

Changing Assumptions
U.S.-Islamic World Forum
June 1-3, 2015 / Doha, Qatar





at BROOKINGS



Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World
Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings
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Welcome

Ahlan Wa Sahlan!

On behalf of the Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, housed in the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings, we welcome you to the 12th annual U.S.-Islamic World Forum. Brookings co-convenes this Forum annually with the State of Qatar, under the gracious auspices of H.R.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar.

Last year, we launched an initiative to return Mali's cultural heritage to Timbuktu after the city was taken over by jihadists. We also deliberated on expanding the capacity of Pakistan's civil society to counter violent extremism; discussed the application of Islamic values to achieve reconciliation in post-conflict Muslim societies, and examined the challenges faced by Muslim communities in Europe and North America to contextualize their religion. This year, we meet as the international community wages a military campaign against the Islamic State, the Syrian conflict continues into its fourth year, and Yemen and Libya have descended into civil war.

During our three days together, we have arranged a variety of formats for candid dialogue and engagement:

- A series of **keynote remarks** at our opening session from world leaders, discussing the challenges and opportunities confronting relations between the United States and Muslim communities around the globe;
- Televised and webcast **plenary sessions** to explore major developments, transitions, and crises affecting our world;
- Three targeted **working groups** bringing together practitioners and experts to develop practical partnerships and policy recommendations for our governments;
- An action group to launch a new initiative to deal with a pressing problem confronting society.

We are grateful to His Highness the Emir for his leadership and generosity in enabling us to come together for these three days of candid discussion. We would also like to thank the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their support. We would especially like to recognize H.E. Mr. Rashid Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister's Assistant for Services and Follow-up Affairs, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, the Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs, Ambassador Abdulla Fakhroo, the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences' Chief Executive Officer, and the Permanent Committee's entire staff for their support.

Thank you for joining us and we look forward to welcoming you to Doha.

Tamara Wittes
Senior Fellow and Director
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Your Stay for the 2015 U.S.-Islamic World Forum

Welcome to the 2015 U.S.-Islamic World Forum, held this year at the Sheraton Hotel in Doha, Qatar. We hope that your time with us is both informative and comfortable. To ensure this, we want to outline for you our policies with respect to transportation, hotel, and meals during the forum.

Transportation and Travel

Complimentary transportation will be provided for all international participants from Doha International Airport to the Sheraton Hotel and from the hotel to the airport for your return flight.

Bus transportation will also be provided from the Sheraton to the off-site dinner on Tuesday, June 2nd. We ask all participants to be at the entrance of the Sheraton Hotel promptly at 6:30 pm for departure. For special needs only, participants may also request a private car through the concierge desk.

If you have questions or concerns related to your airline travel, a Qatar Airways travel agent will be available onsite to answer any questions that you may have.

Hotel Stay

We are pleased to provide you with a complimentary room at the Sheraton Hotel for the nights of May 31st, June 1st, 2nd, 3rd and, if needed, June 4th. If you would like to extend your stay, you may do so subject to availability and at your own expense. There are no exceptions to this policy.

In addition, during the nights of May 31st, June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, you will receive free Internet service in your hotel room.

A valid credit card must be presented during check-in for incidental charges that may be incurred during your stay.

Meals and Translation Services

For all participants and special guests, breakfast, lunch, and dinner are complimentary on behalf of the Forum; however, please note that room service and items from the minibar will be at your own expense.

If you have any special needs or requests, please visit the concierge desk at the Sheraton Hotel. Translation services are also available during the plenary sessions.

Contact Information

For any special needs or concerns during the Forum, please contact Anne Peckham at apectham@brookings.edu or Elizabeth Pearce at epearce@brookings.edu.

We are delighted you are able to join us for the 12th annual U.S.-Islamic World Forum, and wish you a pleasant stay.

2015 U.S.-Islamic World Forum Schedule

Current to May 18, 2015

Sunday, May 31	6:00PM	Conference Registration
	7:00PM	Welcome Reception
Monday, June 1	6:30AM-9:30AM	Breakfast
	8:30AM-9:30AM	Conference Registration
	10:00AM-11:00AM	Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Address
	11:00AM-12:45PM	Plenary Session I: <i>Strategic Priorities for the United States and the Middle East</i>
	1:00PM-2:00PM	Lunch
	2:00PM-3:30PM	Plenary Session II: <i>Pluralism in the Islamic World</i>
	4:00PM-6:30PM	Working and Action Group Sessions
	8:00PM-10:00PM	Networking Dinner
Tuesday, June 2	6:30AM-8:45AM	Breakfast
	9:00AM-10:30AM	Plenary Session III: <i>The Role of Iran in the Region</i>
	10:30AM-11:00AM	Break
	11:00AM-12:45PM	Working and Action Groups
	1:00PM-2:00PM	Lunch
	2:15PM-3:45PM	Plenary Session IV: <i>Advancing Women's Role in an Unstable Middle East</i>
	4:00PM-6:00PM	Working and Action Groups
	6:30PM-6:45PM	Gather in lobby for shuttle buses to offsite dinner
Wednesday, June 3	7:00PM-10:00PM	Offsite Dinner
	6:30AM-8:30AM	Breakfast
	8:00AM-9:00AM	Working and Action Groups
	9:00AM-10:30AM	Plenary Session V: <i>Ending Civil Wars</i>
	10:30AM-11:30AM	Keynote Address
	11:30AM-12:00PM	Closing Remarks and Summary

Plenary Sessions

Plenary I Strategic Priorities for the United States and the Middle East

The breakdown of several states into civil conflict, new assertions of power by some regional actors, and the rise of a new wave of extremist violence all challenge the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East. Amidst these challenges, the United States and its partners debate different views and approaches of how to confront common threats, restore stability to the region, and offer its citizens hope for a better future. Some in the Middle East question the United States' fundamental commitment to maintaining stability; many Americans are wary of entanglement in regional war. This plenary session will focus on historic shifts in the geopolitical realities affecting the United States' role in the Middle East and North Africa, and how America's ties with states in the region are changing.

Plenary II Pluralism in the Islamic World

The Islamic world contains a rich array of ethnic, religious, and tribal communities. Values of diversity and toleration are a longstanding part of the Islamic tradition. Yet in times of stress and threat, societal diversity often becomes a source of tension instead of strength. Today, communities and nations face the challenge of defining their identities in terms that embrace the diversity of their societies. The civil wars in Iraq and Syria are the most extreme examples of what happens when efforts to face these challenges don't succeed, but even more stable countries have seen their politics divided along lines of kinship and faith. At the same time, the number of people identifying themselves as world citizens before anything else rises and falls in surprising ways according to the political context. This plenary session will discuss how notions of identity are shaped by external threats, emerging opportunities, and even deliberate efforts by governments. It will also explore how notions of identity have evolved in the Islamic world since the Arab Spring.

Plenary III The Role of Iran in the Region

As we convene, Iran and the international community will be in the final stages of their effort to negotiate an agreement that forestalls an Iranian nuclear weapons program. Such an agreement would be a profound turning point in Iran's policy, but the nuclear issue is only one dimension of Iran's complex regional role. Many Americans and regional actors remain suspicious of Iran's intentions. Yet Iran has long been, and will remain, a part of the Middle East. How can we understand Iran's regional objectives, and how might a nuclear agreement affect Iran's regional behavior? This plenary session will include voices from Iran, the Arab world, and the United States on these crucial questions for regional security.

Plenary IV Advancing Women's Role in an Unstable Middle East

Women suffer disproportionately from conflict around the world, and the Middle East and North Africa are no exception. The rise of ISIS has created particular new dangers for women in Syria and Iraq; in other countries, efforts to advance women's inclusion in politics, economics, and society have taken a backseat to security concerns. At the same time, women continue to outpace men in education in the region, and the importance of women's inclusion in successful development is undeniable. How are women's advocates responding to the challenges of the current turmoil? How does taking account of women alter policies and priorities for governments? How can increasing the participation of women in preventing and resolving violent conflicts in the region help advance peace and stability? This plenary will feature leaders from across the Islamic World on this crucial issue.

Plenary V Ending Civil Wars

Four years after peaceful protesters in Libya, Yemen, and Syria called for the ouster of autocratic governments, all three countries are now engulfed in civil wars. The violence by governments and their opponents have left societies and communities shattered, hundreds of thousands dead, and millions displaced from their homes. Despite the dangerous consequences for regional stability, diplomatic efforts thus far have failed to end the fighting. This panel will consider the variables prolonging these wars, and propose steps toward political resolutions. The plenary will bring together speakers with direct experience in conflict resolution to explore the role of local actors, regional governments, and the international community. What can be done to stem the violence and prevent continued spillover while searching for political solutions to these conflicts?

Abstracts

Here to Stay and Growing: Combating ISIS Propaganda Networks

Alberto M. Fernandez

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) considers dissemination of propaganda to be one of its most important activities—and a highly-effective recruiting tool. In particular, ISIS uses social media in unprecedented ways to enlist new members to its ranks. With this challenge in mind, this Working Group seeks to explore how the United States and the international community can adopt more effective and systematic approaches to countering ISIS propaganda. This Working Group will assess the capacity of existing counter-messaging programs, determine good practices, and identify regional challenges and opportunities to implementing such programs. Discussions will also consider how the United States and its allies can apply lessons from other countries which have confronted violent extremism. The goal of this Working Group is to develop recommendations for national and regional strategies which can empower civil society and other local actors as a bulwark against extremist propaganda.

