"The Race for What's Left": Fighting Over the World's Last Resources

Free public talk with

MICHAEL KLARE

Wednesday, October 29th,
7pm in SSMB Room 129
(The auditorium in the new science building, across from Addlestone Library, at the corners of Calhoun and Coming Streets)

The world is facing an unprecedented crisis of resource depletion—a crisis that encompasses shortages of oil and coal, copper and cobalt, water and arable land. With all of the Earth’s accessible areas already being exploited, the desperate hunt for supplies has now reached the final frontiers. This talk takes us from the Arctic to war zones to deep ocean floors, from a Russian submarine planting the country’s flag under the North Pole to the large-scale buying up of African farmland by Saudi Arabia and other food-scarce nations. With resource extraction growing more difficult, the environmental risks are becoming increasingly severe—and the intense search for dwindling supplies is igniting new conflicts and territorial disputes. The only way out, as will be argued, is to alter our consumption patterns altogether, a crucial task that will be the greatest challenge of the coming century.

Michael T. Klare is the Five College Professor of Peace and World Security Studies and has written widely on U.S. defense policy, the arms trade, global resource politics, and world security affairs. He is the author, most recently, of Resource Wars (2001), Blood and Oil (2004), Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet: The New Geopolitics of Energy (2008), and The Race for What’s Left: The Global Struggle for the World’s Last Resources (2012). He is also the defense correspondent of The Nation magazine and has contributed articles to Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Harper’s, Le Monde Diplomatique, The National Interest, Newsweek, and Scientific American, among others. Klare has also worked with many non-governmental organizations in the peace and human rights fields and currently serves on the board of directors of the Arms Control Association.

This event is sponsored by CofC’s First Year Experience, the Masters in Environmental Studies, and Environmental Studies Program.