

## REPORTING FROM THE BRINK OF CHANGE

**Coordinator:** Barbara Kobrin

This study group follows Andrew Solomon's explorations of societies in transition. He has been traveling the world for 25 years, exploring what societies in transition are experiencing and how they are evolving. His articles have appeared in the New York Times Magazine, the New Yorker and have been discussed on NPR. He covers places undergoing seismic political and cultural shifts, teaching the importance of "bearing witness" through in-depth personal encounters. Solomon's adventures range from staring down tanks in Moscow to being interrogated in Qaddafi's Libya. Being both a journalist and professor of psychology at Columbia, his assessment of the individuals he meets and the meaning of what they experience is especially deep and rich. Our reading and discussion illuminate the human aspects of world politics and profound social changes.

### **Readings and other Materials/Online Services:**

*Far And Away* by Andrew Solomon {Scribner, 2016,  
ISBN 978-1-4767-9504-1. \$18.50 at Amazon}

Supplemental readings are provided for some of the topics.

**Barbara Kobrin** is a Jungian psychologist in practice for almost 40 years. She is very interested in world affairs and politics. This is the 6th study group she has coordinated.

\* \* \* \* \* **Syllabus – A Work in Progress** \* \* \* \* \*

### **Proposed Syllabus or Outline:**

- Week 1: Chapter 1, Dispatches from Everywhere; biographical I introduction; YouTube video.
- Week 2: Three Essays on USSR pp. 45-102
- Week 3: Essays on art: China pp 103-140; South Africa pp 141-176
- Week 4: Taiwan pp181-210
- Week 5: Greenland pp249-260; Antarctica pp.385-396
- Week 6: Romania: pp435-442
- Week 7: Afghanistan pp269-286, Libya: pp.321-358

- Week 8: Senegal: pp 261-268; Rawanda; pp.305-320
- Week 9: Brazil; pp 407-428
- Week 10: Being gay in the world: pp177; Romania: pp 435-442
- Week 11: Travel& Leisure: Turkey pp211-218; Mongolia pp 237-248; Zambia pp 219-228
- Week 12: Indonesia: pp 397-406,Myanmar; pp.443-482