William “Bill” Torrance, the son of a Marine aviator, is currently in training for an assignment to Mexico.

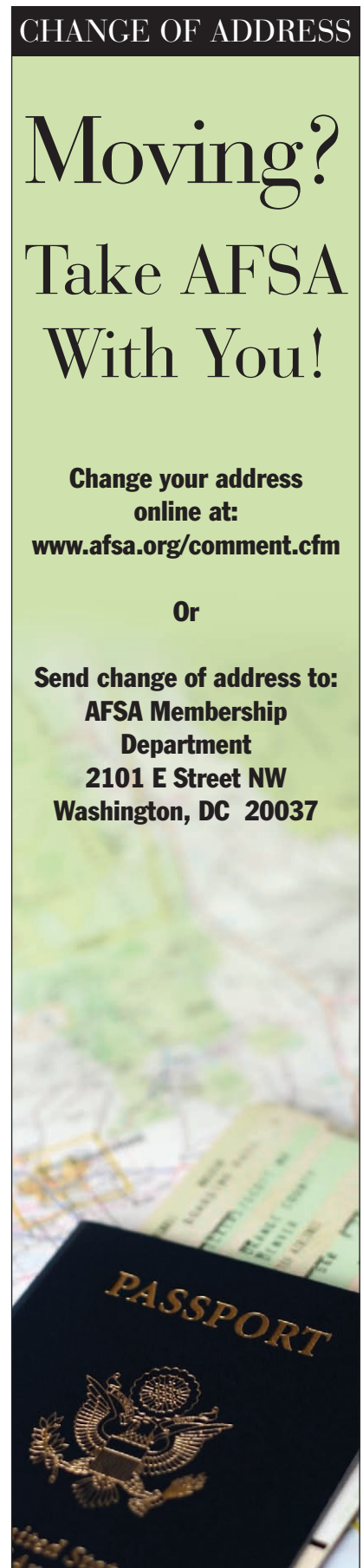
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The Basics of Blogging

Thinking of starting a blog? Here are some tips on how to make *your* contribution to the FS blogosphere.

The prospective blogger first needs to decide which template to use to create the site. An experienced Webhand may attempt to purchase his or her own domain, but there is little point in that given all of the free and easy alternatives. Some basic options include ever-popular www.blogspot.com, as well as www.livejournal.com, www.wordpress.com and the more professionally-oriented www.typepad.com. Of all the current options, the author recommends Google's Blogger (www.blogger.com) and the creation of a Google account. Google Blogger's interface allows for an excellent tagging and archiving system for an easy-to-use-and-search site.

Access to a Google account also offers users the ability to upload documents, audio, video, pictures, etc. and link them to their blog, cutting down on the time it takes to manage multiple accounts for different types of hosting.

If one chooses not to go this route, there are several other free, reliable multimedia hosting sites available, including Flickr (www.flickr.com) and DeviantArt (www.deviantart.com).

The concerned professional photographer, who seek to ensure rights to a photograph, should consider a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5 License, available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>, to protect and track their content.

Another advantage of a Google account is the availability of multiple applications like site meters, which track visitors to one's blog, calendars, interactive maps and an ever-expanding host of peripheral programs to enhance the blogging experience.

As with pictures, though, other free resources are available. Even for site meters, there are several free sites offering variations on the stan-

dard count. Site Meter (www.sitemeter.com/), Stat Counter (www.statcounter.com/) and Web Stats (www.webstats.motigo.com/) simply track readership, but ClustrMaps (www.clustrmaps.com/) can count both track the number of

visitors and display their locations on a small map for all visitors to see.

Most sites also offer privacy options. These usually center on password protection, meaning that no visitors may view the blog unless they send a request for access by e-mail to the blog's author. The author then issues the requestor a password that gives access.

Many blogs have moved to incorporate varied forms and levels of privacy, such as using locking for certain pictures, documents or other links, or using separate passwords for different parts of the blog. This type of privacy protection is somewhat rare, however, and is not part

of most FS blog templates.

It used to be common practice to include a disclaimer on FS blogs declaring that the views expressed are those of the author only and do not represent the views of the Foreign Service, the Department of State, the U.S. government or any other entity. Based on our sample, use of a disclaimer is no longer so prevalent.

However, any blog taking a critical stance or making negative

comments about the Foreign Service should consider using a disclaimer. The language may be something as simple as the above example; but many bloggers resort to cynical or humorous disclaimers.

Finally, if one seeks a wide audience, it is a good idea to plug into the FS blogging community. Listing links on the side of the page to other FS blogs will usually gain the blog recognition within the circle and, hopefully, help to boost visitor numbers.

— Mark Hay, Editorial Intern

Any blog taking a critical stance or making negative comments about the Foreign Service should consider using a disclaimer.



Google Blogger, at www.blogger.com, has many advantages for the beginner.

Trailing Spouses

Here one finds the other side of the FS experience, as those who have been repeatedly relocated around the globe share their stories and their struggles. The blogs, predominantly maintained by FS wives (although some husbands chime in, as well), address issues of family life, displacement and employment with a light, sometimes intimate tone.

The Perlman Update (www.theperlmanupdate.blogspot.com) – Updated frequently and written with an almost brutal honesty — “follow the chaos as we tell our tales of life abroad” — this blog directly addresses some of the hardest issues relating to Foreign Service family life. But the author never displays undue angst and tempers her views with a healthy dose of hope and a fondness for the mundane. Her ability to inject sass and emotion into a family letter is incredibly endearing.

Diplomatic Baggage (www.diplowife.wordpress.com) – This blog, subtitled “Misadventures of a Diplomat’s Young Wife,” concentrates on the challenges of FS family life at the beginning of an assignment. Interspersed with ethnographic notes, it has all the trappings of a rollicking tale of endurance and adjustment, filled with natural drama.

Irreverence Abroad (www.cbenjaminhaag.wordpress.com) – One of the rare blogs by a trailing husband who is now in Madrid, *Irreverence Abroad* does not differ greatly in style or basic content from any of the other trailing spouse blogs. Though the last posting was in March, this blog remains useful as a unique male perspective on the similarities and differences between trailing husbands and wives, and how they approach the challenges they encounter.

The Both-Spouses Approach

Essentially a hybrid of the journal and the trailing spouse formats, these blogs create a dialogue between the

Despite its global reach, the FS blogosphere is a rather insular community.

family diplomat and his or her significant other. They represent the best of both worlds, covering cultural insight and familial commentary alike, for the most complete picture of a Foreign Service life.

The Mas Alla (www.themasalla.wordpress.com) – If you ever wondered what additional challenges to expect when raising a child in Caracas, look no further. Both parents offer up their perspectives on their recurring difficulties with parenting and managing an FS relationship.

Masha and Jeremy Went to Afghanistan (www.mashaandjeremy.blogspot.com) – Masha and Jeremy’s story comes as close to an epic as most blogs ever can. Their tales cover being abroad together, being separated by international borders, entering the Foreign Service, preparing for a first assignment and moving. The dynamism of their relationship is captivating and inspiring.

E-mail from the Embassy (www.emailfromtheembassy.blogspot.com/) – This blog features the touching stories of a Foreign Service couple experiencing exasperation and worry in Beijing. The authors give excellent examples of, and subtle advice on, dealing with displacement and relocation.

How-To Guides

These are among the most resource-rich sites known to the Foreign Service, rivaling or even surpassing any materials provided by the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide, AFSA or even State.

Trailing Spouses (www.trailing-spouses.blogspot.com) – This blog is an essential source of information on “coaching, teletrainings, e-learning & e-publishing for expatriate executives, diplomats, accompanying spouses, and international or mobile entrepreneurs/solopreneurs/infopreneurs.”

FS Tips and Tricks (www.sixpica.com/blog) – The savants at this site suggest useful tactics for dealing with issues ranging from taxes to entertainment to technology. Almost anything to make a Foreign Service career easier or more enjoyable can be found here.

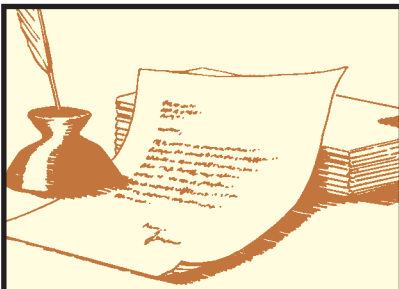
The Ausmerican (www.ausmerica.com/blog) – Despite being somewhat less navigable than other how-to guides, *The Ausmerican* remains a useful tool for its efforts to aggregate sites of interest to expatriates and trailing spouses. Run by an Australian-born husband now living in Wellington, the site brims with ideas for making the most of a life abroad.

Thoughtful Musings

These typically address a recent diplomatic event, statement from State or world issue, raising provocative questions through sharp commentary and then waiting for the FS fish to start biting. They offer the best chance for the development of innovative ideas and the raising of serious concerns.

