

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) has the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar on:

The Middle East: Future Challenges and Possibilities
Thursday, 8 October 2009, 14.30-16.30
Danish Institute for International Studies
Main Auditorium
Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

Background

The Middle East has been going through war and crisis. The Iraq war changed the balance of power in the region and threw the country into near civil war. In Lebanon and Palestine, civil disintegration and violence reign, and non-state actors such as Hizbullah and Hamas have gained region-wide popularity, while the incumbent autocratic regimes in the region face an ever-deepening legitimacy crisis. At the same time, the region has been hit hard by the financial crisis, deepening existing problems of unemployment, growing population rates and a lack of foreign investment.

Recently, however, we have also witnessed some positive signs of reconciliation and cooperation in the region. The Obama Administration has promised a new start, reached out to Iran and turned Palestinian-Israeli peace into a key priority. There are signs that Syria may be returning to the 'Arab fold' and even of beginning rapprochement between Syria and Israel. In some countries, Islamist actors are cautiously being accepted and included as part of political reality, while Islamist parties in turn have shown greater pragmatism and willingness to participate in elections and political processes.

Faced with these contradicting challenges and possibilities, where might the Middle East be heading in the near future? DIIS has invited leading experts to debate these questions in a short and lively roundtable debate. The five short interventions will be followed by questions and comments from the audience, among them ten Egyptian and Danish PhD candidates participating in a concurrent academic course at DIIS.

Speakers

[Michael Hudson](#), Professor, Georgetown University, US
[Dina Shehata](#), Senior Researcher, ACPSS, Cairo
Hanaa Ebeid, Researcher, ACPSS, Cairo
[Helle Malmvig](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS
[Lars Erslev Andersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

Programme

More details about the seminar are available on our [website](#).

Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Wednesday, 7 October 2009 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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Feel free to forward this invitation to others with a potential interest in the seminar.
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