Experts: Paradoxes Pose Threat to Iraqi Reconstruction

BY COLIN MORRIS

Two paradoxes pose a major threat to all involved in Iraqi reconstruction. They concern experts to speaking at Columbia. Diplomatic, political, military, and public relations groups, all face a massive uphill task in establishing peace and stability in the region.

Thomas Duffy, a political advisor to the U.S. State Department, who has had intimate involvement with the controversial U.N. Security Council debates, discussed the U.S.'s fractured relationship with the U.N., pondering the future negotiations of two going forward. Duffy, speaking at SIPA's Middle East Institute — who was quick to note his words were of his own thoughts on the region, and not the official U.S. stand — wondered, if the war and reconstruction were moving on rather well, why the U.S. would be inclined to offer the U.N. any major role in their efforts. The U.S. has suffered a break down of relations with members of the U.N., especially in the Security Council, which Duffy described as currently dysfunctional. Conversely, Duffy speculated that many diplomats in the U.N. would not express enthusiasm for significantly assisting the U.S. physically, certainly if the situation in Iraq rapidly declined, and might take a "this is your mess" stance. According to a accord all members of the Security Council, including the non-permanent members, Duffy openly questions the Security Council's ability to deal with world threats over a long period of time. At present, the U.N. has expressed much desire for involvement with Iraq reconstruction. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has stressed that only they can legitimize any new govt. Reality, the Middle East Institute's Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz has stated that the U.N. "can't be in charge."

Both Duffy and SIPA professors Warner Schilling, Richard Betts and Robert O. Keohane have another catch-22 regarding the level and manner of U.S. involvement in the region.

Betts said that if the U.S. helped to develop a free, liberal democracy in the region, it might be in the interest of a free, independent Iraq to create and maintain "the contested zones of Iraq" (CWI) to fend off the perceived threat of neighboring countries such as Iran. If the new govt. was ever to be thrown sweeping tale of class conflict at the turn of the century in Big Business, completed just before his death.

Arthur Gelb, author and director, The New York Times College Scholarship program, and Linda Healey, editor and Mr. Lukas' widow, co-chairs of the J. Anthony Lukas Prize Committee. Other members are Jonathan Alter, author and staff writer; Richard Betts, author and human rights activist; and Brent Staples, author and New York Times editorial board member.

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J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize Awards for Nonfiction Awarded to Works Addressing Social Concern

Two books have won the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize. The prize is named after a superb example of nonfiction writing that exemplify the literary grace, the commitment to serious research and the social concern that characterized the distinguished work of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

The winners are:

- Samantha Power, A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide (Basic Books). The prize jurors noted: "Samantha Power writes with passion and precision about America's response to genocide in the 20th century. Combining the skills of the journalist, historian, political analyst and activist, she reveals an unlikely history of Armenia, Cambodia, Europe in World War II, Cambodia, Iraq, Bosnia, Srebrenica and Kosovo. Her research is prodigious, the power of her presentation is uncanny." From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide compels a re-examination of our frontier mindset as the massive humanitarian catastrophe of the 20th century. It invites reflection upon the causes and consequences of acts that are already defining the new one."

Two finalists were also noted: Douglas Brinkley, The Culture of Make Believe (Hill and Wang). Judges noted that The Culture of Make Believe "weaves journalism, history, personal experience, philosophy and cultural criticism into a deeply resonant and provocative meditation on the new global culture of genocide, envi- ronmental destruction and corporate malfeasance, where civilization meets its discontents." Douglas Brinkley is both bold and deep in trying to drive into the darkness of lies and danger that guard and surround the drug trade on both sides of the river between the United States and Mexico.


The Mark Lyndon History Prize (199000): Robert Harms, The Diligent: A Voyage Through the Worlds of the Slave Trade (Basic Books). The judges noted: "At the heart of Robert Harms' extraordinary book is a documentary: the journal of Robert Durand, who served as First Lieutenant on the French slave ship. The Diligent's voyage, its voyage to West Africa, to Mar- tinique, and thence back home to France in 1731-32. It tells of one of the most complete and descrip- tive of such documents in exist- ence, and Harms has mined the most of it in a vivid and thought- provoking narrative history. The tale centers on The Diligent's voyage, but Harms sets it in a remarkably rich context, draw- ing on important details of slavery and the drug trade, to the nature of plantation society in the West Indies. Along the way, in a series of wonderfully told digressions, he presents such remarkable characters as John Law, the Scottish adventurer, who became the effective Prime Min- ister of France, and Robert Lambe, an Englishman who became a slave of the King of Prussia, and honors the new- world's most important, its unnamed characters in the story: 256 Africans who were forcefully taken from the world they knew, crammed into The Diligent's hold, and shipped across an ocean to a life of miserable and dangerous servitude. Four- teen did not survive the voyage. One of the most tragic stories in history has been told in Robert Harms' un-能小外小外}

Samantha Power

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