Calling a Spade a Spade (www.xcalling-a-spade-a-spade.blogspot.com) – As the author proudly declares, this blog is a collection of “rants of a Foreign Service officer on the things that matter to you — and matter to you not at all.” Ever passionate and typically poignant, skeptical yet hopeful, he speaks with the authority of an educated, insider bleeding heart.

The Hegemonist (www.thehegemonist.com) – This blog covers international diplomatic issues, often not very diplomatically. When the anonymous blogger addresses a topic directly related to the Foreign Service, though, his coverage becomes detailed and nu-



Let Us Hear From You



Send Your Letters
to fsj@afsa.org.

All submissions are subject to editorial review and editing for length and grammar.



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*A hybrid of the journal
and the trailing spouse
formats, these blogs create
a dialogue between the
family diplomat and their
significant other.*

anced, sparking lively, informative dialogue with his readers.

Political Fermentations (www.politicalfermentations.blogspot.com) – This author is one of the more outspoken dissenting voices in the FS blogosphere. Never repetitive, trite or dull, he intersperses recipes for (and stories of his attempts at) brewing beer throughout his musings, as the blog's name suggests.

News with an FS Bent

In these news aggregators, discerning bloggers cull the news for stories of interest to diplomats and either present them unaltered or with a dash of insider commentary. Regardless of the garnish and delivery, they are among the premier sources for pre-filtered diplomatic news.

Reinventing Public Diplomacy (www.publicdiplomacy.blogspot.com) – Mainly a news aggregate site, Reinventing Public Diplomacy passionately advocates “a greater role for soft power in protecting America’s national security interests.”

DiploPundit (www.diplopundit.blogspot.com) – Whenever there is an amusing, engaging or important story about the Foreign Service, DiploPundit will catch it, comment on it and provide several ways to follow it. The site does an excellent job of watching other critical FS blogs, commenting on

their content and increasing the interconnections and credibility of the FS blogosphere as a forum for dissent and discourse.

The Skeptical Bureaucrat (www.skepticalbureaucrat.blogspot.com) – This anonymous blogger specializes in providing a continual forum for discussion of diplomatic news that has fallen out of the headlines. He or she reacts promptly and responsibly to even the most uncouth respondent or absurd situation with equanimity, humor and meticulousness that would be valuable traits in any news format.

Retirees’ Reflections

The other subset of the critical blog category, retiree reflections, does what thoughtful musings do, except even more openly and bluntly. Their authors draw on years of Foreign Service experience to provide a distanced, yet educated, perspective.

The World According to Bill Fisher (www.billfisher.blogspot.com) – If one wants detailed, insightful analysis of major events in U.S. foreign affairs and beyond, then look no further than Fisher. His credentials, as he states them, are as follows: “managed economic development programs for the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere for the past 25 years. He served in the administration of President John F. Kennedy.”

WhirledView (www.whirledview.tyepad.com) – This blog was co-created by Patricia Lee Sharpe, a writer and former Foreign Service officer with 22 years in public diplomacy in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and her colleague Patricia Kushlis, an international affairs specialist in Europe, Asia, the U.S., politics, public diplomacy and national security. It offers a cultural explanation and incisive analysis of current events. A resource-laden site, it is a great jumping-off point for further investigations. ■

AFSA NEWS

American Foreign Service Association • November 2009

MARC GROSSMAN DELIVERS ADAIR LECTURE

Is the Foreign Service Equipped to Face Challenges?

BY FRANCESCA KELLY

The chapel was overflowing and the sermon was thought-provoking. That may not always be the case at every place of worship, but when the preacher is a former under secretary of State, Ambassador Marc Grossman, the congregation is full of international affairs students, and the “choir” is made up of academics and former ambassadors, folks are in for an inspiring afternoon.

The third annual Caroline and Ambassador Charles Adair Lecture took place on Sept. 2 at American University’s main chapel, formally known as the Kay Spiritual Life Center. Amb. Grossman was featured, along with introductory speakers Amb. Anthony Quinton, diplomat-in-residence at A.U.’s School of International Service; David Brown, dean of the Washington Sem-



Amb. Marc Grossman speaks at American University on Sept. 2.

mester Program; and AFSA’s Tom Switzer, director of communications.

Also seated on the dais were former FSO and former AFSA President Marshall Adair, founder and trustee of the Adair Memorial Fund, and AFSA President Susan R. Johnson. Professor Christian Maisch, academic director of the Washington Semester Program and an assistant professor at the School of International Service, coordinated the event.

Marc Grossman’s resumé alone was probably enough to inspire the students in attendance. Currently chairman of the Cohen Group in Washington, D.C., during his Foreign Service career he served as ambassador to Turkey, assistant secretary for European affairs, under secretary for polit-

Continued on page 58

FIRST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

A Challenge to Honor Dissent

BY FRANCESCA KELLY

On June 18, AFSA honored seven members of the Foreign Service community for their extraordinary work in the field, including three who were honored for their constructive dissent. These individuals serve as an inspiration to all members of the Foreign Service.

However, two AFSA constructive dissent awards were not given out at the ceremony: the Herter Award for a senior FSO, and the Harriman Award for an



entry-level officer.

Why not? *Because there was not a single nomination in either of these two categories.*

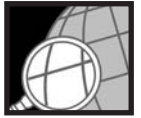
In trying to determine the reason for this, one AFSA staffer astutely postulated: “The entry-level officers are too junior to rock the boat, and the senior FSOs don’t want to jeopardize their position of power.” This may well be true. And once we started thinking about it, we wanted to find out.

So AFSA is offering a challenge to the FS community worldwide: Prove this theory wrong.

Prove that when your conscience calls upon you to do what is right, you

Continued on page 53

AFSA NEWS BRIEFS



AFSA Scholarship Application Deadline Is Feb. 6



High school seniors and college undergraduates who are children of Foreign Service employees (active-duty, retired and deceased) are eligible to apply for one-time-only AFSA Academic/Art Merit Awards and need-based AFSA Financial Aid Scholarships. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,500. The submission deadline is Feb. 6. For complete details, as well as application forms, please visit www.afsa.org/scholar/ or contact Lori Dec at dec@afsa.org, (202) 944-5504, or toll-free at (800) 704-2372, ext. 504. Unfortunately, grandchildren of Foreign Service retirees are not eligible for these scholarships.

Life in the Foreign Service

■ BY BRIAN AGGELER

Seduction Among the Diplomats



Make a Combined Federal Campaign Gift and Support AFSA, Too!

Each fall the State Department kicks off the Combined Federal Campaign for workplace charitable donations. Please designate #11759 and #10646 on your CFC pledge card to support AFSA!

The AFSA Scholarship Fund (CFC #11759) provides need-based scholarships and merit awards to Foreign Service children to help meet their college expenses. For more information, visit www.afsa.org/scholar/CFC11759.cfm.

The Fund for American Diplomacy (CFC #10646) educates the public (everyone from Congress to business leaders to students) on the importance of diplomacy and a strong U.S. Foreign Service. To find out more, visit www.afsa.org/CFCFAD.cfm.

AFSA Interns – Hail and Farewell

AFSA welcomes new interns Amanda Anderson (editorial intern, from the University of Maryland at College Park), Lotte Reijmer (advertising intern, from Han University, Arnhem, The Netherlands) and Jennifer Durina (public affairs intern, from The George Washington University), and bids a fond farewell to summer interns Mark Hay (editorial intern, from Columbia University), Tyson Halseth (advertising intern, from the University of California at Santa Barbara), Claire Halbrook (retiree intern, from the University of California at San Diego) and Chelsea Hollstein (public affairs intern, from GWU). We are fortunate to have such a hard-working, congenial group of interns at AFSA.

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An Ounce of Prevention

The VP State column is often devoted to the big issues. But part of my job is also to help our members avoid problems. Although AFSA's Labor Management office handles a broad variety of cases, many are related to shipping and transportation, medical bills, the Separate Maintenance Allowance and reporting of foreign contacts. These are areas in which the department is traditionally not very flexible, usually claiming (rightly or wrongly) when disputes arise that employees made poor decisions. I would like to examine these common problems more closely in this column.

Shipping and Transportation: Although the department does most of the work related to shipping and transportation, responsibility for compliance with the regulations ultimately falls to the employee. Common issues include disputes over billing for excess household effects weight and over unusual or prohibited routing (e.g., failure to comply with the Fly America Act), as well as issues related to travel accounting.

We strongly encourage you to pack out on orders early enough to obtain the accurate weight of household effects and storage before traveling. That way, overages can be addressed before shipment and charges for excess weight avoided. Obtain in writing any advice related to the propriety of a given routing. You should also be aware that you might be held liable for transportation of goods that might not be considered legitimate household effects (such as wooden planks or ceramic tiles) and will be held liable for shipment of prohibited items (such as ivory carvings). When in doubt, check with post management and AFSA before shipping questionable items.

