

Center for International Studies - Albuquerque International Association present

THE CONUNDRUM OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

By Dr. Charles Smith

October 18 (Sunday) 2009, 3:00 PM, Albuquerque Museum of Art and History

Followed by the dinner with the speaker

Many of us have heard of the Chinese proverb - "May you live in interesting times" - and how its implication is double-edged; will these be good times or bad? Palestinians and Israelis should be wondering as well. With the Obama administration, U.S. policy appears to have taken a 180 degree turn from the policies of his predecessor, George W. Bush, and at least a 90 degree divergence from those of Bill Clinton. Not the least event of interest is Secretary of State Hillary Clinton forcefully declaring American government stances that were only hinted at in her husband's eight years in office.

But the Israeli-Palestinian conundrum is not limited to solutions to existing and ongoing issues and tensions. It also involves consideration of the national narratives of Palestinians and Israelis and whether each side can incorporate the other's narrative without viewing it as a threat to its own stance. Charles Smith will address current issues in themselves and in light of historical developments and narratives, and raise the question whether Israeli and Palestinian interpretations of their experiences vis-à-vis the other will allow true compromise and a settlement acceptable to both sides.

Charles D. Smith is a specialist in modern Middle East history, in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, at the University of Arizona. He came to the U of Arizona in 1994 as department head and later served as director of graduate studies. A graduate of Williams College, he received his M.A. in Middle East Studies from Harvard and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. Formerly a member of the history faculty at San Diego State University and head of the Near Eastern/Asian Studies Department at Wayne State University, he has held visiting appointments at the University of Virginia, George Mason University, Virginia Military Institute, and was the National Endowment for the Humanities Visiting Professor of Middle East history at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1993.

Professor Smith has lived and traveled widely in the Middle East. A former Fulbright Scholar to Egypt, he was a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1982. He is the former president of the American Research Center in Egypt, 1996-1999, having previously served on its executive board and as vice-president, from 1993-1996. He is currently a member of the executive board of the Palestinian-American Research Center.

Professor Smith is the author of *Islam and the Search for Social Order in Modern Egypt* (1983) and *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (1988), now in its sixth edition; the seventh edition will appear in 2009. His was the first study to present the topic from the later 19th century onward rather than beginning treatment from World War II. He has published articles in the areas of modern Egypt, nationalism and theories of nationalism, Anglo-French imperialism and the Middle East in World War I, and on Palestinian and Arab-Israeli affairs, and is frequently consulted for his views by press and media, often overseas. He has served as an adviser to legal teams dealing with charges brought against Middle Easterners by the U.S. Government.

Please send your check to CFIS/AIA, PO Box 92995, Albuquerque, NM 87199 by October 15, 2009. \$15 – AIA members; \$19 – non-members. Dinner venue/price TBA. For details and updates please visit www.abqinternational.org or call 856-7277.

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