

Re-Ordering the Middle East? Peoples, Borders and States in Flux

A NEW-MED CONFERENCE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN'S CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Amman, 18 July 2016

Prince Al Hussein Bin Abdullah II School of International Studies – University of Jordan

AGENDA

8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

9:00-9:40 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Musa Shteivi, Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan, Amman
Ettore Greco, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome

9:40-10:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH

Shibley Telhami, University of Maryland, USA

10:00-11:30 **SESSION I - THE COLLAPSE OF AUTHORITY: ORDER IN THE MIDDLE EAST?**

It is often claimed that the Middle East is witnessing the 'end of the Sykes-Picot order', or that the region is experiencing the re-arrangement of populations 'to better fit' the nation states which were established after WWI. Session I will put these and related claims to test by presenting different historical and analytical perspectives on the drivers of current Middle Eastern instability. The panel will also engage in a forward-looking discussion of viable organizing principles of a new regional order.

Chair: **Mustafa Hamarneh**, Former Director of the Center for Strategic Studies, Amman

Panelists: **Rami Khouri**, American University of Beirut; Harvard Kennedy School
Şaban Kardaş, Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM), Ankara
Lorenzo Kamel, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI); Harvard University, CMES
Gamal Soltan, American University of Cairo

11:30-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:15 SESSION II – STATE VACUUMS AND NON-STATE ACTORS

Governance failures combined with 21st century social, economic, environmental and demographic conditions paved the way for the rise of non-State and quasi-State actors in the Middle East. Are States irremediably undermined or will the current transition lead to the emergence of new State entities? How to reconcile the crumbling of States and the redrawing of borders with the exacerbation of traditional inter-state competition, including through proxy wars? The panel will analyse developments in the region focusing on the interplay between disintegration and polarization.

Chair: **Charlotte Brandsma**, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), Brussels

Panelists: **Randa Slim**, Middle East Institute, Washington, DC
Florence Gaub, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris
Raffaele Marchetti, LUISS Guido Carli University, Rome
Abdulhakeem Khasro Jawzal, Salahaddin University-Erbil

13:15-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 SESSION III: THE ROLE OF ECONOMY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Do sectarian lines align with economic realities on the ground or partly transcend them? In other words, what is the underlying economic matrix of Middle Eastern conflicts, and in what ways has it evolved since 2010-2011? Is this a doomed geography of economic disruption, structural inequality, and chronic underdevelopment, or can positive economic developments be identified even amidst confrontation and conflict? Will US decreasing dependence on Middle Eastern oil and the West's weakening position in the region affect the broader economic outlook or not?

Chair: **Hisham Gharaibeh**, College of Economy, German-Jordanian University and former Minister of Environment of Jordan

Panelists: **Abdullah al-Dardari**, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut
Nadim Shehadi, Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University, Boston
Jawad Al-Anani, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Industry of Jordan
Adeel Malik, Oxford University

16:00-16:30 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Abdullah Alkhatib, Jordanian House of Senate and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
Laura Quadarella, Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Lorenzo Kamel, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI); Harvard University

16:30 END OF THE CONFERENCE

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