

THE STUDY GROUP ON ARAB-ISRAELI PEACEMAKING

Organization and Members

From its inception in fall 2006, the study group has been chaired and codirected by Daniel Kurtzer, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Egypt and currently a professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The project is also codirected by Scott Lasensky, a senior research associate at the U.S. Institute of Peace and acting vice president of the Institute's Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention.

The study group's work began by forming a core team of some of the most respected academic experts in the United States on Arab-Israeli relations. Professors William Quandt (University of Virginia), Steven Spiegel (University of California, Los Angeles), and Shibley Telhami (University of Maryland and the Brookings Institution) are three of the most widely cited and trusted authorities on the subject. Each has made significant academic contributions and been involved in the policy realm as well. All three have previously contributed to the Institute's program on Arab-Israeli peacemaking. Telhami also served as a member of the Institute's board of directors, and Kurtzer and Quandt were members of the earlier Lewis-Stein project.

Members of the core team were key to the development of this book, which was authored by Kurtzer and Lasensky. Our findings also benefited from the contributions of the project's

two special advisers, Ambassador Samuel Lewis and Professor Kenneth Stein.

Since fall 2006 the study group has met with more than one hundred current and former policymakers, parliamentarians, diplomats, academic experts, community leaders, and civil-society figures. Consultations involved not-for-attribution interviews. Meetings were conducted with Americans, Israelis, Arabs, and Europeans. Numerous interviews were conducted in the region. A wide range of opinion shapers and next-generation leaders were also consulted during this process.

On the U.S. side, the study group consulted with virtually every U.S. diplomat and policymaker involved in Arab-Israeli negotiations since the end of the Cold War. There was extremely high interest in meeting with the study group. In addition, consultations were conducted with members of Congress (House and Senate), outside experts, civil-society figures, and community leaders (see full list on page xvii).

Although this book is principally designed as a guidebook for future U.S. negotiators, the findings are also intended to influence the broader policy community and inform public discourse. Arabs and Israelis disagree profoundly on the issues that divide them and what they expect from the United States, but all agree on—and actively seek—a strong U.S. role. Therefore, the publication should also be of interest to the parties themselves, which is why the Institute is committed to promoting the study group's findings in the region.

Profiles of Study Group Members

Daniel Kurtzer, Chair and Codirector

Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer holds the S. Daniel Abraham Chair in Middle East Policy Studies at Princeton University's Woodrow

Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. President Bill Clinton appointed Kurtzer as United States Ambassador to Egypt, where he served from 1997 to 2001. President George W. Bush appointed Kurtzer as United States Ambassador to Israel, where he served from 2001 to 2005. Kurtzer, a thirty-year veteran of the United States



Foreign Service, was an early member of the State Department's peace team and was deeply involved in the negotiations that led to the Madrid peace conference. The author of numerous essays about U.S. diplomacy and the Middle East and a leading public commentator and lecturer, Kurtzer holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University. In 2006 he worked with the Institute as an adviser to the Iraq Study Group on regional and strategic affairs.

Scott Lasensky, Codirector

Dr. Scott Lasensky is a senior research associate at the United States Institute of Peace, focusing on Arab-Israeli relations and the regional dimensions of the Iraq crisis. He is also acting vice president of the Institute's Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention. He has taught courses on Israel, the Middle East, and U.S. foreign policy at Georgetown



University and Mount Holyoke College. Lasensky was a fellow in the Studies Program at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and a research fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution. He holds a Ph.D. in politics from Brandeis University. Lasensky was awarded a Fulbright research fellowship and was a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

William Quandt, Study Group Member

William Quandt holds the Edward R. Stettinius Chair in Politics at the University of Virginia. One of the most widely cited and best-known experts on U.S. policy in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, Quandt served on the National Security Council under presidents Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter and participated in the first Camp David peace summit in 1978. The author of numerous books and articles, his study of U.S. involvement in Arab-Israeli relations, *Peace Process* (Brookings Institution/University of California, third edition, 2005), is a standard text in the field. He has contributed to a number of Institute programs on the Middle East. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, Professor Quandt also serves on the Board of Trustees of the American University in Cairo. Quandt received a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2006 he worked with the Institute as an adviser to the Iraq Study Group on regional and strategic affairs.



Steven Spiegel, Study Group Member

Steven L. Spiegel, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), is among the world's foremost experts on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. He is the director of the Center for Middle East Development (CMED) at UCLA and of Track II Middle East programs at the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. Widely respected in



the United States and throughout the Middle East for his leadership in the field of Track II diplomacy, Spiegel is the author of the award-winning *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict* (University of Chicago, 1985). He has authored or coauthored over one hundred books, journal articles, and essays, including a major review of contemporary international relations, *World Politics in a New Era*, the fourth edition of which is currently under preparation for Oxford University Press. Dr. Spiegel has advised several presidential campaigns and members of Congress on Arab-Israeli diplomacy. In 2004 and 2005 he was one of three major contributors to the Institute's *Pathways to Peace* initiative on Arab-Israeli diplomacy. Spiegel received a Ph.D. in government from Harvard University.

Shibley Telhami, Study Group Member

Shibley Telhami holds the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland and is a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Saban Center at the Brookings Institution. One of the most recognized U.S. experts on the Middle East, Telhami has been consulted by numerous policymakers in several administrations and



has testified frequently to Congress. A former adviser to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Telhami is the author of numerous books and essays on international affairs and the Middle East. His book, *The Stakes: America and the Middle East*, was selected by *Foreign Affairs* as one of the five best books on the Middle East for 2003. A former Institute board member, Telhami has participated in a wide range of Institute programs on the Middle East. Professor Telhami received a Ph.D. in political science from the Univer-

sity of California, Berkeley. In 2006 he worked with the Institute as an adviser to the Iraq Study Group on regional and strategic affairs.