The Arab Uprisings and the Next Generation of Islamists

Shadi Hamid and William McCants

This Working Group will convene Islamist youth leaders and activists from across the Arab world along with scholars of political Islam to discuss ideological and tactical shifts occurring within mainstream Islamist groups, in light of the Egyptian coup and the threat posed by ISIS. Participants will examine how a new generation of Islamists has responded to the brief experiences in government of Egyptian and Tunisian Islamists, the Egyptian coup, the emergence of pro- and anti-Brotherhood geopolitical blocs, and the rise of ISIS and other extremists. Discussions will focus on the methods of political change, the relevance of peaceful protest in a time of growing violence, and the emergence of elements favoring more confrontational responses to regime repression. The Working Group will also explore tensions between gradualist and revolutionary approaches to change within Islamist parties, and how youth in the Muslim Brotherhood, Ennahda, the Justice and Development Party (PJD) in Morocco, and other organizations are influencing and shaping these new debates over the future. These deliberations will feed into broader discussions of models of change in mainstream Islamist movements.

Strategic Realignment in the Middle East

Steven Simon and F. Gregory Gause, III

The objective of this Working Group is to bring together members of the policy community from the United States and the Middle East to evaluate the evidence for and against an emerging realignment of the interests, objectives, and policies of the United States and its traditional Middle Eastern allies. Issues that will be explored in the Working Group meetings will include the significant changes in the world energy markets, the Obama administration's efforts to develop a new relationship with Iran, and Washington's rising strategic interest in Asia. Discussions will also center on the underlying tension between American liberal values and the unmistakable authoritarian trend in the region, post-Arab Spring.

Action Group: Jumpstarting Community-led Initiatives to Counter Violent Extremism

Alejandro J. Beutel, Stevan Weine, and Salam Al-Marayati

Since 9/11, Americans have debated different approaches to preventing violent extremism in the United States. These debates have often yielded one-sided approaches emphasizing surveillance or condemnations of violence, but these approaches fail to address the problems at its roots. This Action Group will build upon a nascent, community-led initiative to counter violent extremism (CVE) in the United States. The initiative, called *Safe Spaces*, was developed by the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) to empower local Muslim communities to address the needs of individuals at all stages of the path to violent extremism. At the core of *Safe Spaces* is the "Prevention, Intervention, Ejection" model, which provides a clear conceptual framework for CVE practitioners, helping them understand the issues that push and pull individuals along a pathway to violence. To achieve the initiative's goals, the Action Group will focus on fine-tuning the *Safe Spaces* strategy, assessing its implementation plan, suggesting new partnerships, and reviewing its methods of measuring and evaluating success. The Action Group also hopes to benefit from the perspectives of international CVE experts and practitioners with experience in grassroots community-level interventions. The Action Group will help to ensure the successful launch of *Safe Spaces* pilot projects in multiple sites in the United States by the end of 2015.

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**Khalid Bin Mohammed
Al Attiyah**
QATAR

Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar. Prior to his appointment, he served as minister of state for foreign affairs and was a member of the Council of Ministers for two years. In 2009, he was chairman of the board of directors of Qatar's Stock Exchange, vice chairman of the Supreme Council for Information Technology and Communications and Qatar Financial Center Authority, and acting minister of business and trade. He also served as minister of state for international cooperation in 2008. From 1987-95, Al Attiyah was a fighter pilot in Qatar's Emiri Air Force. Al Attiyah received his bachelor's in Aviation Studies from King Faisal Air Academy, a degree in Law from Beirut Arab University, a master's in Public Law, and a doctorate in Law from Cairo University.



Bruce Jones
UNITED STATES

Bruce Jones is the Acting Vice President and Director of the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution and a Senior Fellow in the Project on International Order and Strategy at Brookings. He is also a Consulting Professor at the Freeman Spogli Institute at Stanford University, and chair of the advisory council of the Center on International Cooperation at New York University. Jones' research expertise and policy experience is in international security. His current research focus is on U.S. strategy, international order, and the emerging powers. His most recent book on the topic is *Still Ours to Lead: America, Rising Powers, and the Tension between Rivalry and Restraint* (Brookings Press, 2014). He is also co-author with Carlos Pascual and Stephen Stedman of *Power and Responsibility: Building International Order in an Era of Transnational Threats* (Brookings Press, 2009), and co-editor with Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu and Pratap Bhanu Mehta of *Shaping the Emerging World: India and the Multilateral Order* (Brookings Press, 2013). He earned a B.A. from the University of Toronto, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the London School of Economics.

Biographies



Hasan Abdel-Rahman
PALESTINE

Hasan Abdel-Rahman is the Vice President and Executive Director of the Council on Arab Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (CARLAC). Abdel-Rahman previously served as the Chief Representative of Palestine to the United States and Canada, Ambassador to Morocco, and Nonresident Ambassador to Venezuela and Colombia. During his tenure in North America, Abdel-Rahman also served as a senior political advisor to the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid Conference and during the Washington, D.C. negotiations for the peace process. He began his diplomatic career in New York as Deputy Chief of Mission of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to the United Nations. Abdel-Rahman has spoken extensively at colleges and universities and appeared on media outlets around the world.



Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani
QATAR

Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani is the Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior for the State of Qatar. A member of the ruling family, he was Minister of State for Internal Affairs from 2005 to 2013, when he assumed his current role. He will serve as Chairman of the Security Committee for the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee, which will be held in Qatar in 2022. Al Thani earned a bachelor's degree in Policing Science from Durham Military College, as well as a bachelor's degree in Law from Beirut University.



Mohammad Abu Rumman
JORDAN

Mohammad Abu Rumman is a Researcher at the Center for Strategic Studies at the

University of Jordan, where he heads the Policy Studies Department. His research focuses on political theory and Islamist movements. He writes regularly for the Jordanian daily newspaper *Al Ghad*, and has been published in a number of Arabic-language newspapers and magazines. He is the author of several academic books and numerous studies on Salafism, Islam and democracy, and Islamic political thought. Abu Rumman holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Yarmouk University, a master's degree in Political Science from Al al-Bayt University, and a doctorate in Philosophy and Political Science from the College of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University.



Junaid Afeef
UNITED STATES

Junaid Afeef is an American Muslim civic leader and attorney with over 20 years of experience in criminal law, civil liberties, and public policy. Afeef is also President of Common Good Advocates, an organization dedicated to promoting civil liberties, public safety, and national security through education and advocacy. He concurrently serves as Deputy General Counsel at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and he is a Political Partner with the Truman National Security Project. Afeef formerly served as Executive Director of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago. His essays have appeared many outlets, including the *Chicago Tribune* and *The Wall Street Journal*.



Muddassar Ahmed
UNITED KINGDOM

Muddassar Ahmed is the Founder and Chief Executive of Unitas Communica-

tions, a British public relations firm, and his clients include the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State. He is also the founder of the Concordia Forum, an annual retreat for Western Muslim leaders. Additionally, Ahmed serves as President of the John Adams Society, and as Director of the European Network of American Alumni. Ahmed is also a Fellow at the Royal Society of Arts, a Member of the U.S. Atlantic Council, and a NATO Fellow. He also serves as Independent Advisor to the U.K. Government on British Muslim communities.



Ahmad Akayleh
JORDAN

Ahmad Akayleh is a member of the Supreme Coordinating Body for the Zamzam Jordan Building Initiative, and is also an official in the Initiative's youth sector. A political and civil activist, he was one of the founding members of the Zamzam Jordan Building Initiative in 2012-13. He previously served as a youth spokesperson and as a member of a youth committee with the Islamic Action Front, a political party associated with the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood. In 2011, he led a project funded by United Nations Development Program aimed at developing youth participation in local government. Trained as a civil engineer, Akayleh was educated at Hashemite University.



Falah Al-Ajmi
KUWAIT

Falah Al-Ajmi is President of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, and a member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement's youth branch. He also serves as President of the Student Youth Advisory Council in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Previously, Al-Ajmi held leadership positions in student organizations, and contributed to numerous con-

ferences and meetings on youth civic engagement and political participation. Al-Ajmi graduated from the University of Kuwait with a degree in Petroleum Engineering.



Hatoon al-Fassi
SAUDI ARABIA

Hatoon al-Fassi is a Saudi historian specializing in women's history, and Associate Professor at King Saud University. She researches pre-Islamic and Islamic history, as well as women's studies in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, including women's religious rights and female writers. She writes a weekly column in *Al-Riyadh* newspaper, and her commentary on gender issues in the Gulf appears regularly in Saudi and international outlets. She has published numerous books and peer-reviewed articles in both Arabic and English. In 2012, al-Fassi was awarded the National Order of Merit at the level of Chevalier by the president of France. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Manchester.



