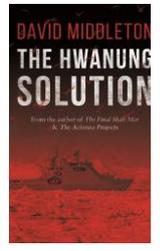
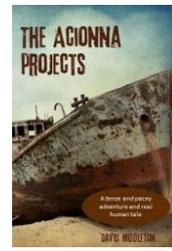
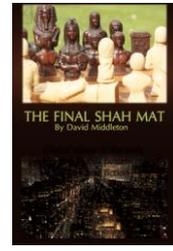




David Middleton's Novel Newsletter

No.10 – November 2017



Bond-like adventures written as a mix of fiction and un-nerving facts. Designed to entertain but to also inform about real political, economic, social and environmental challenges we confront.

Roped To The Slopes Of Everest And Talking Live to 24,000 School Children – Mark Wood Takes The Breath Away At My Book Launch!

To be pinned to the high altitude mountain face by ropes, with the summit of Everest in view and sharing the experience live in a "Skype in the Classroom" with children in 34 different countries, is simply mind blowing. Add to that accounts of having to encourage helicopter pilots to land on unstable ice during an expedition to both Poles and it was small wonder the audience at the Waterstones Birmingham launch of my latest novel were enthralled by the stories of adventurer Mark Wood.

Overlap between fact and fiction

Mark was a guest speaker at the launch of *The Hwanung Solution*, my latest Bond-like pacy adventure. It is largely based in the Arctic and features the consequences of climate change. Whilst the book is a cocktail of fact and fiction, Mark's accounts were of startlingly true events of tenacity and courage in extraordinary extreme conditions. But the overlap between the adventurer's real escapades and my fiction was very evident to the audience. *The Hwanung Solution* has much fact within in – the melting of the permafrost; the opening of new sea routes as the sea ice melts; traditional lives being abandoned; mysterious holes appearing across Siberia; the release of ancient viruses as the ice melts – and more. Into this is weaved a story of greed, political ambition, love and sex, a hunt for gold – and more. The book completes a trilogy. *The Final Shah Mat* is based on the divide between politicians and the people while *The Acionna Projects* is about water, the most precious of natural resources.



The picture by artist Lee Manning, a visitor to the launch event, captures Mark Wood on screen and talking to the audience.

What The Audience Thought

Birmingham City University director, Beverley Nielsen, said a "great buzzing crowd assembled for the launch of David Middleton's third book. David has a strong sense of our inherited privilege, and the duties this should bring to ensure we pass on a rich legacy; but all packaged in fast-paced, gripping stories, grabbing head and heart, a rollercoaster ride right up to the final punch-line. But what made this book launch different was the cast of characters – Mark Wood, arctic explorer whose feats of daring and philanthropy were a revelation. Paul Fisher gave evidence of the work of Water Aid in Africa transforming the lives of millions without the basic hygiene and facilities we take for granted."

Energy and Sustainability Engineer, Jane Goodman of BSD Limited said: "The evening provoked a lot of discussion. Mark Wood's talk was very alarming and I will be looking on Netflix to watch his film with my son asap. I have been reading quite a few reports on the Arctic and Antarctic rates of melt over the last few months. This event was hopefully a sign that a greater number of comms are out there. I will certainly be sharing the messages of last night."

David Cole of SIG Limited said "David's amazing and informative PowerPoint explanation of why he writes, as well as his journey through his working life and his connection with Mark Wood and Water Aid, was exceptional."

Artist Dee Manning said: "I learnt so much. All the presentations were fascinating. I really enjoyed the evening!"

Fizz Forbes said: "We all thought that Mark Wood was just the most inspirational person we've heard in years and have had fun looking him up on the web for more info. And the very measured and frightening statistical talk by Paul! We knew water 'things' were pretty dire in certain parts of our world – but incredible those numerical facts for just one country and ... a country not in constant conflict with itself or with others. Very, very sobering indeed."