With regard to records, note that vouchers and/or outstanding advances may be audited several years after travel has occurred. It is wise to retain copies of vouchers for at least five years, or even longer, after traveling.

Paying for Medical Treatment: If you or a family member is treated at a hospital overseas or evacuated to the U.S. for medical treatment, do not confuse the absence of a bill with the absence of an obligation. When the department makes the initial payment to the hospital, remember that you are required to submit any bill to your insurance company and turn over what the insurance company pays you to the de-

partment. The department then acts as the secondary insurer.

It is not unusual for bills to go to the wrong place and to take considerable time to catch up to the employee. The first claim for payment may come from the department months, or even years, after the event in the form of a notice to garnish the employee's wages. Members are advised to follow up immediately after medical treatment and to monitor the status of billing to avoid nasty surprises.

Selection of a Virtual Separate Maintenance Allowance or

Involuntary SMA Location: Many employees have foreign-born spouses or, for other reasons, choose to arrange for family members to reside outside the U.S. under Separate Maintenance Allowance agreements. In these situations, the employee must select a virtual SMA location within the U.S. for the purpose of calculating and receiving benefits. Often this is the home leave address, but it could be anywhere in the U.S.

Bear in mind that the selection of a virtual SMA location may obligate the employee to bear the costs for shipping and transportation to an onward assignment. Members are strongly encouraged to explore all implications of selecting a particular location before declaring it as a virtual SMA site.

Contact Reporting: The new Foreign Affairs Manual sections (12 FAM 262 and 270) published in February, clarify contact reporting and other reporting requirements affecting Foreign Service members, both overseas and domestically. They also greatly expand the definition of contact and the variety of situations that must be reported. Failure to comply with these requirements is a recurring reason for the suspension and often revocation of security clearances. It is incumbent on all Foreign Service members to familiarize themselves with the rules and comply with them. As with other official documents, members would be wise to retain copies of all DS-1887 forms and other documents they provide in compliance with these requirements. One should never assume that files in Washington will be complete.

What should be small issues can quickly become big ones. AFSA is here to help resolve any disputes that might arise. But the best protection is to anticipate problems *before* they occur. □

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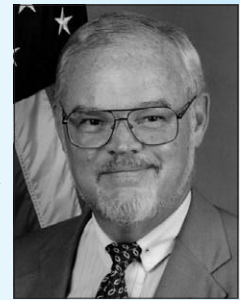
Hearing From You

I have been pleased by the feedback that I've received from readers on a wide range of concerns. Folks want to know how their grandchildren can apply for internships at State or AFSA, about the confidentiality of medical clearance information required for overseas When Actually Employed assignments, and how to submit an article to the *Foreign Service Journal*.

During my 47 years as an AFSA member, I almost never had occasion to call on the professional staff for help, but now do so on almost a daily basis in order to respond to your queries. AFSA staff members are remarkably expert and well connected and are probably the most valuable benefit of your AFSA membership. Don't hesitate to contact them!

The hot issue of the day is the dramatic rate increase in Office of Personnel Management-sponsored long-term-care insurance. This has enraged a number of AFSA members who had signed up for coverage in response to an OPM solicitation that offered attractive rates and a strong assurance that they would remain stable. We will keep our members informed about OPM announcements regarding open season requirements for affected enrollees and — in collaboration with other federal employee organizations — seek congressional hearings on the premium hikes.

A good deal of mail expresses frustration with the WAE program, bemoaning the lack of timely information about opportunities and sketchy responses to inquiries.



A good deal of retiree mail expresses frustration with the WAE program, bemoaning the lack of timely information about opportunities and sketchy responses to inquiries. The regional bureaus control the program, and their performance is uneven. My predecessor, Bill Farrand, wrote a letter to Deputy Secretary Jacob Lew with a number of recommendations for fixes to the program. AFSA President Susan R. Johnson and State VP Daniel Hirsch will be following up with Under Secretary for Management Pat Kennedy and Director General Nancy Powell's office. Our retirees are a unique and valuable resource, and the department needs their help more than ever, especially during this period of rebuilding.

The initial response to the survey AFSA sent out to retirees a few weeks ago has been excellent. If you have not yet replied, please do so now, as I would like to report on the results in my next column. You should have received the survey in the mail, accompanied by a stamped return envelope; we would prefer, however, that you respond electronically, as it will greatly facilitate the tabulation and analysis of the data. Please go to www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB229H983SUFX. □

AFSANEWSBRIEFS

Attorney Holly Rich Departing AFSA

After two-and-a-half years as an attorney in AFSA's labor management office, Holly Rich has accepted a position in the Civil Rights Division of the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Health and Human Services. Her last day at AFSA was Aug. 28. Rich, says Executive Director Ian Houston, "was a terrific employee: kind, thoughtful and generous." He adds, "She learned a complicated job very quickly and showed an ability to go beyond what is asked of her." Colleague James Yorke calls her "easily one of the best new lawyers we've ever worked with." Rich says her "wonderful" experience at AFSA has taught her the importance of "always working for the 'little guy.'" We wish her well.

TRANSITION CENTER SCHEDULE OF COURSES for November-December 2009

Nov. 2-3	MQ911	Security Overseas Seminar
Nov. 6	MQ950	High-Stress Assignment Outbrief
Nov. 7	MQ115	Explaining America
Nov. 13	MQ703	Post Options for Employment and Training
Nov. 16-17	MQ911	Security Overseas Seminar
Nov. 30-Dec. 1	MQ911	Security Overseas Seminar
Dec. 4	MQ950	High-Stress Assignment Outbrief
Dec. 5	MQ803	Realities of Foreign Service Life
Dec. 7-10	RV101	Retirement Planning Seminar
Dec. 10-11	MQ107	English Teaching Seminar
Dec. 12	MQ116	Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad
Dec. 14-15	MQ911	Security Overseas Seminar
Dec. 15-16	MQ104	Regulations, Allowances and Finances

To register or for further information, e-mail the FSI Transition Center at FSITCTraining@state.gov.

Survivor Annuity Elections

BY BONNIE BROWN, RETIREE COORDINATOR

The right to a survivor annuity is a traditional benefit for Foreign Service retirees and spouses. It permits retirees to make ongoing provision for their survivors, assures some measure of financial security for surviving spouses and is the prerequisite for spouses to continue federal health benefits. It also recognizes the service given by Foreign Service spouses overseas and the difficulty these spouses have in continuing careers when abroad.

The regulations governing election of a survivor annuity can be complicated by death, divorce, former spouses and time requirements — so it is important for employees, retirees and spouses to understand when and how elections can be made and when information about these life events should be submitted to the department.

At-Retirement Elections

At retirement, an election of maximum survivor benefits for a current spouse is automatic — unless the retiree obtains the consent of his or her spouse to a lesser amount or to no survivor benefits in a notarized spousal agreement. Similarly, at retirement an unmarried participant whose former spouse qualifies for a survivor annuity may elect to make no provision for a survivor annuity *only* if both the retiring spouse and former spouse agree to

The regulations governing election of a survivor annuity can be complicated by death, divorce, former spouses and time requirements — so it is important for employees, retirees and spouses to understand when and how elections can be made.

waive the survivor annuity in a notarized spousal agreement (or if this was provided for in a divorce decree and recognized by the Office of Retirement in its divorce determination letter).

A notarized election to waive the survivor benefit is irrevocable and cannot be rescinded after retirement. Once the election is made, it is almost impossible to overturn it regardless of circumstances — even if the spouse or former spouse was tricked into signing or did not fully understand the implications of what he or she was signing. (The Merit Service Protection Board recently held in a split decision that a waiver signature forged by a retiring spouse invalidated a spousal agreement.) Moreover, if at retirement a married participant and his or her spouse waive the survivor annuity

and the marriage ends after retirement, the retiree cannot make a survivor election for a new spouse upon remarriage.

After-Retirement Elections

After retirement, a retiree in the old Foreign Service Retirement and Disability System can elect a survivor benefit for his or her new spouse within one year of remarriage. Retirees under the new Foreign Service pension system must make this election within two years of remarriage. This designation should be made even if a former spouse is entitled to full survivor benefits and the new spouse could have no current expectation of survivor benefits. If the second election were made and the former spouse were to die, then the survivor benefit for the current spouse would no longer be contingent.

Conclusion

In order to make sound decisions about survivor benefits, it is important for retirees to talk to their counselors in the Retirement Office upon any change in marital status — including the death of a spouse or former spouse, divorce or remarriage — and to submit certified copies of any court order. Also, former spouses should provide the Retirement Office with a copy of any court order and inform that office of any remarriage in a timely manner. □

Dissent • Continued from from 49

have the courage and fortitude to buck the system, despite possible risk to your career. Prove that when you witness a colleague's constructive and courageous dissent, you will take the time to nominate him or her for an AFSA dissent award.

