

The Haifa Center for German and European Studies

Seminar

Lecture and Open Discussion

The View of the Middle East from Europe

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The territorial reshuffling of the remnants of the Ottoman Empire in 1920, notably at the San Remo conference, has made the political map of the region. Gaining physical access to Middle Eastern oilfields was the West's priority given the importance of oil for all forms of mobility and warfare.

First pipelines were drawn, and then borders between the new Arab nation states administered as mandates were traced. Iraq was created along pipelines and it could probably also implode along new production-sharing agreements. Saudi Arabia observes with concern

the rise of Shiite influence in its neighbourhood and has apparently lost control of radical Islamist movements it has created itself. Geopolitics affect the region more than ever before.

While the US is disengaging from the Middle East and wishes to focus on the Asian-Pacific region, the vacuum will not be filled by the EU or particular European governments which unilaterally engage in their traditional spheres of influence. But their radius of action will remain limited. We are witnessing a multipolar order, currently driven by various regional hegemonic powers, as well as Russia and China, to take shape. The easy to drill fossil resources of the Middle East simply remain on the agenda, now eventually written by Eastern not Western capitals.

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14:00 – 16:00

Library Auditorium [Room 146], Main Building, University of Haifa

The lecture will be held in English

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For further information:

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