

U.S.-ISLAMIC WORLD FORUM

منتدى أمريكا والعالم الإسلامي

**Working and Action Group
Outcome Summaries**

Strategic Realignment in the Middle East

Convened by Steven Simon and F. Gregory Gause, III

- **Among the United States' regional allies, there is mistrust of U.S. motives and confusion about ultimate U.S. goals.**
- **Debates within the United States about tactics and strategy fuel confusion about direction of U.S. policy. Sense of weariness and skepticism in U.S. about whether investment in region pays off.**
- **Although serious, these differences are typical of alliances**
- **No serious talk of dramatic realignment – regional allies not suggesting it, United States not seeking it. Allies have adapted to U.S. restraint by independent action (Syria, Yemen) largely supported by United States**

The Arab Uprisings and the Next Generation of Islamists

Convened by Shadi Hamid and Will McCants

- **Challenging to find commonalities because of dramatically different political contexts. Key distinction between "gradualist" contexts (Ennahda, PJD) and "revolutionary" ones (Egypt MB)**
- **Mainstream Islamist groups still see democratic elections and their participation in them as essential to the identity of their movement. This, however, raises the question: in the absence of elections, what does Islamist success actually look like?**
- **Desire for popular support distinguishes MB-style Islamist parties from Salafi political parties and jihadist groups like ISIS. But the political success of ISIS and closing of outlets for peaceful activism have increased the appeal of radicalism.**

Here to Stay and Growing: Combating ISIS Propaganda Networks

Convened by Alberto Fernandez

- **Priority should be given to building open source communities to match the volume of ISIS propaganda.**
- **Anti-ISIS networks should enhance opportunities for sustained one-to-one engagements, replicating individualized appeals made by ISIS recruiters.**
- **Governments and non-governmental networks need to invest in high-quality, compelling conflict zone footage – including personal testimonies – that can be used by people who communicate against ISIS.**

Jumpstarting Community-led Initiatives to Counter Violent Extremism

Convened by Salam Al-Marayati, Alejandro Beutel and Stevan Weine

- **Efforts to counter radicalization in the United States should be led by the concerned communities, not by law enforcement, which can be counterproductive.**
- **The group recognized the need to raise awareness about the benefits of comprehensive community empowerment as a means of promoting public safety.**
- **The organizers are developing hybrid methods of funding for Safe Spaces, including identifying private foundation grants and community-based crowdsourcing.**