The Herter, Harriman, Rivkin and Harris awards call for constructive dissent “through the proper channels.”

One of these channels, though certainly not the only way to voice dissent,

is the official dissent channel, which falls under the direct jurisdiction of the Secretary of State. Messages sent through this “well-established mechanism,” says Edward J. Lacey, deputy director of the Office of Policy Planning (S/P), “require no pre-clearance with any officials. The entire process is handled in such a fashion as to protect the confidentiality of the dissenting official to the greatest extent possible.” Since January of this year, he notes, dissent messages have addressed “such diverse policy issues as trafficking in persons, foreign assistance,

Iraq, and U.S. policy related to science, health, and avian influenza.”

Started more than 30 years ago, the AFSA Constructive Dissent awards are unique in the U.S. government. AFSA challenges all of its members to keep these awards going strong.

More detailed nomination procedures will appear in the December issue of *AFSA News*, but you can get started right now by going to www.afsa.org/awards/index.cfm, or by e-mailing Professional Issues Coordinator Barbara Berger at berger@afsa.org. □

Cultivating Key Allies

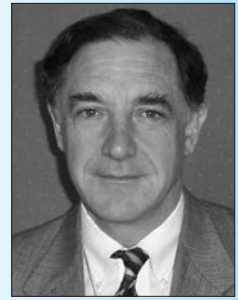
A FSA opens doors. This week I had the pleasure of meeting first the noble senator from Maryland, Barbara Mikulski, head of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and then our excellent under secretary-designee, Francisco Sanchez. It did not take much effort to explain what our commercial officers do before eliciting the support of these leaders, who are sensitive to our issues. Their positive response was largely because of their experience with our people in the field.

Senator Mikulski came to the meeting despite a broken leg, and spoke clearly and elegantly about the urgent need for effective legislation. In response to our concerns, she declared her support for FCS and our public service. She, more than anyone else, will determine our funding level for Fiscal Year 2010 within the Appropriations Committee. It is largely because of her team's support that we have a chance of some significant additional funding in the year ahead.

Under secretary-designee Francisco Sanchez likes to take his jacket off and roll up his sleeves. So I told him that we are an organization of 24/7 public servants who, by nature, like to dig in and get things done. For us there is nothing more frustrating than not having the basic tools to do our

We are an organization of 24/7 public servants who, by nature, like to dig in and get things done.

job. He told me that he has already made it a practice to meet with every senior commercial officer that comes through the department and that he has been impressed with our dedication and ability. He is the key to our future and to getting decent funding in FY 2011. His office



has already passed to the Office of Management and Budget the largest increase request for us in the history of the International Trade Administration. If we can navigate the many political hurdles ahead, we may restore our organization to a position of strength. He is intelligent and energetic and committed to making that happen.

Neither of these key meetings would have happened without the power of AFSA and the AFSA political action committee. Take a closer look at AFSA-PAC on the Web at www.afsa.org/pac.cfm. And, even if you are unable to make a donation at this time, please do your part by contacting your legislators (as private citizens, of course; not as government representatives or on government time).

Then keep your fingers crossed. □

AFSANEWSBRIEFS

Foreign Service Youth Foundation Launches New Web Site

In celebration of its 20th year (1989-2009), the Foreign Service Youth Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of its new and improved Web site. Only the URL address remains the same (www.fsyf.org).

The new site has more content for parents and kids, and is easier to navigate. With pages dedicated to FSYF contests, activities and newsletters, as well as more general information on re-entry to the U.S., there's something for everyone. We even have a U.S. history high school study page for those who are unable to get American history courses overseas.

When visiting the new Web site, please consider joining as a paid member. A three-year family membership is only \$30. As a non-profit organization serving U.S. Foreign Service youth around the globe, FSYF relies on corporate sponsors, individual donors, membership dues, publications sales and program fees for funding. Nonetheless, membership is not required to participate in FSYF activities.

AFSA Post Reps – Are You Ready for Your Close-Up?

If you're a busy AFSA representative who's willing to be profiled in an upcoming issue of *AFSA News*, we'd like to hear from you. Tell us about yourself, your country of assignment and what you do for AFSA members at post. Contact *AFSA News* Editor Francesca Kelly via e-mail at kelly@afsa.org – and be prepared to send a photo of yourself, too.

AFSA Members Overseas: Is your wonderful AFSA post rep too shy to step forward? Please informally nominate your rep for an *AFSA News* profile (see contact info above). Send us the name of your AFSA rep and where you are, and we'll do the rest.

Ten Years Ago in *AFSA News* ...

From John Naland's VP State column, *AFSA News*, November 1999:

Last April, a study commissioned by the department and done by the consulting firm McKinsey & Company warned that State will find it increasingly difficult in the coming years to attract, develop, motivate and retain top talent. The reasons given include changing demographics in the job market, increasing mobility of the work force, and gaps in the department's ability to meet employee expectations. □

Sharon Papp: Working for Members for 17 Years

AFSA General Counsel Sharon Papp breezed through her 10- and 15-year anniversaries at AFSA with hardly a glance back, typical of this hard-working yet modest attorney. *AFSA News* caught up with her as she recently celebrated her 17th anniversary at AFSA.

Born in New Jersey, Sharon spent most of her childhood in Saudi Arabia, where her parents worked for the Arabian American Oil Company. Sharon attended Vanderbilt University, followed by The George Washington University Law School.

Sharon has always advocated for individuals. Before joining AFSA in 1992, she was employed by a small EEO/employment plaintiff-side law firm in Dupont Circle.

Her work at AFSA is varied and interesting, with a large focus on discipline and security clearance cases. She often represents employees in OIG and DS investigations. She also liaises with AFSA's vice presidents on collective bargaining and labor management issues.

"I get a great deal of satisfaction from representing employees facing disciplinary action. If an employee has done something wrong, the punishment must be appropriate to the offense and consistent with that imposed upon other employees," comments Sharon. She adds, "Since I have been here for so long, I know what penalty, if any, the department imposed in similar cases five or 10 years ago." This information gives her clients a distinct advantage and often leads to reduced penalties.

While Sharon works with officers and specialists in all cones and specialties, a large contingent of her clients are diplomatic security agents. Finding DS issues particularly interesting, she explains, "I have represented agents before subcommittees of Congress, in FBI interviews, and before the State Department Accountability Review Board following the death of FS employees from terrorist incidents abroad.

Some of her more interesting cases have included foreign-born spouses who needed security clearances in order to work, numerous security clearance revocations, and institutional grievances on behalf of AFSA when the department violated the negotiated assignment rules.

Sharon attributes her longevity at AFSA to the rewards of her efforts and the close working relationship she has with her colleagues and department counterparts.

Sharon is extremely well regarded by colleagues, clients

and AFSA staff and board members. Labor Management attorney Zlatana Badrich hails Sharon's "keen intellect, sharp sense of humor, superior work ethic, unwavering integrity and very real sense of empathy and humanity that make her an ideal advocate."

As a supervisor, says Badrich, "Sharon has translated all these qualities and more into our daily working relationships, providing tremendous support to all of us in the labor management office." She continues, "Sharon works tirelessly on behalf of the AFSA membership. Her name brings trust and respect on both sides of the bargaining table, and her honesty and forthrightness ensure that you know where you stand."

Colleague James Yorke started working at AFSA in 1992, the same year as Sharon. "Sharon's contributions to AFSA — and to the Foreign Service — are so many, so important and so varied. She has gained the deep respect of eight governing boards and all her colleagues in AFSA over the years, and the undying gratitude of the hundreds of clients she has helped."

Former AFSA State VP member Steve Kashkett remembers, "During my four years at AFSA-State, I heard from countless members worldwide how Sharon had helped them with complex and often gut-wrenching problems they had confronted in their careers. She possesses a level of institutional memory and experience that few organizations' general counsels can claim. For more than a decade-and-a-half, Sharon has been a superb champion on behalf of the employees of the Foreign Service."

Executive Director Ian Houston says, "Sharon's long experience has only sharpened her enthusiasm for her work." Houston, who is fond of the Scottish saying, "Whate'er thou art, act well thy part," believes that Sharon lives up to that challenge. "AFSA is fortunate to have such a wonderful person and colleague on our team."

Those who work with Sharon consider themselves fortunate. Yorke continues, "Her strong convictions and sense of right and wrong, as well as a deep knowledge of the law, leave us in no doubt about where we should be going and what our priorities should be. But the added bonus is a sympathetic and warmhearted personality that makes her a wonderful colleague, a real delight to work with, and a true friend."

Sharon lives in Falls Church, Va., with husband Rick Philbin and their daughters Nicole, 15, and Andrea, 13. They share their lives with two mini-dachshunds, Mookie and Mia. □



AFSA General Counsel Sharon Papp.