Ebtesam Al-Ketbi
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ebtesam Al-Ketbi is the Founder and President of the Emirates Policy Center, and a Professor of Political Science at United Arab Emirates University. She is on the board of the Association of Political Sciences and Trustees and the Arabic Organization for Transparency, and serves as a consultative board member of the Arabic Thought Foundation. Previously, she served as Secretary General of the Gulf Development Forum, and was a team member of the Arabic Human Development Report in 2006. She was previously affiliated with the Arabic Council for Social Sciences, and the Arab Unity Studies Center. Al-Ketbi

has published widely on topics including military relations between GCC countries and the United States, the global war on terrorism, and concepts of citizenship and democratic transitions in GCC countries. Al-Ketbi received her Ph.D. in Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University.



Nabil Al-Khowaiter
SAUDI ARABIA

Nabil Al-Khowaiter is the CEO of Aramco Energy Ventures. Previously, he held a variety of jobs in new business development, including Director of Special Projects in the Aramco Entrepreneurship Center. Prior to joining Saudi Aramco in 2005, Al-Khowaiter worked as Vice President of Business Development for the private Saudi oil company Delta Oil from 1990 to 1998. In 1999, he moved to Istanbul, Turkey, where he founded and managed MedyaNet, an Internet communications company. Al-Khowaiter has a lifelong interest in the role of technology and climate in the evolution of human societies, and has written extensively on the subject. Al-Khowaiter holds a B.S. degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University.



John Allen
UNITED STATES

General John R. Allen, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.) was named the Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL by President Obama on September 12, 2014. He is a Distinguished Fellow in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings, working within the Center on 21st Century Security and Intelligence. From July 2011 to February 2013, General Allen commanded the NATO International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces in Afghanistan. Prior to assuming command of the NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Al-

len commanded at every level in the Marine Corps through the Marine Expeditionary Brigade. As a general officer, Allen served as the Principal Director of Asia/Pacific Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, a position he held for nearly three years. He remains a permanent and active member of the Council on Foreign Relations. General Allen holds a B.S. in Operations Analysis from the U.S. Naval Academy, an M.A. in National Security Studies from Georgetown University, an M.S. in Strategic Intelligence from the Defense Intelligence College, and an M.S. in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University.



Salam Al-Marayati
UNITED STATES

Salam Al-Marayati is the President of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC). For the past 30 years, he has spoken to congregations at community-sponsored events, temples, synagogues, churches, high schools, and college campuses. He has written extensively on Islam, human rights, democracy, Middle East politics, the Balkan Crisis, and the Transcaucus conflict. His articles and interviews have appeared in prominent publications including *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *USA Today*, and he has been featured on numerous radio and television outlets, including *NPR*, *CNN*, *C-SPAN*, and *NBC*. Al-Marayati previously served as co-chair of the Interfaith Coalition to Heal Los Angeles after the 1992 civil uprising. He spoke recently at the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, where he provided a model for partnership between law enforcement and communities.



Tareq Al Naimat
JORDAN

Tareq Al Naimat is a Jordanian journalist and researcher specializing in Is-

lamist movements. He currently works as an editor of the Arabic-language website for *al-Araby al-Jadeed* newspaper. Previously, he was a visiting Arab journalist at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. He is the author of the book *The History of the Islamic Student Movement in Jordan* (Amman: Al Umah Study Center, 2010). Al Naimat has published numerous research papers and articles, including *The Jordanian Regime and the Muslim Brotherhood: A Tug of War* (Woodrow Wilson Center, 2014) and *Zamzam and the Jordanian Brotherhood* (Sada Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2014).



Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi
QATAR

Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi is the Founder and President of Community College of Qatar and the Chairman of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue. Al-Naimi started his academic career in 1983 as a lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at Qatar University. Previously, he was Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science, and President of the University of Qatar. Al-Naimi is committed to promoting science and technology in Islamic countries, and he is involved in initiatives to develop cooperation between Muslim scientists. Al-Naimi is a member of the Qatari Supreme Council of Education, and serves on the board of the Centre for Research on Muslim Contributions to Civilization. He was the recipient of the Palm Academy Award from the French Prime Minister in 1997, and was awarded the Volunteer of the Year in scientific excellence from the Youth Supreme Council, Qatar in 2000. Al-Naimi earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Southern California.



Nawaf Al-Qudaimi
SAUDI ARABIA

Nawaf Al-Qudaimi is a Saudi researcher specializing in Islamist movements and po-

litical thought, and the Co-founder of the Arab Network for Research and Publishing. Al-Qudaimi has published dozens of articles in a number of Arabic publications, and participated in numerous conferences. Al-Qudaimi was present in the Arab Spring countries when revolutions and uprisings broke out in Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Morocco. During this time, he recorded his experiences and published them in the book *Revolution Diaries...From Tahrir Square to Sidi Bou Said Toward the Arena of Change*. He has published seven other books, including *Longing for Freedom...On the Salafi Approach to Democracy, Islamists and Questions of a Disabled Renaissance*, and *Islamists and the Arab Spring...The Practice of Producing Thought*.



Jafar Al-Shayeb
SAUDI ARABIA

Jafar Al-Shayeb is a writer and human rights activist, and a member of the Qatif Municipal Council. Al-Shayeb is engaged with multiple civil society and charity organizations in the region. He is a founding member of the Network of Democrats in the Arab World and the Arab Network for Tolerance, and a member of the National Society for Human Rights. Al-Shayeb conducts capacity-building and human rights trainings for civil society actors. He has published papers on topics related to Saudi civil society, national dialogue, integration, religious diversity, and municipal elections. Al-Shayeb holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Colorado State University-Pueblo, and an M.S. in Economics from Middle Tennessee State University.



Iqbal Noor Ali
UNITED STATES

Iqbal Noor Ali is a Senior Advisor at the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of private, international, non-denominational development organizations working to improve the welfare

and prospects of people in the developing world. Ali facilitates strategic international partnerships for the AKDN and represents the network's interests in various international settings. Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Agha Khan Foundation USA for 25 years; prior to that, he worked with AKDN's Industrial Promotion Services in Canada. Ali has worked closely with the development community in the United States, having served on the boards and committees of various organizations including InterAction, the Council on Foundations, the Independent Sector, and the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Assistance. He received a bachelor's degree in commerce from Karachi University.



Mohamed Amakraz
MOROCCO

Mohamed Amakraz is a member of the Moroccan parliament, representing the Justice and Development (PJD) party. He is also a member of PJD's National Council, and the President of its Central Youth Committee. A lawyer by profession, he also serves in the Agadir Authority. He earned a degree in Private Law, and a master's degree in Business Law, both from Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh.



Shahed Amanullah
UNITED STATES

Shahed Amanullah is the CEO of LaunchPosse, an entrepreneurship platform that helps people shape and launch business ideas. Prior to starting LaunchPosse, Shahed served as a Senior Advisor to Secretary John Kerry and Secretary Hillary Clinton at the U.S. Department of State. He has worked closely with the White House and other agencies on entrepreneurship, social media policy, combating online extremism, and fostering innovation. Amanullah is also CEO of Halalfire, a producer of online content for global Muslim communities. He is the creator

of *altmuslim.com*, an online magazine with 2.5 million annual readers, and *zabiha.com*, an online Halal restaurant guide which enjoys an audience of 10 million annual users. Amanullah is also a Principal at Affinis Global, which organizes hackathons to solve global challenges, and is co-founder of Affinis Labs, an incubator for startups with positive social impact in Muslim communities.



Deborah Amos
UNITED STATES

Deborah Amos covers the Middle East for *NPR News*. Her reports can be heard on *NPR's* award-winning *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and *Weekend Edition*. Amos travels extensively across the Middle East covering a range of stories including the Syrian uprising, the rise of a market-driven economy in the Middle East, and the plight of the Arab world's youth bulge, a series focusing on the emerging power of Turkey, and the crisis of Iraqi refugees. In 2013, Amos won the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, and was honored by the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation for her coverage of the Syrian uprising. In 2010, Amos was awarded the Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award by Washington State University. In 2009, Amos won the Edward Weintal Prize for Diplomatic Reporting from Georgetown University. Amos was part of a team of reporters who won a 2004 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award for coverage of Iraq.



Omar Ashour
UNITED KINGDOM

Omar Ashour is a Senior Lecturer in Security Studies at the University of Exeter, and an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London. He is the author of *The De-Radicalization of Jihadists*, about the transitions from armed to unarmed activism by several Islamist

organizations. His most recent publications include a Brookings study entitled *Collusion to Collision: Islamist-Military Relations* and two United Nations studies on security sector reform and radicalization in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings. Ashour specializes in asymmetric armed conflict, Islamist movements, security and terrorism studies, and civil-military relations. He previously served as a consultant for the United Nations on security sector reform, counter-terrorism, and de-radicalization issues. He is a regular contributor to media outlets including the *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, *Sky News*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Independent*, and *The Guardian*. He earned his Ph.D. from McGill University, and his B.S. and M.A. from American University in Cairo.



Abdullah Baabood
QATAR

Abdullah Baabood is the Director of the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University. His research focuses on the Gulf States' economic, political, security, and social development and their external relations. He has participated in numerous international conferences, workshops, and seminars and has several publications to his credit. He is a member of a number of academic and research institutions, business organizations, and professional bodies and committees. Baabood has held several positions in business and academia, and his last post was as the Director of the Gulf Research Centre-Cambridge at the University of Cambridge. Baabood holds an M.B.A., an M.A. in International Relations, and a Ph.D. in International Political Economy from the University of Cambridge.



