

*Center for International Studies – Albuquerque International Association present*

# ***“The U.S. and North Korea: Dealing With Irrationality”***

***Dr. Charles Armstrong***  
*University of Columbia*

**Friday, October 8, 2010, 3:00pm – 5:00pm**

**UNM Continuing Education Conference Center**

1634 University Blvd NE (at the intersection with Indian School Rd.) Plenty of Free Parking

Charles Armstrong will examine the disconnect between the long history of confrontation between the U.S. and North Korea, going back 65 years now, and the American transformation of North Korea first into a "rogue state" in the early 1990s, and then into part of the "axis of evil" in 2002. The American media assumes that all the irrationality resides in the North, and hardly ever examines the background to our conflict with Pyongyang, which includes not just the American Military Government in South Korea from 1945 to 1948 and the Korean War (1950-53), but the American role in introducing nuclear weapons to the Korean peninsula in 1958 and keeping hundreds of them there until 1991. President George W. Bush made the North one of the targets of his "preemptive doctrine," and analysts assumed that could include nuclear strikes with new "bunker-buster" weapons. Meanwhile the North rattles bombs and missiles, routinely acting in ways suggesting that the worst things said about it are true. In spite of all this Bush abruptly reversed course in early 2007, and concluded a denuclearization agreement with Pyongyang—a--an agreement still not fulfilled. Today the Obama administration inherits a long-running confrontation with no sign that it will end any time soon.

**Charles K. Armstrong**, one of the world's leading experts on North Korea, is The Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies in the Social Sciences in the Department of History and the Director of the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University. Professor Armstrong is the author or editor of several books, including *The North Korean Revolution, 1945-1950* (Cornell, 2003), *Korea at the Center: Dynamics of Regionalism in Northeast Asia* (M.E. Sharpe, 2006), and *The Koreas* (Routledge, 2007). His next book, *Tyranny of the Weak: North Korea and the World, 1950 – 1992*, is due to be published in late 2011. Professor Armstrong holds a B.A. in Chinese Studies from Yale University, an M.A. in International Relations from the London School of Economics, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago. He has taught at Princeton, Seoul National University, and the University of Washington, and has been a member of the Columbia faculty since 1996.

***Cost/lecture: \$15 – Members, \$20 – Non-Members***

***Students with a proper ID – free of charge.***

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