

## About the Authors

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**Emily Burchfield** is an Assistant Director at the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs, where she manages a wide range of projects aimed at promoting peace and security through scholarship and engagement. Her research focuses primarily on the conflict in Syria, its regional implications, and its impact on US foreign policy. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Security Studies at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations and a minor in Middle East Studies from the University of California, San Diego. Previously she was a program assistant at the Atlantic Council. Previously a Program Assistant at the Atlantic Council, she also has experience as a researcher focused on political, security, and humanitarian developments in Iraq, and working with Syrian and Iraqi refugees in both Jordan and the United States.

**Andrey Chuprygin** is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, School of Asian Studies at National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, where he has taught since 2012. He is also an expert with the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), and a Senior Fellow with the Center for Civilizational Studies of Eastern Countries. After graduating in 1974 from the Military Institute for Foreign Languages in Moscow, He spent nearly 17 years in the Middle East with tours of duty in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and several other countries.

He has also worked in the private sector as a risk consultant for Gazprom in the Central Asian and Middle Eastern regions.

**Abbas Kadhim** leads the Atlantic Council Iraq Initiative. He is an Iraq expert and author of *Reclaiming Iraq: The 1920 Revolution and the Founding of the Modern State*. Most recently, he was a Senior Foreign Policy Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He was formerly an Assistant Professor of national security affairs and Middle East studies at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey (California), and a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Stanford University. He also previously held a senior government affairs position at the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, DC. His books include *Governance in the Middle East and North Africa* and *The Hawza Under Siege: Studies in the Ba'ath Party Archive*. He earned a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Mark N. Katz** is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs. He is also a Professor of government and politics at the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government. He earned a B.A. in International Relations from the University of California at Riverside in 1976, an M.A. in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in 1978, and a PhD in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1982. Before starting to teach at George Mason University in 1988, he was a Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution (1980-81), Katz held a temporary appointment as a Soviet Affairs Analyst at the US Department of State (1982), was a Rockefeller Foundation International Relations Fellow (1982-84), and was both a Kennan Institute/Wilson Center Research Scholar (1985) and Research Associate (1985-87). He has also received a US Institute of Peace fellowship (1989-90) and grant (1994-95), and several Earhart Foundation fellowship research grants.

**Frederick Kempe** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Atlantic Council. Under his leadership since 2007, the Council has achieved historic, industry-leading growth in size and influence, expanding its work through regional centers spanning the globe and centers focused on topics ranging from international security and energy to global trade and next-generation mentorship. Before joining the Council, Kempe was a prize-winning Editor and reporter at the *Wall Street Journal* for more than twenty-five years. In New York, he served as Assistant Managing Editor for the *International*. Prior to that, he was the longest-serving Editor and Associate Publisher of the *Wall Street Journal Europe*, running the global *Wall Street Journal's* editorial operations in Europe and the Middle East. He is the author of four books. The most recent, *Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth*, was a *New York Times* Best Seller and a *National* Best Seller. He is a graduate of the University of Utah and has a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where he was a member of the International Fellows program in the School of International Affairs.

**Andrey Kortunov** has been the Director General of RIAC (Russian International Affairs Council) since 2011. He is a member of expert and supervisory committees and boards of trustees of several Russian and international organizations. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in 1979 and completed his postgraduate studies at the Institute for US and Canada Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1982. He holds a PhD in History. Kortunov completed internships at the Soviet embassies in London and Washington, and at the Permanent Delegation of the USSR to the UN. In 1982-1995, he held various positions in the Institute for US and Canada Studies, including Deputy Director. He taught at universities around the world, including the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, he led several public organizations involved in higher education,

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**Scott B. Lasensky** served as the Senior Advisor to the United States Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro (2014-2017), and prior to that he was a Senior Policy Advisor to US Ambassadors to the United Nations Susan E. Rice and Samantha J. Power (2011-2014), focusing on Arab-Israeli issues, the civil war in Syria, Jewish affairs and Russia-Ukraine. A former researcher at the Brookings Institution, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the US Institute of Peace, he is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland and an Overseas Fellow at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS). Lasensky is the co-author most recently of *The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace*.

**Chiara Lovotti** is an Associate Research Fellow at the Middle East and North Africa Centre at Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). She previously was a Research Assistant at ISPI and a Research Assistant at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve. Her research interests include socio-political transformations in the Middle East, with a focus on Iraq and Syria, relations between Russia and Middle-Eastern countries, and Russian foreign policy toward the area. She is also a PhD candidate at the faculty of History at the Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna. Her academic research focuses on the impact of Soviet influence on state-building processes in the Arab Levant. She holds a Bachelor's in Foreign Languages and International Relations from the Catholic University of Milan, a Master's in Development Studies from the University of Louvain, Belgium, another Master's in Middle Eastern Studies at the Postgraduate School of Economics and International Relations, Milan, and a has been a visiting student at the Lomonosov Moscow State University, and the Ahlan School of Arabic in Amman.

**Giampiero Massolo** is the President of the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). Early in his diplomatic career, he served in Moscow and Brussels. He has served in several high-ranking positions in the Italian government, such as deputy diplomatic advisor to the Prime Minister and deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In January 2006, he was appointed to the rank of ambassador and in 2007 he became Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the highest position in the Italian diplomatic career. He has served as the personal representative of the Italian Prime Minister for various G8 and G20 Summits. Finally, from 2012 to 2016 he was the Director General of the Department for Intelligence and Security, the coordinating body of the Italian intelligence community. Ambassador Massolo is also a member of the executive committee of Aspen Institute Italia.

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**Nicola Pedde** is Director of the Institute for Global Studies, a think tank in Rome specializing in politics, security, and economy in the Middle East and Africa regions. Since 2002 he is also the Research Director for the Middle East at the Military Centre for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Defence (Italy), focusing on energy issues and the Middle East and North Africa. In this capacity he also conducted research on specific projects related to regional energy issues, policies and security. Pedde holds a law degree at the University of Rome, an MA in International Relations from St. Johns University of New York, and a PhD in Geo-Economic Studies from the School of Economics at the University of Rome.

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**Gönül Tol** is the founding Director of The Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish Studies. She is also an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Institute for Middle

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**William F. Wechsler** is Director for Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council and Director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Wechsler's most recent government position was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism. He advised multiple Secretaries and helped coordinate interagency policies on a wide range of direct and indirect actions. His portfolio included the Department's policies, plans, authorities and resources related to special operations and irregular warfare, with an

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