Suleiman Bakhit
JORDAN

Suleiman Bakhit is a Jordanian social entrepreneur, countering violent extremism (CVE) expert, best-selling comic book creator, and TED Global Fellow. He is the Founder of Hero-Factor, a social enterprise

dedicated to developing multimedia content to counter violent extremism narratives by developing a new generation of heroes for Middle Eastern youth. From 2009-2011, Bakhit published and sold more than 1.2 million comics reaching more than 3 million youth in Jordan. Bakhit has spoken at TED, the Oslo Freedom Forum, and the White House CVE summit.



Sultan Barakat
QATAR

Sultan Barakat is the Director of Research at the Brookings Doha Center. In addition, he is the Founding Director of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) at the University of York and a consultant for the United Nations, World Bank, European Union, the Dutch and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, United States Institute for Peace, Higher Education Funding Council for England, among many other organizations. Previously, he was the Director of PRDU-Foreign and Commonwealth Office Senior Chevening Fellows Program on Conflict Resolution. Barakat received his B.Sc. from the University of Jordan, Amman, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of York, United Kingdom.



Samir Barhoum
JORDAN

Samir Barhoum has been Chief Editor of *The Jordan Times* since 2007. He previously worked as editor and reporter at *The Jordan Times* and other publications. He serves on the board of directors of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, which broadcasts two television channels and several radio stations. Between 1999 and 2002, Barhoum served as Director of the Arab Media Institute, which provides training programs and workshops for local and Arab journalists. During this time he also served as Chief Editor of the Institute's monthly newspaper, *al-Mashraq al-'Ilami*, which focused on issues relevant to the media.



Benjamin Barthe
LEBANON

Benjamin Barthe is Middle East Correspondent for *Le Monde* newspaper, currently based in Beirut. He is an award-winning reporter with more than 15 years of experience in the Middle East. He was previously based in Ramallah and Cairo. In 2008, he received the prestigious Prix Albert-Londres in recognition for his work on the Gaza Strip.



Kenan Basha
UNITED STATES

Kenan Basha is a Principal at Rockbridge Growth Equity, LLC. Basha has board roles with several portfolio companies including Triad Retail Media, Gas Station TV, and Robb Report. He was formerly a principal at K.K.R. & Co, where he evaluated buyouts across the technology and healthcare sectors. He has worked closely with multiple portfolio companies, including SunGard Data Systems and TASC, a provider of systems engineering to the U.S. government. Prior to K.K.R., Basha worked at J.W. Childs Associates. Basha started his career in Morgan Stanley's Industrials Investment Banking group working on mergers and acquisitions and financing transactions. Basha earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan Business School.



Dwight Bashir
UNITED STATES

Dwight Bashir is Deputy Director for Policy and Research at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). He specializes in human rights and religious freedom in the Middle East and North Africa region, ethnic and sectarian conflict, religion and democracy, and preventive diplomacy. Bashir's work has been featured

in major media outlets, academic journals, and online blogs, including the *BBC*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Al Jazeera*, *Al-Monitor*, the *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, and *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, among others. Bashir has lectured globally on an array of foreign policy issues and has lived and traveled in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Before joining USCIRF, Bashir worked as a consultant with the United Nations and various NGOs focusing on human rights and conflict prevention.



Daniel Benjamin
UNITED STATES

Daniel Benjamin is the Norman E. McCulloch Jr. Director of the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College, and a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings. From 2009-2012, he served as Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U.S. State Department. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Benjamin was Director of the Center on the United States and Europe at Brookings. During more than five years on the National Security Council staff in the 1990s, Benjamin served as a speechwriter and special assistant to President Bill Clinton and as Director for Transnational Threats. He is the co-author of *The Age of Sacred Terror* (Random House, 2002), which was awarded the Arthur Ross Book Award from the Council on Foreign Relations, and was also a New York Times Notable Book.



J.M. Berger
UNITED STATES

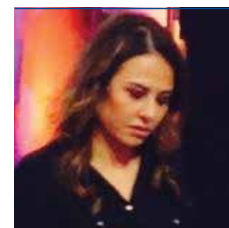
J.M. Berger is a Nonresident Fellow with the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World at Brookings. He is the author of *Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam* (Potomac Books, 2011)

and *ISIS: The State of Terror* (Ecco, 2015). An analyst and consultant studying extremism, he is also involved with developing analytical techniques to study political and extremist uses of social media. He is a regular contributor to *Foreign Policy* and the founder of *Intelwire*, a website publishing investigative journalism, analysis, and primary source documents on terrorism and international security.



Alejandro J. Beutel
UNITED STATES

Alejandro J. Beutel is an independent consultant and a researcher for Countering Violent Extremism at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) center at the University of Maryland. He is the author of *Safe Spaces Initiative: Tools for Developing Healthy Communities*, a toolkit for communities to respond to the challenge of violent extremism published by the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC). In 2014 he was a Policy and Research Engagement Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), a Dearborn- and D.C.-based think tank specializing in research and recommendations for American Muslim communities. He also served as co-author and Project Manager of ISPU's *Islamophobia: A Threat to All* study, a research initiative that empirically analyzed anti-Muslim bigotry in America and provided solutions to effectively combat it. From 2009 to 2012, he was the Government and Policy Analyst at the Washington, D.C. office of MPAC where he built strategic relationships with government agencies and authored several policy and issue publications in areas such as national security, immigration reform, and religious liberty.



Nadia Bilbassy-Charters
UNITED STATES

Nadia Bilbassy-Charters is a Senior Correspondent for Al Arabiya News Channel in

the United States. She has been working as a foreign correspondent for over 20 years. She was the first Arab female journalist to be based in Nairobi, Kenya, for a major Arabic television station (1996-2003). Her reporting from conflict zones in southern Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia, Congo, and Eritrea has distinguished her work as original, fair, and informative. She was embedded with the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion and the 1st Marine Division during the war in Iraq. Since 2003, she has been based in Washington, D.C., for both Al Arabiya and MBC TV, where she reports on U.S. foreign policy toward the Arab world. She covered three presidential elections, and reported from Guantanamo Bay on the 9/11 suspects. She has interviewed numerous presidents and prime ministers including President George Bush, Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Mahmoud Abbas, President Yasser Arafat, and many others. Bilbassy-Charters started her career in Gaza during the first Intifada in 1987, as reporter for Agence France-Press. She holds a master's degree in Journalism from City University London.



Ian Black
UNITED KINGDOM

Ian Black has been the Middle East Editor of *The Guardian* since 2007. He previously served as the newspaper's diplomatic editor and European editor. He writes the blog *On the Middle East with Ian Black* on *The Guardian's* website, where he writes on Middle East politics, literature, arts, and culture. Black was educated at Cambridge University, and the London School of Economics.



Nicholas Blanford
LEBANON

Nicholas Blanford is the Beirut Correspondent for *The Christian Science Monitor*, and a Defense and Security Analyst for IHS Jane's Information Group, a British company specializing in military and

open-source intelligence. He is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Middle East Peace and Security Initiative of the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security at The Atlantic Council. Blanford is the author of *Warriors of God: Inside Hezbollah's Thirty-Year Struggle Against Israel* (Random House, 2011) and *Killing Mr. Lebanon: The Assassination of Rafik Hariri and its Impact on the Middle East* (IB Tauris, 2006).



Kamran Bokhari
CANADA

Kamran Bokhari is an Advisor in Middle Eastern and South Asian Affairs with the geopolitical intelligence firm Stratfor. He is concurrently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Westminster in London, where he is working on his thesis titled *Moderation Among Salafists and Jihadists*. His areas of expertise include the geopolitics of the Muslim world, jihadism, Islamism, democratization, counterterrorism and de-radicalization, and countering violent extremism. Together with Farid Senzai, Bokhari is the co-author of *Political Islam in the Age of Democratization* (2013). Bokhari has briefed the U.S., Canadian, and British governments, and is a senior consultant with the World Bank.



Zied Boumakhla
TUNISIA

Zied Boumakhla is a Member of the Ennahda Movement's Executive Office, where he focuses on education and youth. He is also a member of Ennahda's High Authority for Elections, where he provides political and media guidance. A human rights activist, Boumakhla is a founding member of the World Organization of Students Without Borders, and a member of the Executive Office of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations. In 2011, he represented Tunisia at the annual Al Jazeera Forum, and served as president of

a delegation of students from El Manar University in the Qatar Debate in 2013. Boumakhla earned his bachelor's and master's degree in Biotechnology from the University of Tunis El Manar.



Steven Brooke
UNITED STATES

Steven Brooke is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin. Starting in Fall 2015, he will serve as a Research Fellow at the Middle East Initiative at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and in 2016, he will join the University of Louisville's Department of Political Science. Brooke's dissertation uses spatial, qualitative, and experimental data to examine Egyptian non-state groups' distribution of social services. His dissertation research has been supported by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the Smith Richardson Foundation, the Project on Middle East Political Science, and the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.