Paul Fisher picture by Mark Wainwright

Launch Raises Nearly £120 for Water Aid

Thanks to the generosity of visitors to the book launch who participated in a raffle, nearly £120 was raised for Water Aid.

Guest speaker representing the charity was Paul Fisher, recently returned from a fund raising cycle ride in Tanzania. His talk about the plight of people around the world who do not have clean water or proper toilets was very disturbing.

Providing prizes for the raffle were Cox's Yard restaurant, Stratford; Diwan restaurant, Moseley; Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust; Old Barn Tea Room, Kingsbury; Peter & Merle Gibbs; Sherborne Wharf, Birmingham; Waterstones Birmingham.

An Apology

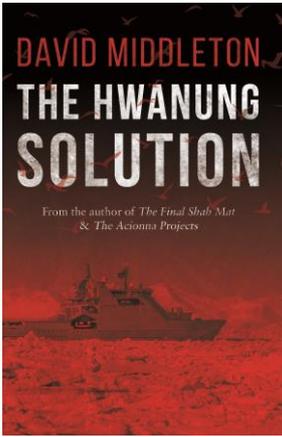
A number of visitors to the book launch made comment about the PowerPoint show that kicked it off. The slides left and right started and ended the sequence. It was intended as an evocative illustration of the uniquely stunning beauty and complexity of our home planet. The plan was to make it available via YouTube. Sadly, because of the sound track, we have fallen foul of copyright and it has been blocked. We are considering optional ways around the problem.



Sadly, we continue to damage our home planet. We have the ability to change. Time is running out.

Continues

More pictures from book launch with thanks to Dee Manning, Mark Wainwright and Peter Gibbs.



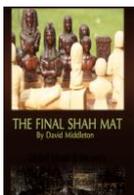
Adventurer
extraordinaire,
Mark Wood, me
and Paul Fisher
from Water Aid.



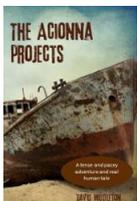
Nostradamus Update



It was not an intention of mine that my books develop a reputation for foreseeing the future but it is one they have developed. The latest book, *The Hwanung Solution* foresees two things that possibly will come to pass. One would involve the super powers of Russia and America and be likened to the Cuban missile drama between Kennedy and Khrushchev. As I said at the launch, God help us from a similar stand-off between Putin and Trump! The second potential involves the youth of the planet, using social media as they did in the Arab Spring to fuel a global rebellion. Time will tell!



Disconnect between people and politicians. This was the main focus of *The Final Shah Mat* the story of which was a plot to encourage California to leave the United States of America. This summer, three years after the book was published, supporters of a plan for California to become independent from the United States gathered signatures for their ballot. In June Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra's office released an official title and summary for the project now called the "California Autonomy From Federal Government" initiative. For Los Angeles Times July 2017 story see – <http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-coming-to-a-street-corner-near-you-a-1501029304-htmlstory.html>



Water – the most vital of our natural resources. The Acionna Projects turned to the subject of water, our most vital natural resource without which we die. The story concerned a plot involving strategically important dams – in China, on the Iberian Peninsula, and in America. My fiction involved a developing military conflict in central Asia caused by friction over water supplies. Early this year Fuad Shahbazov, a policy analyst at Wikistrat Inc. and a regular political reviewer of *The Times of Israel* and *BBC Middle East Monitor*, gave an extensive update of tension mounting in Central Asia. See -

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2017/02/06/will-central-asia-fight-over-water-resources/#4762fc524c1f>

The Hwanung Solution Available via -

Me via davidm@dmc-sd.co.uk

Troubador Publishing via http://www.troubador.co.uk/book_info.asp?bookid=4752

Waterstones via <https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-hwanung-solution/david-middleton/9781788039307>

Amazon via <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hwanung-Solution-David-Middleton/dp/1788039300>

It Would Be Lovely To Hear From You

Contact me via davidm@dmc-sd.co.uk or 0121 444 2683 or twitter.com/davidmid2014

See web page at www.davidmiddleton-author.com