She possesses a level of institutional memory and experience that few organizations' general counsels can claim.

— Former AFSA-State VP Steve Kashkett

Changes to Overseas Comparability Pay and Same-Sex Partner Benefits

The following has been updated from an earlier cable by AFSA President Susan R. Johnson.

Comparability Pay

The State Department and USAID have already moved to implement Overseas Comparability Pay, and we understand that all other foreign affairs agencies, with the possible exception of IBB, have sufficient funds available to implement this for their members. We urge them to do so without delay to avoid the possibility of unequal treatment of Foreign Service members from different agencies. We are working on ensuring that IBB is able to implement the measure as well. We still have ground to cover in achieving full implementation, but taking this first step forward is historic and a milestone.

AFSA takes great satisfaction in the knowledge that our aggressive, creative and unyielding advocacy has borne fruit in the form of additional resources to you and your families. That was our goal all along — serving and representing you. Nothing is more important and basic to AFSA that advancing your interests.

State 75056 from Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy spells out the procedure for the State Department, and we expect that implementation by other agencies will follow a similar pattern. In essence, in the first phase, State FS-1s and below serving overseas should have seen a 7.7-percent increase in basic pay starting with pay period 17 on Sept. 10. As of this writing, we understand that other agencies may have implemented the raise a pay period or two later.

Allowances and benefits calculated using basic pay, such as post allowances, danger pay and post differential, also should have been adjusted and paid accordingly. It is anticipated that eligible

employees will also receive a locality adjustment in January 2010, at the same time as those located in Washington, D.C. However, phases 2 and 3 — to provide 7.7-percent increases in both the ensuing two years — still require congressional authorization and funding. AFSA continues to work to ensure that the process stays on track.

Domestic Partners

The Foreign Affairs Manual entry on domestic partners (3 FAM 1600) came into force for all foreign affairs agencies on July 30 with an effective, retroactive date for the State Department of June 26. 14 FAM 511.3 has been changed to add the term “domestic partner as defined in 3 FAM 1610” to the definition of an eligible family member. Various other changes to 3 FAM affecting overseas employment, home leave, emergency travel, etc., are now also in effect for all foreign affairs agencies covered by the FAM.

The Department of State Standardized Regulations incorporating these changes were published in final form on Aug. 30. However, some changes may take a bit longer to be published. Below is the Internet link to view the new definition of a family member in the DSSR:

http://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=146&menu_id=81

We understand that all foreign affairs agencies have agreed to the new FAM and DSSR provisions and, as of this writing, have begun implementing them.

If you have additional questions on these issues, please feel free to contact AFSA Labor Management Specialist James Yorke at yorkej@state.gov. □

Allowances and benefits calculated using basic pay, such as post allowance, danger pay and post differential also should have been adjusted and paid accordingly.

Former AFSA/TLG Intern Now a Foreign Service Officer

BY LORI DEC, SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Ms. Stacy Session, a former AFSA/Thursday Luncheon Group intern, is one of 98 individuals in the 146th A-100 Foreign Service officer class that began on June 22. Ms. Session was a 2005 AFSA/TLG intern at the State Department’s Office of International Health Affairs in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and a 2006 intern in the management office at Embassy Nairobi. She recently became an AFSA member, as well.



Former TLG intern Stacy Session, now a Foreign Service officer.

Currently training in the public diplomacy cone at the Foreign Service Institute, Ms. Session will depart for Lagos in November, where she will spend her first year in the political/economic section and second year in the consular section.

AFSA and TLG formed a partnership in 1996 to sponsor an African-American college student each summer. The program has inspired at least one other former intern to stay in the foreign policy world: the 1996 AFSA/TLG Intern, Mr. Stacy Williams, joined the State Department’s Civil Service ranks as a Presidential Management Intern in 1997. He is currently an executive assistant in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. □

Amb. Roz Ridgway Establishes New AFSA Scholarship

In August, Ambassador Rozanne Ridgway graciously established an AFSA scholarship in her name for Foreign Service children attending college or university. In addition, the Sara Lee Corporation has made a very generous donation to the Ambassador Ridgway scholarship in gratitude for her service on its board of directors.



Amb. Ridgway was a Amb. Rozanne L. (Roz) Ridgway.

member of the Foreign Service for 32 years, from 1957 to 1989. Her diplomatic career included postings as ambassador to Finland (1977-1980) and ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (1983-1985). As the assistant secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs (1985-1989), she was the lead negotiator at the five historic Reagan-Gorbachev summits. She received the Presidential Citizen's Medal from President Reagan in recognition of her service.

Since her retirement from the Foreign Service, Amb. Ridgway's involvement in foreign affairs has been unwavering, includ-

ing serving as president and later co-chairman of the Atlantic Council and as a trustee at the Brookings Institution, the George C. Marshall Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She has served on the board of some of America's largest corporations, including Manpower, 3M and Boeing. She is married to Captain Theodore E. Deming, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.).

The Ambassador Rozanne L. (Roz) Ridgway Perpetual Financial Aid Scholarship will go into effect starting with the 2010-2011 academic year.

For information on applying for a scholarship or making a scholarship donation, please contact Lori Dec, AFSA Scholarship Director, at (202) 944-5504 or at dec@afsa.org, or visit www.afsa.org/scholar. □

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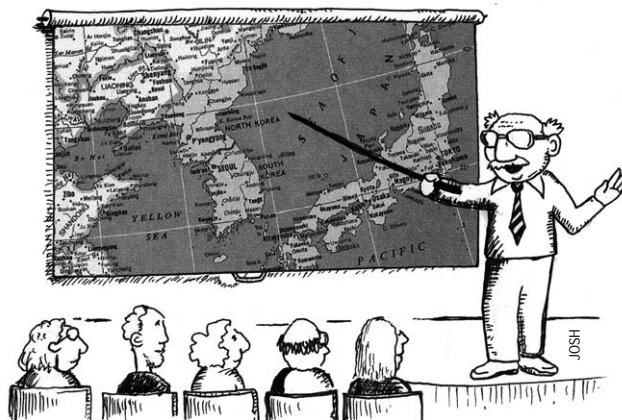
Elderhostel Becomes Exploritas

BY ASGEIR SIGFUSSON, MARKETING AND OUTREACH MANAGER

On Oct. 1, a multiyear process undertaken by the national Elderhostel organization came to an end with the formal announcement of a new name. The name chosen to represent all future programs is Exploritas, which is a combination of "explore" and "veritas," the Latin word for truth.

Since 1975, the organization has offered thousands of educational programs across the globe to participants who are at least 55 years old. AFSA has played a key role by offering programs on foreign policy and the Foreign Service under the Elderhostel banner since 1996. Over that period, nearly 10,000 people have enrolled in AFSA's programs, which take place in five locations around the country: Washington, D.C., Tucson, Ariz., St. Petersburg, Fla., Atlanta, Ga., and Chautauqua, N.Y.

The Elderhostel organization has mulled the pros and cons of the old name for a number of years. Research found that the name discouraged potential participants from joining, because



"elder" suggested that the average age of those enrolled was quite high and "hostel" indicated that accommodations were threadbare and uncomfortable. The organization hopes that the new branding will dispel such ideas.

The name "Elderhostel" has not vanished completely, however. The corporate part of the organization will retain that name, and the new name will apply only to the actual program offerings.

AFSA has transitioned to the new name for its upcoming programs, which include two March events: one on the Middle East, South Asia and global terrorism; and another that focuses on China and East Asia. The AFSA programs will continue to be administered by Bernie Alter. More information can be found at www.afsa.org/exploritas.

More information can be found at www.afsa.org/exploritas.

AFSA's Exploritas programs are part of our outreach efforts through the Fund for American Diplomacy, which also sponsors the national high school essay contest, the AFSA awards, our speakers bureau, the memorial plaques, the book *Inside a U.S. Embassy*, the Sinclair Language Awards and the AFSA-TLG minority intern program. □

Lecture • Continued from page 49

ical affairs and director general of the Foreign Service. Earlier in his career he was assigned to posts ranging from Brussels to Islamabad.

In his speech, “The Evolving World of Diplomacy: Challenges to the Foreign Service,” Amb. Grossman detailed the five challenges facing our country and the world: extremism and terrorism; globalization; global economic imbalance; the environment; and nuclear proliferation. These are challenges that all Foreign Service members must confront today.

He was quick to illustrate how these five challenges are intertwined. The recent economic crisis, for example, has called globalization into question and led to calls for protectionism. He is worried, he said, that “Americans will take the wrong message from Iraq and Afghanistan,” consequently losing interest in promoting pluralism. Related to that, he claims, is the widening gap across the



Marc Grossman (left) delivers Adair lecture while AFSA Communications Director Tom Switzer and A.U. Washington Semester Program Dean David Brown (right) look on.

