

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **Gwynne Dyer to offer positive view of world since September 2001**

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**Contact: Deborah Currie  
Co-ordinator, Cultural Affairs  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3800**

WATERLOO – Canadian pundit Gwynne Dyer will offer perspective on current world events during the 2002-03 Laurier Lecture. He'll deliver a lecture entitled *The World Turned Upside Down?* on Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m. in the university's new senate and board chamber.

Dyer will offer his views on world events that have followed the September 2001 attacks on the United States. The war in Afghanistan, the continuing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people, more terrorist attacks and the probability of a second war in Iraq are all examples of a world growing more chaotic. But Dyer remains positive.

"People can be excused for thinking that the world is spinning out of control – but it is not," says Dyer. "We are living through a dangerous moment, but it is probably a big blip on the graph, not a permanent turn for the worse. Bad things have happened and others will follow, but there are also positive developments unfolding in the world."

Among those positives, he includes the spread of democracy through non-violent revolutions, the break from the traditional pattern of great power alliances and serial world wars, and even the emergence of a kind of global culture.

Originally trained as a historian, Dyer has worked as a freelance journalist, columnist, broadcaster and lecturer on international affairs for more than 20 years.

The Laurier Lecture series asks noted speakers to share their diverse and wide-ranging interests with the Laurier community. The lecture is open to the public and admission is free, though seating is limited and provided to the first who arrive.