

Center for International Studies - Albuquerque International Association present

Political Islam: What Is It and Does It Matter?

By Dr. Emile Nakhleh

Friday, October 30th 3:30 PM at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History

In recent years Islamic political parties have emerged as significant forces throughout the Muslim world, but for most Americans the nature and aims of these movements are almost complete mysteries. What is the origin of Political Islam, and what role do Islamic parties like Hamas, Hizballah, and the Muslim Brotherhood play in the public life of their respective countries? Does the participation of Islamic parties in elections indicate a genuine commitment to democracy and the democratic process, or is it a sham? Why have Islamic political parties been attacked by authoritarian Muslim regimes on the one hand and by al-Qa'ida and various radical groups on the other? How have these parties and the wider Islamic world responded to such criticisms? What does the rise of Political Islam mean for US relations with the Muslim world, and how can the Obama administration calibrate its policies so as to include these movements in its broader program of engagement?

Dr. Emile Nakhleh is eminently suited to answer these and other questions. Born in the Middle East and educated in the United States, he holds a Ph.D. from American University. After teaching for twenty-six years, Dr. Nakhleh embarked upon a government career. He became a senior intelligence service officer and Director of the Political Islam Strategic Analysis Program in the Directorate of Intelligence at the CIA. Now retired, he is the author of [A Necessary Engagement: Reinventing America's Relations with the Muslim World](#) (Princeton University Press, 2009).

Please send your check to CFIS/AIA, PO Box 92995, Albuquerque, NM 87199 by October 28, 2009. \$15 – AIA members; \$19 – non-members. Students with valid ID are free if they RSVP to info@abqinternational.org. For details and updates please visit www.abqinternational.org or call 856-7277.