

FINAL AGENDA

Joint Hoover – NESAWorkshop: “U.S. & Russian Perspectives on Transition in the Middle East”, Annenberg Conference Room, Hoover Institution, Stanford

Wednesday, January 20th

Arrivals during the day. Stanford Park Hotel

7:00 p.m. Informal Reception (Stanford Park Hotel: Stanford Room)

7:30 p.m. Informal Dinner (Stanford Park Hotel: Stanford Room)

Thursday, January 21st

8:30 a.m. Transport from Hotel to Stanford

9:00 a.m. Breakfast -- Annenberg Conference Room

9:30 a.m. Change throughout the Middle East Amidst U.S.-Russian Divergences

Secretaries Shultz and Perry comment on the workshop’s twofold theme:

Regional Change: Even as there are persistent continuities, the Middle East region seems on the edge of tectonic shifts, in the interplay of fragile polities and economies under strain, governance structures challenged by heightened popular expectations and extremist violence, mounting sectarian tensions and intra-regional competition.

U.S.-Russian Divergence: On top of which is an increasingly sharp divergence of U.S. and Russian policies and actions within the current multi-actor complex of conflict across Syria/Iraq – itself a major stress point with negative implications for the region as a whole.

10:00 a.m. “Tell Me How This Ends” – Interpretations of the Syrian Conflict

How do participants interpret the course of this conflict and the viability of their respective governments’ policies – either as an accelerant or restraint on further escalation, and in what sort of time frames. How do they do see a political resolution being generated in the foreseeable future and on what feasible terms.

12:00 p.m. Break

12:15 p.m. Working Luncheon: What Countering Jihadist Threats Might Mean

If mounting extremist violence, focusing on the ISIL phenomenon, its impact within different parts of the region, such as North Africa, and its appeal to disaffected individuals on a broader scale, is seen by participants as a common threat, what should cooperation realistically entail once beyond political-level generalities?

2:00 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. What Happens Next with Iran and its Role in the Region

As implementation of the nuclear agreement progresses, how do participants assess likely Iranian developments – in its domestic politics and its relations with the rest of the region? How do they read the continuing Saudi-Iran competition, particularly in light of the Saudi royal transition and as expressed in the Yemen conflict?

- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn, Transport Back to Hotel
- 6:45 p.m. Transport from Hotel to Stanford
- 7:00 p.m. Reception (Stanford: Faculty Club: Red Room)
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner (Stanford: Faculty Club: Red Room)
- 9:00 p.m. Transport Back to Hotel

Friday, January 22nd

- 8:30 a.m. Transport from Hotel
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at Annenberg Conference Room
- 9:30 a.m. Continuity & Change in the Roles of Key Regional Actors

Continuing on the previous afternoon's discussion, how do participants interpret evolving roles, strengths and strategies of other key regional players – such as Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, and/or Israel? How might their domestic politics come to affect the regional strategic environment?

- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:30 a.m. Mid-East Geo-Politics Amidst Changing Global Energy Dynamics:

How do participants assess implications for the Middle East in new patterns of energy demand and supply – do these change assumptions, and generate new opportunities or tensions? How do participants see new actors (China, India) assuming direct roles in the region?

- 12:30 p.m. Break
- Possible Photo Opportunity before Hoover Tower
- 1:00 p.m. Working Luncheon: The Middle East in U.S. and Russian Policies & Politics

How do participants assess the way in which these various drivers throughout the Middle East and differing U.S./Russian approaches to issues like Syria will continue to impact policy-makers in both Washington and Moscow? To what extent is any convergence of interest possible and/or further divergence more likely? To what extent will Middle East-related differences come to color the bilateral relationship as a whole?

- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. Continuation of Preceding Exchange on the Middle East in US-Russia Relations.

What does this suggest for future work by and among the participants?

3:30 p.m. Concluding Comments by Secretaries Shultz & Perry

4:00 p.m. Adjourn, Transport Back to Hotel

6:45 p.m. Transport from Hotel to MacArthur Park

7:00 p.m. Dinner (MacArthur Park)

8:45 p.m. Transport Back to Hotel

Saturday, January 23rdth

Departures