

Selected Briefings & Workshops – Fall 2018 UPDATED

**ISRAELI SOCIETY**

**Identity of Paradoxes: Contextualizing Israel's Nation State Law \*\*NEW LECTURE\*\***

In July 2018, the Israeli Knesset passed the 'Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People.' The bill has generated an impassioned discussion within Israeli society, within and among Jewish communities around the world, and has been met with a wide variety of reactions in international circles. At its core, the Bill of Nations centers around identity. This lecture presents the major - sometime paradoxical – facets of Israeli identity today and offers observations which are also relevant to the current political and intellectual discussions in the West. This objective, unbiased, apolitical, and thought-provoking presentation, provides the wide context essential for a more constructive and productive conversation regarding identity.

**DECODING THE MIDDLE EAST**

**The Middle East 2019 ~ Approaching A Watershed \*\*NEW LECTURE\*\***

Since the Iranian Mullah regime seized power in Iran in 1979, their goal has been to become the regional superpower. Over the last decade, Iran has increased – and quite successfully - its attempt to establish its crescent of influence, described by King Abdullah II of Jordanian as "*The Shiite Crescent*." The Iranian regime has stated that their policy to build and control a land corridor stretching from Iran to the Mediterranean Sea is "*vital for Iran's strategic interest and national security*." Due to regional and global events, Iran's Corridor - which would ensure constant instability and increased bloodshed – was a foregone conclusion. And that development, as the King of Jordan warned – is very bad news for the region. And I will add – especially Israel. However, as we exit 2018 and enter 2019, regional and global developments may result in a change of course and the process of Iranian expansion - once thought inevitable - might actually be curtailed.

What has generated this change? Who are the major players in this unfolding, dynamic, and pivotal episode and what do they want? Can we “rest easy”? And if so – for how long? How would preventing this corridor impact the rapidly changing political map of the Middle East? How would the reduction in Iranian power impact Israel's geopolitical horizons?

**GPS-Navigating the Middle East in the 21st Century**

In the second decade of the 21st Century the 20th Century Middle East disappears, and a new – yet at the same time old, Middle East emerges. This briefing provides the building blocks necessary to understand the Arab and Muslim world of yesterday and today and provides you a GPS so you can navigate the region on your own - and perhaps even predict where the future may lead..

**The Middle East: The Game of Pawns**

A smoking volcano erupted into the Arab Awakening. The aftershocks - including the War in Syria, the widening [Sunni-Shi'ite rift](#), and the escalating [Arab-Persian power struggle](#) have brought about a tectonic plate movement that is shaping a new Middle East. This lecture takes you beyond the headlines and on a complex and fascinating journey deep into the heart and minds of the Big Players and their Proxies and Pawns. Who are the major players? Who serves them? How do the proxies and pawns impact the reality of millions of people? Who really benefits from the existence of ISIS? How do factors like the Lebanese Shi'ite Hezbollah, the Palestinian Sunni Hamas, and Iraqi Shi'ite Militias view their role and place in the new Middle East? In the Middle East nothing stands alone - everything is connected like links in a chain. “The Game of Pawns” gives the road map to follow the links and the lenses to see the multidimensional, multi-faceted reality of the Middle East today.

**[Inside the Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives \(ITME\): An Intelligence Praxis to Address an Acute Educational – and Societal Challenge](#)**

For the past generation, America's Middle East policy has primarily been a chronology of failures. These failures - and many others, do not stem from a lack of resources, capacity, or gifted individuals. They stem from a more fundamental and systemic flaw. What is that flaw? What are its ramifications? How can its source be addressed? What tools, skills and mindset are required? How does ITME create this shift? What is the feedback we receive from participants? What lessons do ITME graduates take away? This lecture explores the essence of the challenge and outlines a methodology to create a paradigm shift in the way people understand the Middle East. For more, see my article in [The Hill](#)

## ISRAEL & THE ARAB WORLD

### **Arab-Israeli Conflict – Build Your Database**

This briefing focuses on building or strengthening the building-blocks of knowledge critical for understanding contemporary Israel and the Middle East.

### **Thinking Out of the Box - A Realistic Arrangement To The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

A generation has passed since the signing of the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians. Oslo was guided by the concept that the two-state solution would finally resolve the conflict—but two decades later, Israelis and Palestinians remain caught in a sad, frustrating and vicious cycle that must be broken. In this lecture I offer an outside-the-box approach which can leave to a constructive breakthrough in the Arab-Palestinian arena and beyond. For more see my article in [Forbes Magazine](#).

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### **Dancing Salsa with Niqab\* - The Struggle Over Path, Identity and Direction in the Arab World**

This briefing tells the untold story in the Arab world today. What we are witnessing in front of our very eyes is a struggle over the path, identity and direction in the Arab world. This lecture presents the entities involved - their ideologies, outlooks, visions and goals. We will explore how this struggle is playing out, influencing events throughout the region, and where this path may lead the region and its people - including Israel.

(\*a veil an observant Muslim woman wears to cover her face)

### **Reign of Fear: The Ideological Roots Radical Islam**

This lecture gives an in-depth look at the ideological and spiritual sources of contemporary Radical Sunni Islam and the potential impact of Radical Islam on the regional and global political system. We will explore the ideological sources, modus operandi, similarities and differences, etc. between Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, ISIS, Jabhat-al Nusra, Salafi groups, and others sprouting up throughout the region and the world.

### **The Knight and The Dragon: BDS and Anti-Israel sentiments**

This briefing offers my reflections and observations regarding the reasons and the environment which gave birth to BDS and anti-Israel sentiments within Western circles. This lecture provides a better understanding of the challenge, and offers an effective and successful methodology to counter anti-Israel arguments which are applicable to any environment anywhere in the world.

## WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

### **007 With a Keyboard: A Unique Workshop - Learn HOW to Think, not WHAT to Think...**

A workshop that creates media literate critical thinkers who will be able to begin to independently and accurately decipher the Middle East.

This two-part workshop (*can be condensed*) teaches basic Professional Intelligence Analysis Techniques and Terminology for Media Assessment and Critique. Participants learn how to evaluate information so they will not accept “*narratives*” as fact and will “*question what they know*” and be able to apply these skills to fast-breaking, real world issues. By the end of the workshop participants will produce their first professional Intelligence Report.

Part one (60 minutes): **Reading Arabic in English** – In this session participants practice intelligence gathering from Middle East open sources and develop and apply media literacy skills.

Part Two (90 Minutes): **007 With a Keyboard** – In this session participants are provided with simple and useful critical thinking terminology and tools. They learn to look at and analyze information as a professional intelligence professional and they practice writing their first Intelligence Report.

[Please Click Here To see a COMPLETE LIST of my Briefngs in Israel and Abroad](#)