Foreign Service in good stead, while others need to be changed in order to carry out the work of diplomacy effectively. He highlighted that:

- State Dept. culture is defined by patriotism and a commitment to serving one’s country in a dangerous world.
- There is a “crushing” lack of human and financial resources. “It’s important

ment Review, he feels there’s still a generalized aversion to strategic, long-term planning, and to taking proactive measures rather than being passive or reactive in the face of crises.

- The system oscillates between restricting information and disseminating information, and has not yet found an effective balance between the two.

Actively promoting the profession in which he was so successful, Grossman encouraged the students in the audience to consider a Foreign Service career. And, he remains optimistic and enthusiastic about “all the opportunities you can see if you look around the world.”

During a question-and-answer period at the end of the talk, about a dozen international affairs students queried the ambassador on subjects ranging from the role of the United Nations to what makes a good FSO (being “curious, smart, purposeful; and interested in making a case for the United States and in solving problems like human trafficking”).

The Adair Memorial Lecture Series on American Diplomacy is funded by a perpetual gift from the Adair family to the Fund for American Diplomacy that supports the Speakers Bureau, a key element in AFSA’s national outreach program. □

Does Amb. Grossman feel that today’s professional diplomats are equipped to meet these challenges? His answer: “Not yet.”

world between those who benefit from globalization and those who do not. On the environmental question, he cited a “stunning” set of maps in Jared Diamond’s *Collapse* (one of several books and studies Grossman referenced in his talk) that demonstrate how closely poor environmental conditions are aligned with unrest and instability.

Does Amb. Grossman feel that today’s professional diplomats are equipped to meet these challenges? His answer: “Not yet.” He pointed to several tenets of what he calls “State Department culture,” some of which stand the

to recognize that the FS is an overseas deployed force,” Amb. Grossman noted, yet has no reserve personnel like the military. He advocates a personnel float to meet both emergency situations and longer-term commitments.

- Like other agencies, State has a mix of norms in organizational structure, some relevant, some outdated: “In today’s world, problems can’t be solved by talking points. Insightful, creative analysis and decision-making are required.”

- Although Grossman praised Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Quadrennial Diplomacy and Develop-



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BOOKS

A Distinguished Diplomat Looks Back

Danger Zones: A Diplomat's Fight for America's Interests

John Gunther Dean, Vellum, 2009, \$26, paperback, 240 pages.

REVIEWED BY SYED AHMED MEER

For this account of a highly eventful 40-year diplomatic career, retired Ambassador John Gunther Dean draws heavily upon the unpublished collection of reports and cables (many highly classified) that he has donated to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Taking a chronological approach, Amb. Dean begins by recounting how he used his German origins and language skills to assist a U.S. Army intelligence unit following World War II. He then describes his role in implementing the Marshall Plan during the early 1950s, and recalls serving in Africa, where he opened the first U.S. embassies in Togo and Mali.

Dean played several key diplomatic roles during the Vietnam War. While serving in Paris, he worked closely with visiting Senator Robert Kennedy, who in 1967 received a peace signal from Hanoi through the French Foreign Office. From 1970 to 1972, he was deputy director of the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support program in Vietnam, and then

Dean's candor was neither well received nor publicly acknowledged.



spent a year in Laos as chargé d'affaires. There he single-handedly took on the Laotian Air Force, standing on the tarmac and shouting into a megaphone to forestall a coup against the government of Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma.

After leaving Vientiane, Dean held five consecutive ambassadorships: Cambodia (1974-1975), Denmark (1975-1978), Lebanon (1978-1981), Thailand (1981-1985) and India (1985-1989), where I had the honor to serve with him as science counselor. He retired from the Foreign Service 20 years ago, settling in Paris.

Informing Dean of his assignment to Phnom Penh, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said: "John, you're going out there to be ambassador. You size up the military situation and take control of it. I'll take care of the diplomatic side." The official U.S. goal was to achieve a military solution, but the facts on the ground soon convinced Dean that only a negotiated solution was feasible. Alas, that was not to be.

Dean describes the highly emo-

tional American withdrawal from Cambodia on April 12, 1975, including a heroic effort to airlift all U.S. personnel and friends to safety on ships. The last American to leave, Dean cradled the mission's flag in his arms as he stepped from the roof of the embassy onto a helicopter. Despite their previous differences, in a 1977 farewell letter Sec. Kissinger praised the ambassador's dignity in those difficult days.

After a tour as ambassador to Denmark, Dean was selected by Pres. Carter as chief of mission in Lebanon, then gripped by civil war. At his confirmation hearing, he made clear that he was completely neutral as far as the factions within Lebanon were concerned, and between Israel and the Palestinians. Dean writes that despite his Jewish heritage, this even-handed approach provoked allegations from the Israeli press and government that he was "pro-Palestinian" and "anti-Israel."

Amb. Dean was particularly criticized for his reporting of Israeli violations of Lebanon's borders. While traveling with his family, he was nearly assassinated in an ambush by terrorists using automatic rifles and antitank weapons. In his book, he airs his suspicions about the identities and sponsors of his attackers.

"Fatal Embrace," the final chapter, discusses Dean's tenure in India in the late 1980s, during which he developed



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an intimate and productive relationship with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his administration. With the Russians departing Afghanistan, New Delhi expressed concern about American and Pakistani support of the Afghan fundamentalists. As part of this dialogue, Gandhi's principal secretary gave Dean a wealth of intelligence on Pakistani General Zia ul-Haq's 1988 assassination.

On that basis, Amb. Dean informed Washington of his personal views on the Zia assassination and the importance of supporting a secular, neutral government in Kabul. But his candor was neither well received nor publicly acknowledged. Upon arriving in Washington to present his concerns, Dean was informed that the department's doctors had declared him psychologically unsound, and his medical clearance was revoked — a regrettable ending for a fine career of dedicated public service. Dean writes that his termination was due to his search for answers to the Zia affair.

Action-packed and highly readable, *Danger Zones* is full of hard-won lessons for today's generation of diplomatic practitioners from one of America's most eminent ambassadors. Chief among them is the insight that what happened in Cambodia in the 1970s must not be allowed to recur in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Moreover, India's arguments and interests there need to be understood in developing U.S. policy toward Kabul, just as much as we need to incorporate Pakistan's strategic requirements.

Syed Ahmed Meer, a Senior Foreign Service officer from 1983 to 1999, served under Ambassadors Thomas Pickering, Harry Barnes, John Negroponte, Jim Jones and Steve Bosworth,

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as well as John Gunther Dean. He is currently president of Science Ambassadors, Inc., a nonprofit association in Potomac, Md., dedicated to sharing scientific wealth between nations.

Less Is More

The Power Problem: How American Military Dominance Makes Us Less Safe, Less Prosperous and Less Free
 Christopher A. Preble, Cornell University Press, 2009, \$25, hardcover, 212 pages.

REVIEWED BY DAVID HOFFMAN

That's the message of this important new study by Christopher A. Preble, foreign policy studies director at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. As he notes, "The problems that our troops are encountering in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are not new. They are connected to a deeper power problem: our insufficient attention to the need to prioritize when and whether we should intervene militarily. ... Our military power has become a problem, and this problem is the basis for this book's controversial argument: We should reduce our military power in order to be more secure."

Preble recalls that nearly 200 years ago, John Quincy Adams proclaimed that America would not "go abroad in search of monsters to destroy." Such restraint is in sharp contrast to the bravado of a later president, George W. Bush, who memorably told the Sunni and Shia forces resisting the U.S. military occupation of Iraq to "go ahead, make my day."

For Preble, who works at a libertar-

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ian think-tank instinctively wary of “big government” solutions — and coercive, interventionist diplomacy, in particular — such hubris highlights the crucial challenge facing American policymakers today.

To see the full extent of the problem, recall the wisdom of President Dwight Eisenhower’s warning half a century ago that America must beware of the perils posed by the “military-industrial complex.” Then compare that with the delusional unipolarity and aggressive unilateralism of the group James Mann profiled as “the Vulcans,” the neoconservative elite once gathered around Vice President Dick Cheney.

The Vulcans, of course, produced the infamous first draft of the so-called Defense Planning Guidance during the

Preble believes that conserving our armed forces for when they are really needed means accepting limits on their use otherwise.

George H.W. Bush administration in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War. That document “stipulated that the U.S. would be the global hegemon ...

and would stand prepared to act — pre-emptively, if necessary.”

As the author documents, Republicans and Democrats alike continue to believe in America’s duty to serve as “the linchpin of the international order,” even though this role requires “the forward deployment of the U.S. military to the four corners of the globe.”

That impulse continues to this day in the Obama administration, which seems ready to double down on Bush’s commitments in Afghanistan instead of offering a cool reappraisal of our mission there — one that might stress a limited national self-interest instead of preparations for another “surge.”

