

## **New Yorker: "Eminently Sensible"**

July 10, 2017



USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) transits the South China Sea.  
Photo credit: [Official U.S. Navy Page](#), [Flickr Creative Commons](#)

### **Book Review: "Are China and the United States Headed for War?"**

In Ian Buruma's review of *Avoiding War with China* in *The New Yorker*, he writes that "Etzioni warns against 'habitually interpreting Chinese acts of assertion as aggressive,' which, he says, 'is symptomatic of a strategy that holds that China cannot be accommodated and that it must be contained by any means necessary.' This sounds eminently sensible." [Click here](#) to read a longer excerpt of Buruma's review.

**Upcoming Event July 16, 2017**

## Politics and Prose Bookstore

welcomes

Amitai Etzioni

to discuss

*Avoiding War with China*

Sunday, July 16 at 1:00 PM

5015 Connecticut Avenue Northwest  
www.politics-prose.com • (202) 364-1919  
Free • Open to the Public • No RSVP Required

### **Interviews**

An interview on *Avoiding War with China* on BBC World News is available [here](#); an interview on "A Closer Look with Arthur Levitt" on Bloomberg News is available [here](#); an interview on *Avoiding War with China* led by Devin Stewart at the Carnegie Council in New York City is available [here](#).

### **Academic Articles**

[\*\*Should Artificial Intelligence be Regulated?\*\*](#) (with Oren Etzioni)

There seems to be widespread agreement that AI growth is accelerating. After waves of hype followed by disappointment, computers have now defeated chess, Jeopardy, Go, and poker champions. Policymakers and the public are impressed by driverless cars that have already traveled several million miles. Calls from scholars and public intellectuals for imposing government regulations on AI research and development (R&D) are gaining traction. Although AI developments undoubtedly deserve attention, we must be careful to avoid applying too broad a brush.

Published in *Issues in Science and Technology*; [click here](#) for the full text.

[\*\*Job Collapse on the Road to New Athens\*\*](#)

The case that America will not be able to replace jobs lost to technological advance is gaining adherents. Indeed, it is becoming one of the central issues of our times. This noted author assesses the issues but then asks whether we can end our reliance on growth and high pay as sources of happiness. Can community involvement be an answer to a fuller life?

Published in *Challenge*; click [here](#) for the full text.

## Editorials

### [America Needs a Foreign Policy That Doesn't Center on Regime Change](#)

Rex Tillerson recently stated that “we should and do condition our policy engagements on people adopting certain actions as to how they treat people . . . but that doesn’t mean that’s the case in every situation.” He also said that pressing others to adopt American values “creates obstacles to our ability to advance our national-security interests [and] our economic interests.” Tillerson’s position should not be conflated with that of President Trump’s view, which is widely understood to be that promoting human rights overseas is not compatible with an America First position.

Published in *The National Interest*; [click here](#) to read the full article.

### [Alarm over China’s Belt & Road Initiative Overhyped?](#)

The recurrent publicity about the project raises the hackles of American officials who see it as geopolitics by others means. Trump’s Director of National Intelligence, Dan Coats, said in a recent testimony before the U.S. Senate that the Belt and Road Initiative fits within a pattern of “aggressive” Chinese investments. Coats added that the purpose behind the initiative is for China to “expand their strategic influence and economic role across Asia through infrastructure projects.” Franklin Allen, a professor of finance and economics at Imperial College in London believes that “it is an economic initiative, but along the way China will expand its military bases and so forth.” The Economist sees the Belt and Road Initiative as an attempt by China to replace the U.S. as the leader of global trade.

Published in *China-US Focus*; [click here](#) to read the full article.

### [Time to Say Goodbye to Afghanistan](#)

The window during which President Donald Trump can extricate U.S. forces from the mess in Afghanistan and blame his predecessors for the calamity is rapidly closing. A few more weeks, another surge, and he will be the third president to be saddled with this war; it will become his. The move to allow the military to determine how many more troops to send to Afghanistan would have been a wise one—let the professionals make such tactical decisions—if it reflected the president’s decision to stay the course. Such a decision would follow a review of the war involving not just the Pentagon, but also the intelligence community, the State Department and the staff of the National Security Council, among others. However, that is not the way this president makes decisions. He just left it to the Pentagon to sort out.

