

**This agenda refers to a program that has already run.
Future programs will feature similar topics and speakers.**

Inside the Middle East

March 10-12, 2008
The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC

Agenda

Monday, March 10, 2008

7:45 – 8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

*Zilkha Lounge, lobby level
The Brookings Institution*

8:15 – 8:50 a.m. Welcome and Introduction to the Seminar

Zilkha Lounge

- Peter Schoettle, Director of Policy Programs, Center for Executive Education, the Brookings Institution
- Malcolm Ewing, Program Manager, Center for Executive Education, the Brookings Institution

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Understanding the Middle East: Challenges and Prospects

Saul Room

- Martin Indyk, Director, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institution; former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and Assistant Secretary of State, Near Eastern Affairs

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Understanding Islam

Saul Room

- Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University; author of *Journey Into Islam, the Crisis of Globalization*; non-resident Senior Fellow, the Brookings Institution

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Roots of Terrorism

Saul Room

- Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institution; former Special Assistant to Presidents Bush and Clinton, and Senior Director for Near East Affairs, National Security Council

Monday, March 10, 2008 (continued)

12:40 – 2:15 p.m.
Zilkha Lounge

Luncheon

Iran: Where Is It Coming From? What Should the U.S. Do?

- Trita Parsi, President, National Iranian American Council

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Saul Room

Daily Life in the West Bank and Gaza: Implications for an Israeli- Palestinian Peace Agreement

- Ziad Asali, President, American Task Force on Palestine

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Saul Room

Saudi Arabia: Prospects for Change, Stability or Stagnation?

- Ambassador Chas. W. Freeman Jr., President of the Middle East Policy Council; U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during first Gulf War; former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

- 8:15 – 8:55 a.m.**
Zilkha Lounge
- Continental Breakfast and
Group Discussion of Monday's Sessions**
- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**
Saul Room
- Prospects for Political Reform in Arab States: Panel Session**
- Tamara Cofman Wittes, Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institution; author of *Freedom's Unsteady March: America's Role in Promoting Arab Democracy*
 - Thomas Melia, Deputy Executive Director, Freedom House; former Director of Middle East Programs, National Democratic Institute
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m.**
- Break**
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**
Saul Room
- Perspectives from Egypt: Stability vs. Change**
- Nabil Fahmy, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**
Zilkha Lounge
- Luncheon
U.S. Grand Strategy for Dealing with the Middle East**
- General Anthony C. Zinni, former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command; U.S. Special Envoy to Israel and the Palestinian Authority; author of *The Battle for Peace*
- 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.**
Saul Room
- Dealing with Political, Radical Islam:
Hamas, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood**
- Daniel Levy, Senior Fellow and Director, Middle East Policy Initiative, New America Foundation; Director, Prospects for Peace, The Century Foundation
 - Marc Lynch, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University
- 2:45 – 3:00 p.m.**
- Break**
- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.**
Saul Room
- Prospects for Economic Reform in Arab States: Panel Session**

- Jean-Louis Sarbib, Senior Fellow, the Brookings Institution; former Vice President, Middle East and North Africa, the World Bank
- Navtej Dhillon, Director, Middle East Youth Initiative, Wolfensohn Center for Development, the Brookings Institution; former World Bank associate

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 (cont.)

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Break

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Saul Room

Political and Economic Development: The Algerian Perspective

- Amine Kherbi, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United States

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

8:15 – 8:55 a.m.
Zilkha Lounge

Continental Breakfast

9:00 -- 10:30 a.m.
Saul Room

Why Don't They Like Us? Perspectives from the Middle East, and Challenges in Communicating U.S. Views: Panel of Journalists

- Hisham Melhem, Washington Bureau Chief, Lebanese daily *An-Nahar* ; Senior Analyst for *Al-Arabiya*
- Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief, *Al Jazeera*

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Saul Room

Options for U.S. Policy toward the Middle East

- Ambassador David Newton, former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and to Yemen; first Director of Radio Free Iraq
- Ambassador Marcelle Wahba, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates; Foreign Policy Advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.
Zilkha Lounge

Luncheon Statecraft in the Middle East

- Dennis Ross, former Special Assistant to Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton and Special Ambassador for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations; Counselor at Washington Institute for Near East Policy

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Saul Room

Understanding Iraq: Perspectives from Iraq

- Laith Kubba, Program Director for Middle East and North Africa, National Endowment for Democracy; former Official Spokesman for Iraqi Government
- Quban Talabani, Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government to the United States

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 (continued)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Saul Room

The Israeli Perspective

- Sallai Meridor, Ambassador of Israel to the United States

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Saul Room

Wrap-up, Evaluation and Awarding of Certificates

- Peter Schoettle, Senior Staff, Center for Executive Education, the Brookings Institution
- Malcolm Ewing, Program Manager, Center for Executive Education, the Brookings Institution