

Fall 2018

The United States in the Persian Gulf. From Outlier to Empire

This series of lectures/mini-course will look at the evolution of U.S. political, economic and military presence in the Persian Gulf from the Second World War to the present. It will examine the range of U.S. security strategies employed over that time, from the barely visible U.S. presence in the earliest days to the omnipresent U.S. influence today. The object of this series of lectures is to put in context U.S. foreign policy decision making in the Persian Gulf over a particularly tumultuous period, and to engage in a dialogue on the subject with SAIS students and faculty.

10:30-12:30, Thursday, October 4, 2018

America Over the Horizon

10:30-12:30, Thursday, October 11, 2018

The Iranian Revolution and Hostage Crisis

10:30-12:30, Thursday, October 18, 2018

The War Decades

10:30-12:30, Thursday, October 25, 2018

Strategic Realities and Options in the Persian Gulf Today

Gary Sick

Adjunct Senior Research Scholar, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York, U.S.

He is the author of *All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter with Iran* (Random House 1985) and *October Surprise: America's Hostages in Iran and the Election of Ronald Reagan* (Random House 1991).

Sick served on the National Security Council under Presidents Ford, Carter, and Reagan. He was the principal White House aide for Iran during the Iranian Revolution and the hostage crisis. Sick is a captain (ret.) in the U.S. Navy, with service in the Persian Gulf, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. He was the deputy director for International Affairs at the Ford Foundation from 1982 to 1987, where he was responsible for programs relating to U.S. foreign policy. Sick teaches at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, where he has regularly been voted one of the top five teachers. He is a member (emeritus) of the board of Human Rights Watch in New York and founding chair of its advisory committee on the Middle East and North Africa. He is the executive director of Gulf/2000 Project, an international online research project on political, economic and security developments in the Persian Gulf, being conducted at Columbia University since 1993 with support from a number of major foundations.

Gary Sick received his B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1957 and a Master of Science from George Washington University in 1970. He earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1973.

Recommended readings:

- Lawrence G. Potter, ed., *The Persian Gulf in History* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2009), esp Part III
- James G. Blight et al., *Becoming Enemies: U.S.-Iran Relations and the Iran-Iraq War, 1979-1988* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012)
- F. Gregory Gause, *The International Relations of the Persian Gulf* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)
- Gary Sick, *All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter with Iran* (iUniverse, 2001 - reissue)
- Trita Parsi, *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy* (Yale 2017)

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