Rex Brynen
CANADA

Rex Brynen is a Professor of Political Science at McGill University, specializing in domestic politics and regional security in the Middle East, conflict resolution, and political-military wargaming. He is the author, coauthor, or editor of 11 books on the Middle East, including *The Palestinian Refugee Problem: The Search for Resolution*, co-edited with Roula el-Rifai (2013), and *Beyond the Arab Spring: Authoritarianism and Democratization in the Arab World*, co-authored with Pete Moore, Bassel Salloukh, and Marie-Joelle Zahar (2012). In addition to his academic work, Brynen has served as an intelligence analyst and policy advisor to the government of Canada, and as a consultant to the World Bank, United Nations agencies, and others.



Ahmet Büyükgümüş
TURKEY

Ahmet Büyükgümüş is a member of the European Union Policies Institute and the Halil Inalcik Ottoman Research Institute. He has served on the Youth Branch Executive Body of Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) since 2011. He graduated from the Department of Political Science at Galatasaray University in 2014, and is currently earning an M.A. in Sociology from Istanbul University.



Gail Chalef
UNITED STATES

Gail Chalef is the Director of Communications for Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution. Chalef joined Brookings in 2007 after a 17-year career with *CNN* and *CNN International*. During her years at *CNN*, Chalef was centrally involved in coverage of the major news events of the past two decades: the first Gulf War, the Bosnian War, the election of Nelson Mandela, the first Russian presidential election, the 9/11 attacks, and the death of Pope John Paul, to name a few. Chalef received an Emmy Award for *CNN's* 9/11 coverage, a Peabody Award for *CNN's* Hurricane Katrina coverage, and an Emmy nomination for Christiane Amanpour's interview with Palestinian President Yasir Arafat. In 1987 and 1993 respectively, Chalef received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the RIAS Berlin Commission.



Farhad Chowdhury
UNITED STATES

Farhad Chowdhury is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Fifth Tribe, a marketing technology firm based in Washington, D.C. Fifth Tribe provides products and services for both public and private sector clients, including the U.S. Department of

Defense, the U.S. Air Force, Ernst and Young, Aetna Innovation Health, Kaiser Permanente, Oxford America, and the U.S. Peace Corps. In 2011, Chowdhury participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, during which he traveled across the United Kingdom and led a number of forums on entrepreneurship. Chowdhury has also consulted with the White House on public-private partnerships and the use of online technologies to promote positive narratives for disenfranchised youth.



Maura Conway
IRELAND

Maura Conway is Associate Professor of International Security in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University in Ireland, and Principal Investigator on VOX-Pol, a five-year project on violent online political extremism funded by the European Union. Conway's principal research interests lie in the functioning and effectiveness of violent political extremist online content and violent online radicalization. She is the author of over 40 publications on her area of specialty, and her research has appeared in outlets including *Current History*, *Media, War & Conflict*, *Parliamentary Affairs*, and *Social Science Computer Review*. She has presented her findings at the United Nations in New York, the Commission of the European Union in Brussels, and elsewhere. Conway earned her B.A. in Legal Science, Sociology, and Politics from the National University of Ireland Galway, her M.A. in International Relations from the University of Limerick, and her Ph.D. in Political Science from Trinity College in Dublin.



Vian Dakhil
IRAQ

Vian Dakhil is a member of the Iraqi parliament. Dakhil, a member of the

Democratic Party of Kurdistan, is Iraq's only Kurdish Yazidi MP. From 2010-2014, she was a member of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, where she represented the Kurdistan Alliance. In August 2014, Dakhil gained international recognition after delivering a speech in the Iraqi parliament calling for assistance to Yazidi populations besieged by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Sinjar region of Iraq. She has continued to speak out for the rights and welfare of Yazidi women who have been victimized by ISIS. Dakhil holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Microbiology from Salahuddin University.



Amr Darrag
EGYPT

Amr Darrag is the Head of the Political Bureau of the Egyptian Revolutionary Council, and Head of the Political Bureau for the Muslim Brotherhood. He is concurrently a member of the Higher Commission and Executive Board of the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP). He previously served as Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and as Chairman of the FJP Foreign Relations Committee. Darrag has also held positions in academia: he was a professor of Civil Engineering at Cairo University from 1988-2014 and served as Chairman of the Cairo University Professor's Association from 1999-2008. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Cairo University, and a Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering from Purdue University.



Guido De Sanctis
ITALY

Guido De Sanctis is the Head of Mission at the Italian Embassy in Doha. He joined the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991, and initially served in the Ministry's Communication Center. He served as Second Secretary to the Embassy of Italy in Kiev, Ukraine, from 1992-1996, and as First Secretary

to the Embassy of Italy in Bern, Switzerland, from 1996-2000. In 2001, he was appointed Counsellor in the Directorate General for European Countries of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and subsequently served as Counsellor to the Embassy of Italy in Tripoli, Libya, from 2002-2006. He also served as Consul General in Benghazi, Libya, after a time as the Head of the Visa Center of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. De Sanctis graduated with a degree in Political Science from Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli in Rome.



Aimen Dean
UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

Aimen Dean is the Founder and Managing Director of Five Dimensions Consultants, a security risk, due diligence, and business intelligence firm that harnesses expertise in language, history, religion, economics, and politics to understand the complexities of the Middle East. An expert on jihadist movements and radical Islam, Dean gained a unique perspective on the rise of the jihadist movements having witnessed conflicts in Bosnia, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and the southern Philippines. Dean has also studied the rise of al-Qaeda after its return from Sudan to Afghanistan, and the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Dean has advised governments on counter-terrorism and counter-radicalization, particularly regarding al-Qaeda and the impact the network has on global security. He is the author of *Holy Money*, a study of the global terrorist financing system.



Elizabeth Dickinson
UNITED STATES

Elizabeth Dickinson is a journalist with the online news website *Deca*, currently based in the Arabian Peninsula. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Economist*, *Politico*, *The*

Wall Street Journal, and *The Financial Times*, among others. She is the author of the forthcoming Kindle Single *Godfathers and Thieves*, documenting Syrian diaspora support to the Syrian uprising, and *Who Shot Ahmed*, a true life murder mystery about a 22-year-old shot during Bahrain's Arab Spring. Previously, she was a Gulf correspondent for *The National* newspaper, an assistant managing editor at *Foreign Policy* magazine, and Nigeria correspondent for *The Economist*.



Michael Doran
UNITED STATES

Michael Doran is a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in Middle East security issues. Previously, he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2007-2008 and Senior Director at the National Security Council from 2005-2007. He has taught at New York University, Princeton University, and the University of Central Florida. Doran holds a B.A. from Stanford University and earned his Ph.D. and M.A. from Princeton University.



Abdirashid Duale
SOMALIA

Abdirashid Duale is Chief Executive Officer of Dahabshiil Group, an Africa-based international funds transfer company that has been featured in local and international media, including *The Financial Times*, *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and *The Guardian*. Duale serves on various advisory boards including at the Humanitarian Innovation Project (HIP), a research project based at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, and the International Association of Money Transfer Networks (IAMTN).



Khadra A. Dualeh
SOMALIA

Khadra A. Dualeh is the Director-General in the Directorate of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in the Federal Government of Somalia. She previously served as Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior. Before joining the Somali government, Dualeh was Director of Professional Development at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. She previously worked at a senior level at the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Scholarship Fund, and with Peggy Dulany at the Synergos Institute in New York, where she honed her interest in international development and program management. Her international experience includes freelance consulting at the African Union, and literacy programs aiming to empower women in Saudi Arabia. Dualeh has also worked with the Fund for Peace in Washington, D.C., where she developed programs for immigrant and refugee communities to resettle and forge strong community ties in the United States. She also served in the Education Division of UNICEF in New York City as part of her graduate coursework at New York University.



Khaled Elgindy
UNITED STATES

Khaled Elgindy is a Fellow with the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He is a founding board member of the Egyptian American Rule of Law Association. He previously served as an advisor to the Palestinian leadership in Ramallah on permanent status negotiations with Israel from 2004-2009, and was a key participant in the Annapolis negotiations held throughout 2008. Prior to that, Elgindy spent nine years in various political and policy-related positions in Washington, D.C., both inside and outside the federal government, including as a professional staff member on the House Inter-

national Relations Committee in 2002 and as a policy analyst for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom from 2000-2002. He served as the Political Action Coordinator for the Arab American Institute from 1998-2000 and as Middle East Program Officer for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs from 1995-1997. Elgindy holds an M.A. in Arab Studies from Georgetown University and a B.A. in Political Science from Indiana University.



Ilwad Elman
SOMALIA

Ilwad Elman is the Director of Programs and Development at Elman Peace and

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Asha Elmi
SOMALIA

Asha Elmi is a Somali politician and activist for peace and women's rights.

She is a member of the Somali National Parliament, and Founder and Chairwoman of Save Somali Women and Children, a non-governmental humanitarian organization. Elmi has championed for the advancement of Somali women's rights and inclusion in a traditionally patriarchal society. She has advocated for the inclusion of women in the Somali peace process, which has traditionally been the realm of male clan elders. At a reconciliation conference in 2000, she created the "Sixth Clan," or the "women's clan," an innovative initiative to bring women's voices and influence into the Somali political sphere. Elmi's activism has been internationally recognized, and she has received numerous awards for her efforts, including the Right Livelihood Award and the Clinton Global Citizen Award. Elmi holds a master's degree from the U.S. International University.



