

Libya: The Great Game

A Decade of Revolution, Civil War, and Foreign Intervention

Thursday, February 18, 2021

11:30 A.M - 1:00 P.M EST

Online Event via Zoom

Speaker Bios



Steven A. Cook

Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow, Middle East and Africa Studies, Council of Foreign Relations

Steven A. Cook is an Eni Enrico Mattei senior fellow for Middle East and Africa studies and director of the International Affairs Fellowship for Tenured International Relations Scholars at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). He is an expert on Arab and Turkish politics as well as U.S.-Middle East policy. Cook is the author of *False Dawn: Protest, Democracy, and Violence in the New Middle East*; *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square*, which won the 2012 gold medal from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; and *Ruling but Not Governing: The Military and Political Development in Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey*. Oxford University Press is publishing his next book, *The End of Ambition: America's Past, Present, and Future in the Middle East* in 2022. Cook is a columnist at Foreign Policy magazine. He has also published widely in international affairs journals, opinion magazines, and newspapers, and is a frequent commentator on radio and television. His work can also be found on CFR.org. Prior to joining CFR, Cook was a research fellow at the Brookings Institution (2001–02) and a Soref research fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (1995–96). Cook holds a BA in international studies from Vassar College, an MA in international relations from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and an MA and a PhD in political science from the University of Pennsylvania. He speaks Arabic and Turkish and reads French.



Marta Dassù

Senior Advisor for European Affairs, The Aspen Institute

Marta Dassù is a Senior Advisor for European Affairs at the Aspen Institute and Editor-in-Chief of *Aspenia*, Aspen Institute Italia. She was Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from November 2011 to February 2014. She is a Board Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and a Member of the Scientific Committee of the LUISS School of Government. She is Vice President of the Centre for American Studies in Rome. She sits in the board of Falck Renewables and Trevi Finanziaria. She writes for the Italian Daily *La Repubblica*. Her most recent book is *Anglo Nostalgia: The politics of emotion in a fractured West* (Hurst and Oxford University Press 2019).



Anas El Gomati

Director General, Sadeq Institute

Anas El Gomati is the founder and current Director General of the Tripoli-based Sadeq Institute, the first independent public policy think tank in Libya. He has held several positions in the region and Europe, as a visiting fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Centre in Beirut, Lebanon and a visiting lecturer at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy. He is a frequent commentator on Libya & the MENA region on Al Jazeera, BBC, France 24, Sky News and a contributor to Foreign Policy.



Ambassador Deborah K. Jones

Former United States Ambassador to Libya

Ambassador Deborah K. Jones retired from the U.S. Department of State in November 2016 with the rank of Career Minister following 34 years of service that included twice serving as Chief of Mission (State of Kuwait, 2008 - 2011, State of Libya, 2013- 2015). Ambassador Jones received a BS in History, magna cum laude, from Brigham Young University where she also pursued graduate studies in the Humanities and taught undergraduate courses at BYU's Study Abroad program in Madrid, Spain. She is a "Distinguished Graduate" of the National War College, National Defense University, with a Master's in National Security Strategy. Her languages include Spanish, Arabic, and French. Her publications include *Omi Taqoul: Pearls of Wisdom from Kuwaiti Mothers*, a collection of Kuwaiti traditional sayings. Published papers include "Is Libya Capable of Exercising Sovereignty Over Itself?", presented at the Valdai Discussion Club's February 2018 session in Moscow. Jones has appeared on international news programs such as CNN, BBC, Al-Hurra and Al Jazeera. Ambassador Jones currently chairs the Boards of AMIDEAST and the Hollings Center for East-West Dialog and is a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy and the Santa Fe Council on International Relations. She recently joined the Middle East Institute's Turkey Advisory Board.

Moderator Bio



Karim Mezran

Director, North Africa Initiative, Rafik Hariri Center and Middle East Programs, Atlantic Council

Karim Mezran is director of the North Africa Initiative and resident senior fellow with the Rafik Hariri Center and Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council focusing on the processes of change in North Africa. As a distinguished Libyan-Italian scholar, Dr. Mezran brings enormous depth of understanding to the transition in Libya and elsewhere in the region. He is the co-editor of three volumes published with Dr. Arturo Varvelli of the Italian think tank ISPI entitled *Foreign Actors in Libya's Crisis* (2017), *The Arc of Crisis in the MENA Region: Fragmentation, Decentralization, and Islamist Opposition* (2018), and *The MENA Region: A Great Power Competition?* (2019). He is the co-author of a book on Libya in Italian, entitled *Libia: fine o rinascita di una nazione?* with Dr. Varvelli (Donzelli Editore, 2012). He is also the author of a book in English on the

identity crisis in the Middle East and North Africa, entitled *Negotiation and Construction of National Identities* (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2007). His analyses on the Middle East and North Africa also have been widely published in Italian- and other-language journals and publications. From 2002 to 2012, Dr. Mezran was the director of the Center for American Studies in Rome. Additionally, he has taught courses on the history and politics of North Africa as an adjunct professor of Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Dr. Mezran holds a PhD in international relations from SAIS at Johns Hopkins University; a JD in comparative law from the University of Rome (La Sapienza); an LLM in comparative law from The George Washington University; an MA in Arab studies from Georgetown University; and a BA in management from Hiram College.