

ABSTRACT - Nicholas Noe

The Rise & Fall of America's Cedar Revolution: Lost Opportunities for Peacebuilding in the Middle East

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This presentation critically examines the US role in the Spring 2005 “Cedar Revolution” in Lebanon following the assassination of ex-premier Rafik Hariri. By reconstructing events leading up to and after the assassination, as well as the eventual withdrawal of Syrian troops in April 2005, and then placing them within a theoretical framework of overall US efforts in the region, I will provide a basis for understanding the contingent outcomes that were not only possible but also preferable from the standpoint of US and Lebanese interests. The presentation will further deconstruct the actions of specific individual actors in this particular praxis, with reference to public statements, interviews and primary source documents. Indeed, ultimately, it is my intention to provide insight as to how individual agency and institutional path dependency were both related and culpable in producing what I will argue is one of the US’s most unfortunate lost opportunities in the history of the modern Middle East.