

Arthur Houghton: The American Who Returned the Shahnameh to Iran

Monday, November 18, 2019

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, 12th floor

Speaker Bio



Arthur Houghton

Former Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State

Arthur Houghton is a former US Foreign Service Officer who held positions in American embassies in Beirut, Amman, and Cairo, as well as the Department of State and the National Security Council staff. He was appointed Associate Curator and Curator-in-Charge of the Department of Antiquities of the J. Paul Getty Museum before returning to public service as International Policy Director in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. In 1995 he founded Arthur Houghton Associates, a Washington-based consulting firm that partnered US companies with businesses in Lebanon and Egypt. He is currently a novelist (*Dark Athena*, 2016; *The Genesis Cipher and Saladin's Fire*, forthcoming).

Houghton is a graduate of Harvard University (BA 1963, MA 1981), the American University of Beirut (MA 1966), and the Middle East Center for Arab Studies. He has served on the boards of the Middle East Institute, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the Cyprus-American Archaeological Research Institute, and the Committee on Cultural Property, among others. He served on the Visiting Committee to Harvard's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His public service includes membership on the US Cultural Property Advisory Committee and an advisory committee to the US Mint. He is the author of four books and more than fifty articles on ancient history, art, and economics.

Moderator Bio



Barbara Slavin

Director, Future of Iran Initiative, Atlantic Council

Barbara Slavin is the director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council and a columnist for *Al-Monitor.com*, a website devoted to news from and about the Middle East. The author of *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies: Iran, the US and the Twisted Path to Confrontation* (2007), she is a regular commentator on US foreign policy and Iran on NPR, PBS, and CSPAN. A career journalist, Slavin previously served as assistant managing editor for world and national security of the *Washington Times*, senior diplomatic reporter for *USA TODAY*, Cairo correspondent for the *Economist*, as an editor at the *New York Times Week in Review*. She has covered such key foreign policy

issues as the US-led war on terrorism, policy toward “rogue” states the Iran-Iraq war, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. She has traveled to Iran nine times. Slavin also served as a public policy scholar the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where she wrote *Bitter Friends*, and as a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, where she researched and wrote the report *Mullahs, Money and Militias: How Iran Exerts Its Influence in the Middle East*.