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## Preface

The papers in the volume represent a selection of those submitted by presenters at the second international conference sponsored by the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Saud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) at American University of Beirut (AUB), held in Beirut January 7-10, 2008. Although the papers were not sent out to external reviewers, the volume was internally refereed. Session chairs commented on papers in their own sessions; then an editorial committee and the CASAR Executive Committee reviewed and approved the papers for inclusion.

A generous grant from Kingdom Foundation partly funded the conference. The conference also received strong support from AUB's leaders, including President John Waterbury, Dean Khalil Bitar, and Provost Peter Heath who welcomed the participants at the Opening Ceremony. CASAR came into being in 2003 with an endowment from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal. He was represented at the conference by Ms. Latifa Al Busseir. The conference coincided with the first meeting of CASAR's International Advisory Board. Several board members participated in the opening plenary session, "America and the Middle East: Where Are We Now?" These included Djelal Kadir, Stanley Katz, Rami Khouri, Scott Lucas, and Melani McAlister. Another board member, Amy Kaplan, presented the provocative closing address, "In the Name of Homeland Security." My Administrative Assistant, Nancy Batakji, was perhaps the person most responsible for the success of the conference. Special thanks to Tomoko Furukawa for work on this volume and on all of the conference materials. CASAR's graduate assistants—Moirra Thomas, Nathalie Nahas, Dana Salbak, Le Roy Long and Nate George—and