



THE BEACON



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Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: Samuel Huntington speaks on "The American Empire", January 20, 2005

Since 9/11, the United States has abandoned its implied foreign policy of minimal international engagement. Instead, it has undertaken one of the most ambitious and risky ventures in international affairs: the quest to bring democracy to Afghanistan and Iraq. The US may see itself as a reluctant empire, but President Bush has embarked on a policy that may force it to become the very thing it denies and fears – an imperial power.

This speakers series explores the potential and limits of American power in the 21st century through the ideas of four outstanding thinkers. Mr. Samuel Huntington, one of the most influential political scientists of his generation, is the third in this series of four speakers held in Toronto at the Grano restaurant.

Unfortunately, this event is FULLY SUBSCRIBED and no further registrants can be accommodated. As a partner in these very special events, however, AIMS will be presenting transcriptions of these outstanding talks as they become available.

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Part Two: Is the Newfoundland Fishery Finally Modernizing?

Late last year FPI announced the closure of Harbour Breton, one of its chain of ground fish plants along the south coast of Newfoundland & Labrador. This time, the government refused to invoke the provisions of the legislation that would force FPI to keep the antiquated plant running. To do so would trigger a clause forcing the government to cover FPI's losses at Harbour Breton. For Fisheries Minister Trevor Taylor this would be the abandonment of the current government's fisheries policy that refuses to subsidize the fishing industry.

As Peter Fenwick, AIMS' Fellow on Fisheries and Newfoundland Issues, explains in this commentary - if the Newfoundland government does indeed stay this course the fishing industry may eventually evolve into the modern industry it can be:

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Part Three: This won't hurt a bit, lessons from the US flu vaccine crisis

The US flu shot crisis didn't occur because of too little government involvement in the industry, but rather too much. "This Won't Hurt a Bit: Why the vaccine crisis shows we shouldn't believe what health "planners" tell us about how to reform drug policy" explains that, contrary to some recently published media reports, over-zealous governments have made the production of flu vaccines in that country very unattractive and helped to make less therapeutically valuable drugs the focus of industry attention.

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Part Four: Drug wars: Is importation a panacea or prescription for disaster?

Can the problem of high prescription drug costs in the U.S. be solved by purchasing drugs on the Internet or with a bus trip across the Canadian border? Many politicians appear to think so. Consumers seem to strongly agree, and the Internet has become the Mall of America for prescription drugs. Sales from Canadian pharmacies over the Internet exploded from \$50 million in 2000 to \$800 million in 2003. On February 3 in Pasadena, California, health care experts Sally C. Pipes and Brian Lee Crowley will address these and other important issues surrounding the prescription drug debate. And they will offer their predictions of what 2005 may hold for drug policy in both countries.

[Read more](#)

Part Five: Taking a moment to reflect on how to avoid MAN-made disasters

Asia's devastating tsunamis are only the latest vast natural disasters that humble humanity's beliefs in its own power and in the benevolence of Nature. Yet, the devastation and grief offer us another opportunity to heed the advice of Voltaire and "cultivate our own garden". In this latest column, AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley explores how, through our own actions in the rich industrialized world, we cause a Third World disaster that kills far more people every year, year in and year out, than the Asian tsunamis. The disaster, as New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof wrote the other day, is that mosquitoes kill 20 times more people each year than the tsunamis did, disable many more, and undermine local economies in the process, yet we deny the Third World the means to bring this terrible force of nature under control.

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Part Six: Problem gambling a problem that can no longer be ignored

In this piece from the Chronicle Herald, AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley explains why government ought to make it more difficult to gamble in Nova Scotia. Money derived from gambling, unlike normal taxation, comes from one group of residents and the province relies too heavily on that cash to pay for public services such as health and education. If we really believe the public services we're providing are worthwhile, everybody should contribute, rather than exploiting the weakness of a few. Yet the province expects to take in about \$133 million from video lottery terminals by the end of the fiscal year and people considered problem gamblers account for about half of that profit.

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Part Seven: Return of tax cut is best bang from extra federal bucks

The NS government is expecting a "windfall" of unexpected revenue from the federal coffers this year because of increases in equalization and health transfers. Brian Lee Crowley, president of AIMS, explains in this article why the unexpected increase in funds should not be used to drive up ordinary spending but instead puts Premier John Hamm's government in a position to restore the full income tax cut that was partially clawed back in the last budget. "There's lots of evidence that suggests that the best bang for their buck is going to be through tax reductions - and personal income taxes are a good place to start."

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