Mustafa Elnemr
EGYPT

Mustafa Elnemr is a research assistant at the Egyptian Institute for Political and Strategic Studies,

where he has worked since 2008. A political activist, Elnemr is a member of the Youth Committee of the Freedom and Justice Party. He previously led a working group dedicated to promoting civil engagement of students. Alnemr graduated with a degree in Dentistry in 2013.



Mohamed Elsanousi
UNITED STATES

Mohamed Elsanousi is the Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, a global network initiated by the United Nations Mediation Support Unit, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Religions for Peace, and Finn Church Aid. Most recently, Elsanousi served as the Director of Community Outreach and Inter-

religious and Government Relations for the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) for 12 years. In that role, he was responsible for ISNA's long-term strategic planning related to interfaith and U.S. federal government relations. Elsanousi is the Vice President of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, Founding Co-chair of Shoulder to Shoulder, and serves on the board of directors and advisors for a number of other interfaith organizations, including the Religion Communicators Council, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and the Parliament of World Religions Taskforce. He served on the Taskforce on Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group under Secretary Clinton and Secretary Kerry. Elsanousi holds a bachelor's degree in Sharia and Law from the International Islamic University in Islamabad, a master's in Law from Indiana University, a graduate diploma in Philanthropic Studies from the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, and a Ph.D. in Law and Society from the Indiana University School of Law.



Salah Eddin Elzein Mohamed
SUDAN

Salah Eddin Elzein Mohamed is the Director of Al Jazeera Center for Studies, a

think tank belonging to the Al Jazeera Media Network which focuses on the geopolitics of the Middle East and its surrounding regions. His research interests lie in citizenship and citizen rights and participation, particularly of disadvantaged sectors of society. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he taught and worked as a researcher.



Ignacio Escobar
SPAIN

Ignacio Escobar is the Ambassador of Spain to Qatar. He joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1992 as a

career diplomat and has served in Kuwait, Panama, Morocco, The Hague, and Finland. At the Spanish

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he served as Head of Political Affairs in the Office of the Undersecretary and Head of the International Trade and Financial Organizations at the General Directorate for International Economic Relations. In addition to this, he has served as Director of the Unit for Multilateral Fisheries Organizations at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Previous to his appointment as Ambassador of Spain to Qatar, he served as Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture. He graduated from Law School at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in 1987, and holds a master's in Financial Markets from the Universidad San Pablo CEU of Madrid.



Anwar Eshki
SAUDI ARABIA

Anwar Eshki is the Founder and Chairman of the Middle East Institute for Strategic and Legal Studies

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Manal Fakhoury
UNITED STATES

Manal Fakhoury is President and Chief Executive Officer of Fakhoury Leadership International. With over 30 years of non-profit and leadership experience, she serves on many community and national boards.

She formerly served as Chairwoman of the Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce. Her current civic engagement includes positions with numerous organizations including the YMCA Executive Board, Toastmasters, Rotary, Islamic Network Group (ING), and the Arab American Community Center (AACC). In addition, Fakhoury is a consultant pharmacist, inspirational speaker, coach, trainer, and mentor. Fakhoury earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California, and an M.B.A. from Webster University.



Riadh Fakhoury
UNITED STATES

Riadh Fakhoury is the Investment Manager of Vestech Partners LLC and founder of the Fakhoury Medical and Chiropractic Center. He also serves as the President of the Islamic Center of North Central Florida. Fakhoury pursued undergraduate studies in Biomedical Engineering and is a board certified Doctor of Chiropractic Orthopedics.



Ammar Fayed
EGYPT

Ammar Fayed is an Egyptian researcher focusing on religious society, Islamist movements, and Middle East affairs, particularly on the Arab Gulf. Previously, he worked as a researcher with the organization IkhwanWeb for Research and Media, and served in the administration of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. He contributed to the book *The Salafi Phenomenon in the Arab World: Organizational Pluralism and Policies* (Al Jazeera Center for Studies). Fayed has also published a number of research papers, including *U.S. Aid to Egypt from Camp David to the January Revolution* (2012) and *The Problematic Relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood and its Political Parties* (2012). His latest book, *The Role of the Saudi Religious Establishment in the Kingdom's Political System*, will be released later this year.



Alberto M. Fernandez
UNITED STATES

Alberto M. Fernandez retired from 35 years of U.S. government service in May 2015 as a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. He previously served as Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassies in Khartoum, Sudan, and Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and was Coordinator at the Center for Strategic Counter-Terrorism Communications (CSCC) from 2012 to 2015. He served in senior public diplomacy positions in Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, and Kuwait. Fernandez is the recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy, a Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the Linguist of the Year Award, and the Superior Honor Award for his work in Afghanistan. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona and the Defense Language Institute.



Courtney Freer
UNITED KINGDOM

Courtney Freer is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford in the Department of Politics. Her research is focused on revising rentier state theory by examining the socio-political role played by Muslim Brotherhood affiliates in Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Prior to starting her Ph.D., Freer was a Research Assistant at the Brookings Doha Center. She holds an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University.



Ross Frenett
UNITED KINGDOM

Ross Frenett is the Director of the Against Violent Extremism (AVE) Net-

work, a global network of former extremists and survivors of violent extremism at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD). Frenett has interviewed hundreds of current and former members of extremist groups, and his research has taken him from maximum security prisons in Ireland to Hezbollah-controlled southern Beirut. He is a regular media commentator on issues of extremism, and serves as a board member of the Terrorism and Political Violence Association and the Los Angeles Gang Conference. Prior to joining ISD, Frenett was a Consultant in Deloitte's Technology Integration practice, where his work focused primarily on sanctions compliance investigations into major financial institutions. He holds a master's degree in Terrorism Security and Society from King's College in London, and spent seven years in the Irish Military.



F. Gregory Gause, III
UNITED STATES

F. Gregory Gause, III, is the John H. Lindsey '44 Chair, Professor of International Affairs, and Head of the International Affairs Department at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. He also serves as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Doha Center. Gause is the author of three books and numerous articles on the politics of the Middle East, with a particular focus on the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf. He previously served on the faculties of the University of Vermont and Columbia University, and was a Fellow for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Gause holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University.



Abdullahi Godah Barre
SOMALIA

Abdullahi Godah Barre is a member of the Federal Parliament of Somalia. He

previously served as Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Minister of Interior and Federal Affairs. Prior to joining the Somali government, Godah Barre worked for 30 years in development in Africa, Europe, and North America. During this time, he consulted on rural, economic, and agricultural development projects for various UN and government agencies. He earned a B.S. in Agricultural Science from Somali National University, an M.S. in Agribusiness Economics from Southern Illinois University, and a graduate diploma from the Institute of International Development and Co-operation at the University of Ottawa.



Ufuk Gokcen
TURKEY

Ufuk Gokcen has been the Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations since April 2010. He served as Political Adviser to the OIC Secretary General from 2005 to 2010. Prior to that, he was based at the Turkish Embassies in Riyadh, Muscat, and Damascus, and in the Middle East Department of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the OIC General Secretariat, Gokcen was involved in initiatives to promote engagement with international partners in the fields of peace-building, socioeconomic development, human rights, good governance, and interfaith dialogue. Through his op-eds and engagement with the civil society, he aims at contributing to efforts for promoting freedom of religion, freedom of speech, tolerance, and respect, as well as the role of youth and women through supporting initiatives such as Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and Reconciliation and Coexistence Support Initiative.



H.P. Goldfield
UNITED STATES

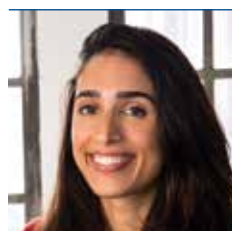
H.P. Goldfield is Vice Chair of the Albright Stonebridge Group. Goldfield also serves

as Senior International Advisor to Hogan Lovells U.S. LLP, a global law firm based in Washington, D.C., and London. Goldfield previously served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade Development and as Associate Counsel to President Reagan. He was also appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Cooperation (OPIC). He is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Middle East Institute and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Goldfield graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and holds a master's degree in Urban Studies from Occidental College and a B.A. cum laude in Asian Studies from Connecticut College.



Philip Gordon
UNITED STATES

Philip Gordon is a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. From 2013-2015, he served as Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region, where his responsibilities included the Iran nuclear negotiations and U.S. relations with the Gulf States, among many other issues. From 2009-2013, he was Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs. He has previously served as a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Gordon is the author of numerous books and articles on the Middle East and international security and writes regularly for major newspapers and magazines.



Yasmin Green
UNITED STATES

Yasmin Green is the Head of Strategy and Operations for Google Ideas, where she also oversees work on counter-radicalization and fragile states. She is a Senior Advisor on Innovation to Oxford Analytica, and Co-chair of the European Commission's Working Group on Online Radicalization. At Google, she previously

held roles in sales strategy and operations for southern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Prior to joining Google, she consulted for Booz Allen Hamilton across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Green holds extensive experience leading and managing projects in challenging environments. She has spent time in Iran, Syria, and Nigeria, where she worked cross-functionally in sectors ranging from oil and gas to the Internet. She also led a multi-partner coalition to launch Against Violent Extremism, the world's first online network of former violent extremists and survivors of terrorism.



