

US-Iran Tensions on Rise with Iraq in the Middle

Iraq Initiative & Future of Iran Initiative

Thursday, January 9, 2020

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Atlantic Council Headquarters

Speaker Bios



Dr. Abbas Kadhim

Director, Iraq Initiative, Atlantic Council

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. 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 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'th Party Archive. He earned a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.



Ms. 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*.



Mr. Thomas S. Warrick

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Thomas S. Warrick is a nonresident senior fellow with the Middle East programs at the Atlantic Council. Prior to joining the Atlantic Council, from August 2008 to June 2019 he was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism Policy at the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and a career member of the Senior Executive Service. He was an international lawyer in private practice for 17 years, representing companies in connection with investments in the Middle East and elsewhere. From 1997 to 2007, he served in the US Department of State on Middle East and international justice issues. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Warrick was Deputy in the Office of the Secretary / Office of War Crimes Issues.

In 2001, he became Special Adviser, then Senior Adviser, to the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, working on Iraq, Iran, and other issues. From 2002 to 2003, he led the State Department's "Future of Iraq" project. From October 2003 to June 2006, he served in both Baghdad and Washington. From July 2006 to July 2007, he was Director (Acting) for Iraq Political Affairs. He was briefly Senior Political Adviser on the Iran desk in 2007. Mr. Warrick joined the US Department of Homeland Security in August 2007 as Director for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia in the Office of Policy. He became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism Policy, in the Office of Policy, in August 2008. In February 2015, Mr. Warrick was named Deputy Counterterrorism Coordinator for Policy by the DHS Counterterrorism Coordinator and Under Secretary for Intelligence & Analysis. In July 2018, when the counterterrorism policy mission was returned to the DHS Office of Policy, Mr. Warrick resumed his title of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism Policy in the Office of Policy / Office of Threat Prevention and Security Policy.

Moderator Bio



Mr. William F. Wechsler

Director, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East & Middle East Programs, Atlantic Council

William F. Wechsler is director of Middle East Programs and the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council. Mr. Wechsler's most recent government position was deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism. Previously, Mr. Wechsler served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats, where he directed a budget of \$1.6 billion and oversaw military and civilian programs around the globe. During the Clinton Administration, Mr. Wechsler served as Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury, where he helped establish the legal regime and policies we use to impose foreign sanctions and combat money laundering. He had previously served as Director for Transnational Threats on the National Security Council staff, and prior to that was a Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Wechsler is a graduate of Cornell University and received an MA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Keynote Bios



Congressman Seth Moulton

Representative (D-MA), US Congress

Seth Moulton was first called to service when he joined the Marines in 2001, days after graduating from college and months before the attacks on 9/11. As the leader of an infantry platoon, he was among the first Americans to reach Baghdad in 2003. After returning home from Iraq, Seth earned joint degrees in Business and Public Policy at graduate school, and then worked in the private sector in Texas to build the country's first high speed rail line. But it wasn't long before he was called to serve once again – this time in his home district in Massachusetts.

Seth ran – and won – on a platform of bringing a new generation of leadership to

Washington, becoming the only Democrat to unseat an incumbent in a primary in 2014. In the two terms since he was first sworn in, Seth has worked tirelessly to uphold his commitment to bipartisanship. He has passed several bipartisan bills, including the Faster Care for Veterans Act and the Modernizing Government Travel Act, and was named the most effective freshman Democrat by the Center for Effective Lawmaking. He has also concentrated on spurring economic development in Massachusetts, creating the first intergovernmental task force focused on growing the economy of Lynn, the biggest city in his district. Today, as a member of the Budget Committee, Seth is focused on creating a new economic agenda that will make a difference for American families. He also sits on the House Armed Services Committee and is the top Democrat on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. Seth is also a co-chair of the House Iraq Caucus.



Mr. Chris Murphy

Senator (D-CT), US Congress

Chris Murphy, the junior United States Senator for Connecticut, has dedicated his career to public service as an advocate for Connecticut families. Senator Murphy has laid out a forward-thinking foreign policy vision for the United States. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he has been an outspoken proponent of diplomacy, international human rights and the need for clear-eyed American leadership abroad. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Murphy served Connecticut's Fifth Congressional District for three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his time in the House, Murphy worked to improve access

to housing for homeless veterans, foster job creation and advocate for affordable healthcare for all Americans. Murphy authored the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act to revitalize housing programs for people with disabilities. The bill was signed into law by the president in 2010. Before getting elected to Congress, Murphy served for eight years in the Connecticut General Assembly where he was the author of the state's historic stem cell investment legislation and the state's workplace smoking ban. Senator Murphy grew up in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and attended Williams College in Massachusetts. He graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law and practiced real estate and banking law with the firm of Ruben, Johnson & Morgan in Hartford, Connecticut.

Moderator Bio



Mr. Damon Wilson

Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council

Damon Wilson is executive vice president of the Atlantic Council, serving as both a thought leader and manager with responsibility for strategy and strategic initiatives, program development and integration, and institutional development and organizational effectiveness. From 2007 to 2009, Wilson served as special assistant to the president and senior director for European affairs at the National Security Council. From 2001 to 2004, Wilson served as deputy director of the Private Office of the NATO Secretary General, assisting Lord George Robertson in his drive to transform the Alliance by enlarging NATO membership, conducting operations beyond Europe particularly in Afghanistan, and adapting Allied capabilities to face modern threats. Wilson completed his master's degree at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs obtained his BA summa cum laude in political science as a Benjamin N. Duke leadership scholar at Duke University.