Just for the record, Preble is anything but anti-military. (In fact, he is a former commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy.) But he believes that conserving our armed forces for when they are *really* needed means accepting limits on their use otherwise. That is one reason he has been resolutely critical of our whole Iraq misadventure from the beginning. Witness his earlier book, *Exiting Iraq: Why the U.S. Must End the Military Occupation and Renew the War against al-Qaida* (Cato Institute, 2004).

Preble’s advice, like Pres. Eisenhower’s 50 years ago, should be pondered by the entire U.S. national security team, poised as it is to take fateful steps to increase our military commitment in Afghanistan. ■

David Hoffman is a political and public policy consultant who has worked with the Nuclear Policy Research Institute, the Howard Dean presidential campaign and James Webb’s senatorial campaign. He was also a senior legislative assistant to Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.

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IN MEMORY

Marleeta F. Basey, 66, a retired Foreign Service secretary, died of cancer on Aug. 6, at her sister's home in Lincoln City, Ore. She was a resident of Albany, Ore.

Marleeta Basey, known as "Marty," was born on July 15, 1943, in Toppenish, Wash., the daughter of Newton Eugene Basey and Marlea Fay Lowery. She was valedictorian of her high school class in Waldport, Ore., graduating in 1961, and went on to obtain a B.A. in international communications from Stanford University. She joined the Foreign Service in 1964.

During her career with the State Department, Ms. Basey served in Paris, Saigon, Beijing and in Belgium at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. During the Tet Offensive she spent the night lying on her apartment floor with a Marine and M-16 on either side, dodging incoming rounds. She once rode an East German motorcycle through Yugoslavia so that she could write a story about it.

Family and friends recall her love of cats and her ability to touch the hearts of all who knew her.

She is survived by her sister Shyr-lene Norris of Gleden Beach, Ore., and her brother Arthur Lowery of Bend, Ore.

Michael Arne Codi, 88, a retired Foreign Service officer with USAID, died on June 27 in Naples, Fla. He had been suffering from a stroke and Alzheimer's disease.

Born in New York City in 1921, Mr. Codi was attending the University of California at Los Angeles when World War II broke out. He joined the Navy and became a pilot, also spending some time in the Coast Guard patrolling the East Coast from above. After the war, he went back to school on the GI Bill, studying at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, D.C. There he met Marguerite, his wife of nearly 60 years.

Mr. Codi began his diplomatic career with the Department of State in 1950, with a posting to Germany during the Marshall Plan era. He served there with a group of young men who would remain friends for many years and who continued to get together for reunions well into their retirement. He was later posted to Turkey (twice), Lebanon and to Cote d'Ivoire, where he served as regional director of USAID for the French-speaking West African countries for five years. He was awarded a medal of honor by Ivoirian President Houphouet-Boigny for his work there.

Fluent in French, thanks to his ease

in learning languages and help from his wife, a native Frenchwoman, Mr. Codi could also get by in Turkish and German. His main interest and expertise was helping small businesses grow in developing nations. He loved to travel, and took every opportunity to explore countries neighboring his post of assignment with his family.

Upon returning to the United States at the end of 1969, he became involved with USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program, which took him to the Far and Middle East, Central America and back to Africa until 1973. All the friendships and connections he made over the years helped him greatly with this program, and he enjoyed returning to many of the countries where he had once lived.

After retiring from the Foreign Service in the mid-1970s, Mr. Codi worked with the International Eye Foundation until 1980, when he and Marguerite retired to Lewes, Del. There he became involved in real estate, an interest he shared with his wife, who had been a realtor in Washington, D.C., and who continued her career with Coldwell Banker for many years. The couple loved Lewes and acquired several properties there, notably the Old Shoe Building, one of the oldest in

IN MEMORY



town. Having always been interested in oceans and marine life, Mr. Codi also greatly enjoyed being a docent for the University of Delaware's College of Marine Studies.

In 2003, the Codis moved to Naples, Fla., for the warm weather and to be near their son, Alan, who cared for them during the last five years of their lives. Marguerite passed away in early 2008 after a long fight with an infection.

Mr. Codi is survived by his son, Alan, of Naples; his daughter, Suzanne, of Washington, D.C.; and four grandchildren.



Charles O. Hoffman, 78, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died on July 23 at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Ga. He had been in failing health since April.

Born in Derry Township, Ga., Mr. Hoffman was a 1948 graduate of Danville High School. He served with the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1952, working with the Army Security Agency during the Korean War and, following his discharge, from 1952 to 1956.

Mr. Hoffman joined the Foreign Service in 1956. He traveled as a regional communications electronic officer, serving in Beirut (1956-1959); London (1959-1964); and Bangkok (1964-1968). From 1968 to 1975, he was assigned to the Office of Communication's Engineering Division, and from 1975 to 1980 he was posted to Bonn.

He was then assigned to the OC Security Division in Washington, D.C., from 1980 until his retirement in 1981. In 1982, Mr. Hoffman returned to Danville and began a series of contract assignments for the Department of State at embassies and missions around the world.

Mr. Hoffman was a member of the Washingtonville Lutheran Church; the Danville Moose Lodge; the Frank Sidler Post of the American Legion and the VFW Post, both of Danville.

Surviving are his wife, the former Dorothy C. Anderson, with whom he celebrated his 58th wedding anniversary on Jan. 6; a daughter, Ruth Mary (and husband Edward P. Spohn) of Lawrenceville, Ga.; a brother, Donald W. Hoffman (and wife Jeanne) of New Port Ritchey, Fla.; a sister, Helen M. Geringer, of Danville; and several nieces and nephews.



Edward C. Howatt, 86, a retired FSO, died on Sept. 14 in Henderson, Nev.

Born Dec. 20, 1922, in Springfield, Mass., Mr. Howatt was the son of W. Harold Howatt and Mildred Howatt. He studied at American International College, graduating in 1944 after a brief stint in the U.S. Army, and went on to earn an MBA degree at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1945. He married Edwina, known as "Teddy," his wife of 62 years, on Aug. 2, 1947, a year after they had met at the wedding of a mutual friend.

After working as an insurance agent, a department store executive and a junior college teacher, during which time the couple lived in Springfield, Mass., and Barrington, R.I., Mr. Howatt joined the State Department in 1950 and they moved to Alexandria, Va. He transferred to the Foreign Service in 1956. More than 20 years of world travel followed, with assignments in Cape Town, Lagos, Melbourne, Helsinki and New Delhi.

The Howatts retired to San Diego, Calif., in 1973. After 20 years they

moved to Tucson and, in 2002, resettled in Las Vegas, Nev. During their retirement, the Howatts continued to travel extensively in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Mr. Howatt was an award-winning photographer and a published newspaper columnist. He maintained an avid interest in U.S. and world politics throughout his life, recently adding computers and the Internet to his field of attention. Family and friends recall his quiet but sharp sense of humor with special fondness.

He is survived by his wife, Edwina, of Las Vegas, Nev.; his sons, Kenyon (and wife Pamela), also of Las Vegas, and Douglas (and wife Marlene) of San Mateo, Calif.; and grandchildren Cassandra, Brittany and Trevor. Another son, Stephen, predeceased him on May 13, 1971.



Janice Lyon Millar, 74, a retired FSO, died on June 11 in Paris from complications of chronic lung disease.

Mrs. Millar was born on Oct. 3, 1934, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Barney and Ruth Glanville Johnson. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Utah in 1956, and worked in New York City as a tour guide at the United Nations before attending Radcliffe and Georgetown University, where she earned a master's degree in economics.

During a 20-year career in the Foreign Service, Mrs. Millar served overseas first with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Rabat, and then as a diplomatic officer in Lagos and Paris. During tours at the State Department in Washington, D.C., she became an expert on the Caribbean region. She also served as

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a desk officer for the International Energy Agency and later headed the State Department's Office of European Trade. In that capacity, she participated in negotiations throughout Europe to introduce U.S. businesses to those markets.

She was a founding member of the Women's Action Organization at the State Department and spearheaded the successful development of nursery and child-care services for State Department staff.

Mrs. Millar met her husband, the late John Y. Millar, "Jake," also a diplomat, on a tennis court in Lagos. They married in 1972. The couple retired to Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1995 to be near their daughter and granddaughter.

In Colorado Springs, Mrs. Millar served on the Colorado Springs Opera board and was president of the local World Affairs Council. A member of Theatreworks, Hausmusik and The Pikes Peak Opera Society, she was also an associate member of the Cheyenne Mountain Country Club. She traveled widely during this time, loved entertaining, and cherished her many friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mrs. Millar is survived by her daughter, Anne Lyon League, M.D. (and husband Michael S. League) of Colorado Springs; two grandchildren, Katherine Anne and John "Jake" League; and a younger brother, Thomas G. Johnson (and wife Sue).

Donations in her memory may be

sent to the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Colo., in support of research for pulmonary diseases.



