

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

Alex Podmaska
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6895
apodmaska@constitutioncenter.org

SCHOLARS ADDRESS THE EVOLUTION OF EMPIRES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS TODAY AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

In conjunction with the Ancient Rome & America exhibition

Philadelphia, PA (May 18, 2010) – **Rajiv Chandrasekaran**, *Washington Post* journalist and author of *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*; **Charles Maier**, author of *Among Empires* and Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University; and **Timothy Parsons**, author of *The Rule of Empires* and Professor of African History at Washington University, will join the National Constitution Center to address the evolution of empires, in conjunction with the Center's *Ancient Rome & America* exhibition. **Dane Kennedy**, Elmer Louis Kayser Professor of History and International Affairs at The George Washington University, moderates. The program will take place on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Chandrasekaran, Maier, and Parsons will provide a sweeping account of the evolution of the empire, from its origins in ancient Rome to its most recent twenty-first century embodiment. They will explain what constitutes an empire and offer insights into what empires of the past can tell us about our own historical moment.

Rajiv Chandrasekaran is the National Editor of *The Washington Post* and the author of *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*, a best-selling account of the American effort to reconstruct Iraq. The book, which provides a firsthand view of life inside Baghdad's "Green Zone," won the Overseas Press Club Book Award, the Ron Ridenhour Prize, and Britain's Samuel Johnson Prize. It was also a finalist for the National Book Award. Previously, Chandrasekaran served as

-MORE-

ADD ONE/EMPIRE!

The Washington Post's bureau chief in Baghdad, where he was responsible for covering the American occupation of Iraq. In 2005, he served as the journalist in residence at the International Reporting Project at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, D.C.

Charles S. Maier is the Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University, with interim positions at Duke University, the University of Bielefeld, and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales. He has received a Guggenheim fellowship and a German Alexander von Humboldt research prize, among other grants. His teaching topics include modern Europe, early modern and contemporary international relations, political economy, and political trials. Maier has written, edited, and contributed to numerous books, including *Recasting Bourgeois Europe*, *The Unmasterable Past*, *Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany*, and *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors*. Together with Harvard University colleagues, he is the editor of the recently published book, *The Shock of the Global: The 1970s in Perspective*.

Timothy Parsons is a Professor of African History at Washington University. He is the author of several books, including *The British Imperial Century, 1815-1914: A World History Perspective*, and *The 1964 Army Mutinies and the Making of Modern East Africa*. His most recent book is *The Rule of Empires: Those Who Built Them, Those Who Endured Them, and Why They Always Fall*.

Dane Kennedy, Elmer Louis Kayser Professor of History and International Affairs at The George Washington University, teaches courses in British imperial, modern British, and world history. Awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2003, he is the author of four books and numerous articles. His current research centers on British exploration in Africa and Australia.

Through August 1, 2010, the National Constitution Center is hosting the world debut of *Ancient Rome & America* – a multi-million dollar, artifact-rich exhibition showcasing the cultural, political,

-MORE-

ADD TWO/EMPIRE!

and social connections between the lost world of ancient Rome and modern America. The 8,000 square foot exhibition, featuring a never-before-seen collection of artifacts, was created by the Center in partnership with Contemporanea Progetti of Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Ministero per i Beni e Le Attività Culturali, Rome, Italy.

Admission to *Ancient Rome & America* is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$12 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising," is included. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners of *Ancient Rome & America*. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

###