Nasser Hadian
IRAN

Nasser Hadian is Professor of Political Sciences at the University of Tehran, where he previously served as Director of Graduate Studies. Prior to this, he was Director of the Political Development Program at the Center for Strategic Research and a Visiting Professor and Research Scholar at the Middle East Institute and the Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures Department at Columbia University. His research interests lie in Iranian contemporary politics, Iran's nuclear program, and political Islam. He recently authored several articles on the nuclear debate in Iran for *The Political Quarterly*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, and the *Research Letter of Political Science*. Hadian holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Ahmed Hadji
UGANDA

Ahmed Hadji is the Co-founder of Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF). Hadji, a youth and peace activist, is involved in numerous initiatives to fight violent extremism and youth radicalization. His activism began during his undergraduate years at Makerere University, where he contributed to the establishment of Muslim student associations and developed extensive peace and leadership training pro-

grams throughout Uganda. He co-founded UMYDF after experiencing a terrorist attack perpetrated by al-Shabaab in July 2010. His work with youth in part focuses on understanding the causal factors and impact of violent extremism in East Africa, in order to develop best practices for addressing extremism in the region. He has also worked with youth in capacity building for skills and social development. Hadji earned his bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University, and holds an advanced certificate in Conflict Analysis from the United States Institute of Peace.



Shadi Hamid
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Shadi Hamid is a Fellow in the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy. An expert on Islamist movements, he served as Director of Research at the Brookings Doha Center until January 2014. Prior to joining Brookings, Hamid was Director of Research at the Project on Middle East Democracy and a Hewlett Fellow at Stanford University. Hamid is currently Vice Chair of the Project on Middle East Democracy and a contributing writer to *The Atlantic*. He is the author of *Temptations of Power: Islamists and Illiberal Democracy in a New Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2014), which was named a Foreign Affairs Best Book for 2014. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New Republic*, *The National Interest* and many other publications. Hamid received his B.S. and M.A. from Georgetown University, and his Ph.D. in Political Science from Oxford University.



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Alexander Henley
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Alexander Henley is a Joint Fellow at the Brookings Doha Center and Qatar University. His research focuses on themes of religion, politics, and conflict in Lebanon. He is currently working on a book project entitled *Religion and State in Lebanon: Religious Leadership, Sectarianism, and Civil War*. Henley has taught at Harvard University, and holds postdoctoral research positions at Harvard and Georgetown Universities. He holds degrees in Religion and Middle Eastern studies from the University of Durham. Henley received his doctorate from the University of Manchester, completing a dissertation that explored the power structures of religious leadership in modern Lebanon and compared the roles of official religious leaders in contesting sectarian identity production.



Nicholas Hopton
UNITED KINGDOM

Nicholas Hopton is the British Ambassador to Qatar, a post he has held since July

2013. Hopton is a career diplomat who joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1989. Before his appointment in Doha, he served as Ambassador to Yemen. He has worked on national security issues in the Cabinet Office and led the International Organizations Department in the FCO. Hopton holds European policy experience from postings in Paris and Rome as well as his time as Private Secretary to the Minister for Europe. He was educated at Cambridge University and La Sapienza University in Rome.



Lise Morjé Howard
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Lise Morjé Howard is an Associate Professor of Government at Georgetown University. She was the Founding Director of Georgetown's Master of Arts Program in Conflict Resolution, and previously served as a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, an Assistant Professor of Government at Wesleyan University, and Acting Director of UN Affairs for the New York City Commission for the United Nations. She has held pre- and post-doctoral fellowships at Stanford, Harvard, and the University of Maryland. Her book, *UN Peacekeeping in Civil Wars* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), won the Best Book Award from the Academic Council on the United Nations System. Her current work focuses on U.S. foreign policy in ethnic conflict, the use of force in UN peacekeeping, and norms of civil war termination. Howard received her A.B. in Soviet Studies from Barnard College/Columbia University, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Ben Hubbard
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Ben Hubbard is a Middle East correspondent for *The New York Times*. Based in Beirut, he has written about the Syrian civil war, the Islamic State, and Gulf affairs. Hubbard earned a B.A. in History from

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Hussein Ibish
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Hussein Ibish is a Senior Resident Scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington in Washington, D.C. He is a weekly columnist for *The National* and *Now Media*, and a monthly contributing writer for the *International New York Times*. Ibish is also a regular contributor to many other American and Middle Eastern publications, and has made numerous radio and television appearances. Previously, he was a Washington, D.C. correspondent for the Lebanese newspaper *The Daily Star*. Ibish holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Omar Iharchane
MOROCCO

Omar Iharchane is Professor of Public Law and Political Science at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, Morocco, and a member of the General Secretariat of the political department of the Justice and Charity Movement, an Islamic social movement in Morocco. He is concurrently Director of the Moroccan Center for Research and Policy Analysis. Previously, he served as Youth General Secretary of the Justice and Charity Movement. Since 2009, he has coordinated *Morocco in a Year*, a collaborative annual report on the state of Morocco. He earned his doctorate from Université Hassan II Aïn Chock de Casablanca.



Ali Issa
UNITED STATES

Ali Issa is the President of Café a la Fikr, a social and educational non-profit

organization that supports leadership development of the Muslim community through initiating social discourse that is both appropriate to a contemporary context and anchored in Islamic paradigms. Issa often presents on various topics related to leadership principles from an Islamic perspective, including creating a culture of accountability, the five dysfunctions of a team, and servant leadership.



Lou Anne King Jensen
UNITED STATES

Lou Anne King Jensen is the Founder and President of the Chrest Foundation. The Foundation supports civil society organizations in Turkey that concentrate on increasing gender equality and fostering communication and dialogue through various approaches. She is a licensed master social worker recognized for independent non-clinical practice. Jensen serves on the Board of Directors of the College First Foundation, and is a member of the Global Leadership Council at the Brookings Institution. She also holds equity interests and board positions in several private companies. Jensen earned a B.A. in English and an M.S. in Social Work, both from the University of Texas at Arlington.



Muna Jondy
UNITED STATES

Muna Jondy is a Muslim American attorney specializing in immigration. She serves as the Government Relations Chair for United for a Free Syria (UFS), a nonprofit organization that works to promote democracy in Syria, and as a cooperating attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union. She previously served as president of UFS. Jondy earned a B.A. in History from the University of Michigan, a J.D. from the University of Manitoba, and an LL.M. from the Michigan State University College of Law.



Calvert W. Jones
UNITED STATES

Calvert W. Jones is Assistant Professor at the City University of New York—City College. Her research focuses on state-initiated social engineering and the making of citizens, with a regional emphasis on the Arab world. She is currently completing a book on the origins and outcomes of pro-globalization social engineering in the United Arab Emirates, titled *Bedouins into Bourgeois: Remaking Citizens for a Global Market Era*. Her work has also appeared in *Perspectives on Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *International Security*. Jones holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University, a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, a master of philosophy from Cambridge University, and a doctorate from Yale University.



Ossama Jureyda
UNITED STATES

Ossama Jureyda is a member of the Islamic Society of New Tampa, Florida (ISONET), where he supports ISONET's efforts to affirm and promote the positive role of American Muslims in American society. He is concurrently an orthodontist in private practice in the Tampa Bay area. Previously, Jureyda served as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Orthodontics in the School of Dental Medicine at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.



David Kenner
UNITED STATES

David Kenner is the Middle East Editor for *Foreign Policy* magazine. Based in Beirut, Lebanon, he has reported widely around the Arab world on issues including the Syrian conflict, the Iranian nuclear deal, and the Islamic State. He was ed-

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Amil Khan
UNITED KINGDOM

Amil Khan is a Political Advisor specializing in the Muslim world. He has worked with the British government and organizations across the Muslim world on promoting political development and countering extremism. Previously, Khan was a correspondent for *Reuters* and an investigative journalist with the *BBC*. Khan has written extensively on community engagement, extremism, and political mobilization, and his work has appeared in outlets including *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The National*.



Humera Khan
UNITED STATES

Humera Khan is the Executive Director of Muflehun, a think tank specializing in preventing radicalization and countering violent extremism. Khan designs and implements CVE-specific and CVE-relevant programs for prevention, intervention, and interdiction of violent extremism, with a focus on countering extremist ideology. She contributes in an advisory capacity to governments and law enforcement agencies in several countries. She is the Chair of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, and a member of the Atlantic Council Middle East Strategy Taskforce. In 2012, she received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for her work. Khan holds four degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: an M.S. in Technology and Policy, an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering, a B.S. in Art and Design, and a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering. She also earned an M.A. in Islamic Studies from the School of Islamic and Social Sciences, an affiliate seminary of the Washington Theological Consortium.



Daniel Kimmage
UNITED STATES

Daniel Kimmage is the Deputy Coordinator of the U.S. Department of State's Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC). Previously, Kimmage was a regional analyst at *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* and Senior Fellow at the Homeland Security Policy Institute. His published reports on extremist media strategies include *Iraqi Insurgent Media: The War of Images and Ideas* (2007), *The Al-Qaeda Media Nexus* (2008), and *Al-Qaeda Central and the Internet* (2010). He received his B.A. at the State University of New York at Binghamton, and his M.A. from Cornell University.