Ann Heise Viles, 94, the former wife of the late FSO John L. Viles, died on Nov. 15, 2008, in Dallas, Texas.

Verle Ann was born to Will and Emma Heise in Mt. Pleasant Township, Minn., on Aug. 27, 1913, the second of six children. She grew up on the family's dairy farm and, after schooling in Lake City, moved to Minneapolis to work for the Chrysler Corporation and the *Minneapolis Tribune*. In 1944, she traveled to Paris with the American Red Cross. Little did she



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realize that she had taken the first step of a worldwide odyssey that would span six decades.

In 1946, she married U.S. Army Air Corps Captain John Viles in Munich. Mr. Viles joined the U.S. foreign aid program at its inception in postwar Europe as the Marshall Plan, and remained through its successive incarnations: Point Four, USOM, ICA and, finally in the 1960s, USAID.

For the next 30 years, Ann Viles accompanied her husband on diplomatic assignments in Austria, Germany, France, Iran, Brazil, Nepal, Turkey, Greece and Vietnam. During Mr. Viles' unaccompanied tour in Yemen, she remained in Falls Church, Va., and also spent the first two years of his three-year Saigon assignment in Bangkok.

The couple departed Saigon in 1975, two days prior to the rooftop evacuation from the U.S. embassy. After retiring to Dallas, they divorced in 1986. Mr. Viles died in 1998.

Because of her security clearance and secretarial and organization skills, Mrs. Viles was employed as a local hire by the State Department at the majority of her husband's posts — especially once their three daughters entered school. Yet she found time to play bridge, volunteer as a Girl Scout leader and participate in women's clubs and various post organizations, as well.

Family members recall that Mrs. Viles embraced the culture, language, people and cuisine of every country in which she lived. Her culinary skills

were extraordinary. She could create a Thai feast or an authentic Middle Eastern repast with the same ease as flipping a burger. Inquisitive and adventurous, she wasn't content simply to visit museums, ruins and temples. Rather, she explored every nook and cranny of her host nations.

Her most memorable experiences included attending the Nuremberg trials; exploring postwar Europe; skiing the Alps; trekking over the Himalayas from Nepal to India; traversing Russia by rail; sailing the Amazon, in a small boat, to Brazil's interior jungles; climbing the Great Wall of China and Machu Picchu; exploring Egypt's pyramids; and combing the beaches of the South China Sea.

Retirement didn't slow Mrs. Viles down. She traveled extensively in the U.S., Canada and Mexico and continued exploring the rest of the globe, visiting Egypt, Central and South America and the Far East, and revisiting Europe. At 92, her final exotic journey was to the South Pacific and French Polynesia.

Ann Viles was predeceased by her former husband and four siblings: Vi, Janice, Georgene and Bill. She is survived by her three daughters: Lyn (and husband Bennie Bickers) of Dallas, Texas; Patrice (and husband Tom Perkins) of Kerrville, Texas; and Janna (and husband Gary Zeigler) of Hickory Creek, Texas; a brother, Roger Heise (and wife Janice); a sister-in-law, Lois Heise; and 19 nieces and nephews. ■

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1) Publication Title: Foreign Service Journal 2) Publication No. 01463543 3) Filing Date: October 1, 2009 4) Issue Frequency: Monthly with July/August combined 5) Number of Issues Published Annually: 11 6) Annual Subscription Price: \$40.00 7) Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 2101 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037-2990 8) Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters of General Business Office of Publisher: 2101 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037-2990 9) Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Senior Editor: Publisher: American Foreign Service Association, 2101 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037-2990; Editor: Steven Alan Honley, 2101 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037-2990; Senior Editor: Susan B. Maitra, 2101 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037-2990 10) Owner: American Foreign Service Association, 2101 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037-2990 11) Known Bondholders, Mortgages, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None 12) For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates: The Purpose, Function and Nonprofit Status of this Organization and the Exempt Status for Federal Income Tax Purposes: (1) Has not changed during preceding 12 months 13) Publication's Name: Foreign Service Journal 14) Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2009 15) Extent and Nature of Circulation: Average Number of Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 months: A. Total Number of Copies: 16,047 B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales: 0 (2) Mail Subscription: 14,981 C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 14,981 D. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary and Other Free): 684 E. Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 280 F. Total Free Distribution: 964 G. Total Distribution: 15,945 H. Copies Not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers and Spoiled: 102 (2) Returns from News Agents: 0 I. Total: 16,047 J. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 94% Actual Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: A. Total Number of Copies: 16,041 B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales: 0 (2) Mail Subscription: 15,104 C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 15,104 D. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary and Other Free): 540 E. Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 350 F. Total Free Distribution: 890 G. Total Distribution: 15,994 H. Copies Not Distributed: (1) Office Use, Leftover, Spoiled: 47 (2) Returns from News Agents: 0 Total: 16,041 Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 94%.

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(signed) *Susan B. Maitra*, Senior Editor

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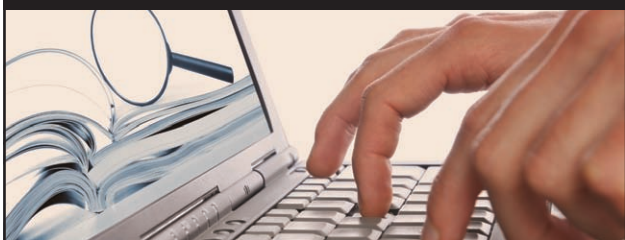
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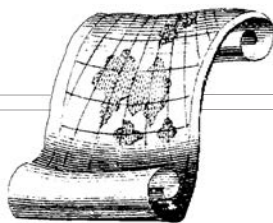
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REFLECTIONS

Discovering Yasukuni

BY JAMES B. ANGELL

Following my early morning delivery of classified material to Embassy Tokyo after an all-night flight from Consulate General Frankfurt, I set off on a circumnavigation of the Imperial Palace. There I caught a glimpse of a huge torii (the traditional Japanese gate at the entrance to a sacred space) among tall trees to the north. Intrigued, I set off through the Imperial Gardens and out the massive doors of the palace's northern gate.

A Shinto shrine appeared to be at the end of the long ceremonial boulevard, and halfway down it a historic figure atop a pillar rose high above a crowd of onlookers. Reading the plaque at its base that described Omura Masujiro (1824-1869) as the father of the modern Japanese Army, it dawned on me that I must be at the Yasukuni Shrine.

Over the years this site has become infamous in the Western media. Whenever Japanese prime ministers make the obligatory visit to pay their respects to the spirits of Japan's war dead, there is an outcry that they are honoring war criminals. (Never mind that Yasukuni is not run by the state, is not a cemetery and there are no bodies buried there: it is a place only for kamii — spirits).

I strolled into the sacred grounds (haiden) shaded by cherry trees, the only Westerner there. I took off my baseball cap and sunglasses and approached the shrine, standing with several elderly Japanese bowing in silence toward its simple beauty.

To the right was a regal-looking building called Yushukan. Its courtyard

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held a variety of intriguing statuary: one of a confident kamikaze; one memorializing Japan's war widows; one each of a horse, dog and homing pigeon, celebrating the role the animals played in Japan's war efforts. Cannon from the wars with China (1894-1895) and Russia (1904-1905) completed the picturesque scene.

Inside the museum, I was carried along by a crowd of Japanese high school students taking copious notes on controversial events. Beginning with the national upheaval caused by Commodore Matthew Perry's 1852 appearance insisting upon open trade, the exhibits continued through the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the occupation at the end of World War II.

From the Russo-Japanese war on, Japan's military exploits were framed as an attempt to emancipate Asian nations from Western colonization. There was no propagandistic nationalism; victories and defeats, along with the desperate acts of kamikazes, were presented with equivalent candor. There was also no re-

gret expressed in what they tried to achieve.

The final exhibits matter-of-factly described the Thai-Burma railroad as being constructed to assist in the liberation of India and Burma from British occupation, and displayed the effort through a large map detailing its vast scope. This caught my eye.

Having been twice posted to Embassy Bangkok, I had thoroughly explored this territory in the jungles of Thailand, where the Japanese had used prisoners of war to build the "Death Railway" made famous in the movie "Bridge Over the River Kwai." Nowhere here was there a mention of the 200,000 POW laborers or the fact that more than half of them died there.

In the last hall, I was surprised to find a black behemoth dominating the space: it was the first steam locomotive to cross the bridge over the Kwai River. Purchased from the Thai government (where it had been put into service after the war), the C5631-type steam engine had been shipped home to Tokyo to memorialize Japan's achievement.

The serendipitous discovery in downtown Tokyo of this remnant of a tragic episode in South East Asian history made me think: If it is true that history is written by the victors, what does that mean for the vanquished? ■

James B. Angell has served in Washington, Seoul and Bangkok (twice). He is currently deputy regional diplomatic courier director in Frankfurt, his second tour there.

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