

Book Notes

April 2021

By Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence
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Hiatus & *FREE* GLOBAL SUMMIT XII

Well, Jeffersonians, after 57 consecutive weeks of *Book Notes* on topics as diverse as the 1920 World Champion Cleveland Indians and why reading Machiavelli is always a harbinger of challenging times, it's time for your scribe to take a breather. For the next two weeks, we'll be briefly previewing the Jefferson Educational Society's *FREE Digital Global Summit XII*. Digital means you can enjoy it from the comfort your own digs; just follow the instructions once you have registered.

When *Book Notes* returns on Thursday, June 3, we'll look at "Boomer Redux" asking once again "Did the baby boomers ruin America?" as we scan two new books on the topic by Helen Andrews and Jill Filopovic. The answer, for the curious, is yes and no and the yes is not the folks romping in the mud at Max Yasgur's farm in Woodstock, New York. On Thursday, June 10, we'll look into James Shapiro's *Shakespeare In a Divided America* and, on June 17, more suggestions from readers about their favorite poems.

But for now, a quick glance at *Global Summit XII*. It runs for three weeks in May beginning Monday, May 10 and ending Thursday, May 27. It features world class lecturers and presenters such as **Avi Loeb**, author and chairman of the Astronomy Department at Harvard University; **Dr. Michael Saag**, director of Infectious Disease at the University of Alabama Birmingham; and Washington Post columnists **David Ignatius** and **Karen Tumulty**.

And, did I tell you – it's *FREE!* You can register [here](#).

Week One begins on Monday, May 10 with **Camille Busette**, director of the Brookings Institution's Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative, about which you can read more [here](#). Busette will be joined by **Rashawn Ray**, a fellow in Governance Studies at Brookings and a professor of Sociology at the University

of Maryland. Drs. Busette and Ray will be discussing “Addressing Policy Reform and Racial Equity.”

On Tuesday, May 11, **Ali Zaidi**, deputy national climate adviser to President Biden, will speak on “A Time to Act on Global Climate Change,” which should be particularly interesting and timely in light of President Biden’s recent summit with 40 world leaders on climate change.

On Wednesday, May 12, **Avi Loeb**, who presented at Global Summit XI at Penn State Behrend in fall 2019. Loeb will discuss his new book, *Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth*. Quite frankly, I’m eager to hear what he has to say, because I don’t know why everyone is so excited about meeting space aliens. Several years ago, Dr. Loeb gained some notoriety by suggesting a spaceship could be hovering behind the planet Venus scanning our galaxy. Probably not, and that’s a good thing, for any *creature* advanced enough to successfully navigate intergalactic space travel is not likely, like ET, to find us cuddly. Rather, they are more likely to be so far advanced beyond us that the 1970s sci-fi film, *Soylent Green*, might be more appropriate. For the pop culture-challenged among us, the gimmick in *Soylent Green* was that all those humans gleefully signing on for a ride in the aliens’ spaceship were simply on their way to the processing plant, where they would become chow mien for the hungry voyagers. In short, to the aliens, humans were food!

On Thursday, May 13, Rev. **Jeffrey Brown**, a Baptist minister in Boston, president of Rebuilding Every Community Around Peace, and the architect of the anti-crime “Boston Miracle,” will discuss Race in America and Today’s Black Lives Matter Movement.

Week One concludes on Friday, May 14 with **Nile Gardiner**, former aide to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and director of the Thatcher Center for Freedom at the Heritage Foundation, will discuss his reactions to portrayals of “The Iron Lady on the Screen” in *The Crown* and Meryl Streep’s Oscar winning performance as Mrs. Thatcher in *The Iron Lady*.

Oh, by the way, did I tell you the Global Summit series was **FREE** and you can sign up [here](#) for each session you want to attend.

Week Two starting Monday, May 17 will challenge Jeffersonians – that’s a good thing – with five quality presentations beginning with **Gerald Seib’s** “Is the Republican Party the Party of Trump in 2021?” Seib, an editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, is the author of *From Reagan to Trump: We Should Have Seen It Coming*. On Tuesday, May 18, for all of us getting antsy and antsy after 14 months of social distancing and sheltering (more or less) in place, **Dr. Michael Saag** will speak on “The Global Coronavirus Pandemic and America’s Path Forward.”

On Wednesday, May 19, **Susan Page**, Washington Bureau Chief for *USA Today* and author of the recent highly acclaimed *Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power*, will speak on “Pelosi, President Biden and the Democrats.” A review of *Madam Speaker* by Lloyd Green at The Guardian can be found [here](#).

On Thursday, May 20, Washington Post columnist Karen Tumulty will speak about “Nancy Reagan: Archives, Letters, Memoirs, and Interviews offering a New and Revealing Look at the Former First Lady.” Tumulty is the author of *The*

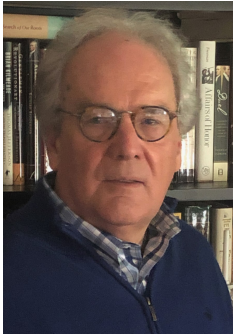
Triumph of Nancy Reagan, in which, as a reviewer in *The Atlantic* noted, she “invokes a teammate without whom her spouse would never have been governor of California, much less President of the United States.”

Week Two concludes with another look at our ongoing pandemic as **Dr. Leana Wen**, CNN medical analyst, discusses “COVID-19: The Path Forward for Parents, Educators, and Public Health Experts.”

As they say on late night cable television ads for the ubiquitous Vego-Matic and other odd ball devices – they still run these things, but they’re getting rarer – “all this and more”!

Global Summit XII – you can register [here](#).

And, did I tell you, it’s **FREE!**



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In Case You Missed It

[Robert E. Lee – Traitor?](#) written by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth

[The Fuller Brush Man Bay Rat Cleaning Tools](#) written by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. David Frew.