Published in *The National Interest*; [click here](#) to read the full article.

## By Fellow Communitarians

["Afghanistan and Ethics of Triage"](#) (*Ethics & International Affairs*) by Nicolas Gvosdev.

*Universidades Comunitárias e Terceiro Setor: fundamentos comunitaristas da cooperação em políticas públicas* by João Pedro Schmidt.

### I Read

Steven Roberts, in his [review](#) of Ali Noorani's book *There Goes the Neighborhood: How Communities Overcome Prejudice and Meet the Challenge of American Integration*, discusses Noorani's solution to "cultural anxiety" in response to immigration: to build bridges connecting communities and immigrants by drawing on institutions. Roberts writes that "In Noorani's view, three kinds of institutions are best suited to demonstrate the benefits of immigration: law enforcement agencies, faith communities and commercial enterprises." Right on.

We long argued that the overwhelming majority of Muslims are "illiberal moderates," i.e. they reject violence but do not align with secular liberalism. Hence the best way to approach them is to seek shared security but otherwise allow each nation to follow its values. Evidence was first presented in *Security First* (pp. 140-151), and then in the article "Talking to the Muslim world: how, and with whom?" published in *International Affairs*. The same position has been laid out much more effectively in an outstanding book by a Muslim author, *Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle Over Islam Is Reshaping the World*, which provides very strong evidence and arguments in support of the said position.

Thomas Friedman concluded his [op-ed](#) in the *New York Times* by writing that "In the long run, only thing that will save us is if more people — no matter what age, color, gender or faith — build moral authority in their respective realms and then use it to do big, meaningful things. Use it to run for office, start a company, operate a school, lead a movement or build a community organization. And in so doing *you* can help put the 'We' back in 'We the people.'" Well put.

### My Diary

Helmut Kohl the former German Chancellor died on June 16, 2017. I was his personal guest in 1992; he told me as he did to others that Germany must be locked into Europe. For more see *My Brother's Keeper* (pp. 331-334).



The Prime Minister of Canada (which is celebrating 150 years as a country) states that "There is no core identity, no mainstream in Canada" and that this makes Canada "the first postnational state." However, Canadians are proud when their hockey team beats others in international competitions; they celebrate that they are more civil, more pluralistic than the US and more tolerant of immigrants than most other nations. They have made their moderate, civil nationalism into their national core.

### **Tweets You May Have Missed**

91% Democrats trust CNN more than Trump. 89% GOP trust Trump more. One nation two people. <http://ow.ly/UwX230drOte>

Pundits say Trump should tweet less. I add--and watch less TV...

Governor Christie and family sitting unabashed on beach he closed for all others: the arrogance of power

Trump is 71 and has \$1.4 billion to his name. What does he possibly think when he continues to make money on the side as President?

Why is everybody reassured after Trump SAID that he will honor clause 5 of NATO? He can change his mind twice by 5.

"NATO Weighs a Post to Fight Terrorism" What's the rush?

**Follow us on Twitter! [@ICPS\\_GWU](https://twitter.com/ICPS_GWU)**

**For a depository of much of our work and free copies (including books), visit our page on [SSRN](https://www.ssrn.com).**

**Send your communitarian news and any comments to [icps@gwu.edu](mailto:icps@gwu.edu)!  
News and feedback may be published in an upcoming newsletter.**

**Please consider endorsing our Responsive Communitarian [Platform](#)—  
both [founders](#) and [new endorsers](#) may be found on our website.**

Follow the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [YouTube](#).  
To subscribe to our other updates, send an email to [icps@gwu.edu](mailto:icps@gwu.edu) listing your fields of interest.

The Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies  
Executive Associate in University Professors Department  
1922 F Street NW, Room 413  
Washington, DC 20052

(202) 994-8190

If you do not wish to receive any more of our newsletters, please [Opt Out](#).