Katayoun Kishi
UNITED STATES

Katayoun Kishi is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is currently working on her dissertation titled *The Role of Importer Leverage in Food Security*, which examines the ability of states to use political tools to ensure food security through trade, particularly among Middle Eastern states. She also works as Shibley Telhami's research assistant, researching public opinion in the United States and Arab countries. Together with Telhami, she has co-authored analyses of U.S. public opinion toward ISIS and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in *The Washington Post* blog *The Monkey Cage*, as well as Brookings' *Lawfare* blog.



Prem Kumar
UNITED STATES

Prem Kumar is Vice President in the Middle East practice at Albright Stone-

bridge Group (ASG). Before joining ASG in January 2015, he was Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa on the National Security Council staff at the White House, where he was one of the President Obama's top advisers on the region for nearly six years. Earlier in his career, he was a visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. diplomat focusing on Middle East issues in Jerusalem, at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. Before joining the government, Kumar was an investment banker with Morgan Stanley. He was educated at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the London School of Economics.



Mehrezia Labidi-Maïza
TUNISIA

Mehrezia Labidi-Maïza is a member of the Tunisian parliament with the Ennahda Party. Since 2006, she has also served as Co-president of Religions for Peace, the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's largest religions, dedicated to promoting peace. Previously, Labidi-Maïza served as the Coordinator for the Global Women of Faith Network, a woman's mobilization program established in 1998 to advance the role of religious women in international development, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction. She is the author of the book *Abraham, Wake Up. They are Going Crazy* with Laurent Klein (2004). Labidi-Maïza graduated from the translation and interpretation program at L'Ecole Normale Supérieure of Sousse, and earned a master's degree in English Literature and Drama.



Mokhtar Lamani
MOROCCO

Mokhtar Lamani was the Director of the United Nations Special Representative in Damascus from 2012 to 2014. Lamani's career in international diplomacy has included a number of positions with the Gener-

al Secretariat of the League of Arab States, including Deputy Permanent Observer to the United Nations, Officer in Charge of Iraq-Kuwait dispute, Coordinator of Secretariat Reform, and Coordinator of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and Afro-Arab Cooperation. Prior to his post in Damascus, Lamani was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Previously, he served as Ambassador Special Representative of the Arab League in Iraq, appointed by the Council of Arab Heads of States in March 2006, and also served as Ambassador of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations from 1998-2004.



Bernardino León
SPAIN

Bernardino León is the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. León joined the Spanish diplomatic service in 1989, and his career has mostly focused on the Arab world. Previously, he served as Personal Adviser to the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, the Special Representative of the European Union for the Southern Mediterranean, and as the EU Special Representative for Libya. Prior to this, León held several positions with the Spanish government, including Secretary-General at the Spanish Prime Minister's Office, and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. He served as Sherpa for the G20 in 2009. León has also supported several mediation processes. He has published extensively on the Arab world and its relationship with the West, and has lectured on these issues in several universities.



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Charles Lister is a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Doha Center. His research focuses on terrorism, insurgency, and sub-state security threats across the Middle East, with a particular focus on the Levant. Recently, his work has been almost exclusively focused on assessing the status of the conflict in Syria, especially the makeup of the anti-government insurgency and its various jihadi components. This has included a significant program of face-to-face engagement with the leadership of over 100 armed opposition groups from across the entire Syrian spectrum. He was formerly Head of MENA at the London-based IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre, where he focused on analyzing sub-state security threats in the Middle East. His recently-authored Brookings Doha Center Analysis Paper is now available as a book, titled *Profiling the Islamic State* (Brookings Institution Press, 2014). He is also the author of the forthcoming book *The Syrian Jihad: Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and the Evolution of an Insurgency* (Hurst & Oxford University Press).



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Peter Mandaville is a Senior Advisor in the Secretary of State's Office of Religion and Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. He is on leave from George Mason University, where he is a Professor of International Relations in the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs and Director of the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies. He has held nonresident senior fellowships at the Brookings Institution and the Pew Research Center, and was previously a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, as well as an adjunct senior scholar at the RAND Corporation. He is the author of several books including *Islam & Politics* (2014) and *Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma* (2001).



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Robert McKenzie is an expert on North Africa and the Middle East, with 15 years of applied research and work experience for the U.S. government, private sector, and academia. In his most recent government position, McKenzie served as the U.S. Department of State's Senior Advisor for Countering Violent Extremism, where he developed global initiatives for education and youth engagement, gender equality, and sports and cultural diplomacy. McKenzie also established the Hedayah Center in Abu Dhabi, the world's first-ever international center on countering violent extremism. McKenzie has been an adjunct lecturer at Wayne State University in Detroit, a researcher at the American University in Cairo, and a visiting scholar at the University of Oxford. He earned a B.A. in Economics from Michigan State University, an M.A. in Security Studies and Graduate Certificate in Arab Studies from Georgetown University, and he will receive his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of London.



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Peter Neumann
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Peter Neumann is a Professor of Security Studies at the Department of War Studies at King's College London, and the Founder and Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR). Neumann's research focuses on online radicalization, foreign fighter networks, deradicalization programs in prisons, and terrorist recruitment. He has authored numerous policy reports and publications on terrorism, and serves on the editorial boards of *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, and *Democracy and Security*. Prior to his career in academia, he worked in broadcast journalism in Germany. Neumann earned an M.A. in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin, and a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College London.



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Saida Ounissi is a member of the Tunisian Parliament, and serves as member of the Finance Committee. She has the distinction of being the youngest female to be appointed the head of an electoral list in Tunisia, and has been recognized by international news media for her work to promote women's participation in Tunisian government. Largely educated in Europe, she has actively worked to promote wider recognition of the contribution of young Muslims and Arabs in European societies through a partnership with Euro-Med. Ounissi holds a master's degree from the Institute of Economic and Social Development Studies at the Sorbonne in Paris.



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Mossarat Qadeem is an advocate for peace-building, electoral reform, de-radical-

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Oubai Shahbandar
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About the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World

The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World is a research initiative housed in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. The Project’s mission is to engage and inform policymakers, practitioners, and the broader public on the changing dynamics in Muslim-majority countries and to advance relations between Americans and Muslim societies around the world.

To fulfill this mission, the Project sponsors a range of activities, research projects, and publications designed to educate, encourage frank dialogue, and build positive partnerships between the United States and Muslim communities all over the world. The broader goals of the Project include:

- Exploring the multi-faceted nature of the United States’ relationship with Muslim-majority states, including issues related to mutual misperceptions;
- Analyzing the social, economic, and political dynamics underway in Muslim societies;
- Identifying areas for shared endeavors between the United States and Muslim communities around the world on issues of common concern.

To achieve these goals, the Project has several interlocking components:

- The U.S.-Islamic World Forum, which brings together leaders in politics, business, media, academia, and civil society from the United States and from Muslim societies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The Forum also serves as a focal point for the Project’s ongoing research and initiatives, providing the foundation for a range of complementary activities designed to enhance dialogue and impact;
- An Analysis Paper Series that provides high-quality research and publications on key questions facing Muslim states and communities;
- Workshops, symposia, and public and private discussions with key stakeholders focused on critical issues affecting the relationship;
- Special initiatives in targeted areas of demand. In the past these have included Arts and Culture, Science and Technology, and Religion and Diplomacy.

The Project’s Steering Committee consists of Martin Indyk, Executive Vice President; Bruce Jones, Acting Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy Studies; Tamara Cofman Wittes, Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Middle East Policy; William McCants, Fellow and Director of the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World; Kenneth Pollack, Senior Fellow in the Center; Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow in the Center; Shibley Telhami, Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Project and Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland; and Salman Shaikh, Fellow and Director of the Brookings Doha Center.

The Center for Middle East Policy

Charting the path to a Middle East at peace with itself and the world

Today’s dramatic, dynamic and often violent Middle East presents unprecedented challenges for global security and United States foreign policy. Understanding and addressing these challenges is the work of the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings. Founded in 2002, the Center for Middle East Policy brings together the most experienced policy minds working on the region, and provides policymakers and the public with objective, in-depth and timely research and analysis. Our mission is to chart the path—political, economic and social—to a Middle East at peace with itself and the world.

Research now underway in the Center includes:

- Preserving the Prospects for Two States
- U.S. Strategy for a Changing Middle East
- Politics and Security in the Persian Gulf
- Iran’s Five Alternative Futures
- The Future of Counterterrorism
- Energy Security and Conflict in the Middle East

The Center was established on May 13, 2002 with an inaugural address by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. The Center is part of the Foreign Policy Studies Program at Brookings and upholds the Brookings values of Quality, Independence, and Impact. The Center is also home to the *Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World*, which convenes a major international conference and a range of activities each year to foster frank dialogue and build positive partnerships between the United States and Muslim communities around the world. The Center also houses the *Brookings Doha Center* in Doha, Qatar—home to three permanent scholars, visiting fellows, and a full range of policy-relevant conferences and meetings.