Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs

Cordially invites you to a lecture and book launch

The Struggle for Iraq's Future: How Corruption, Incompetence and Sectarianism Have Undermined Democracy

by

Zaid al-Ali

Friday, January 31, 2014 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Regional External Programs (REP) Building, Room 103
(Enter AUB’s Medical Gate, 1st building to the right)

Since the withdrawal of US occupying forces, international attention has shifted away from Iraq - but life for Iraqis has become no easier. Deadly bombings are still all too common, sectarian violence has soared and all-pervading corruption means that massive inflows of aid and oil income have made very little difference to crucial issues like security, healthcare and power availability. Now, Iraqi lawyer Zaid al-Ali sets out why and how the post-occupation Iraqi government has failed to achieve legitimacy or improve its citizens' lives. He argues that the ill-planned US intervention destroyed the Iraqi state, creating a black hole which corrupt and incompetent members of the elite have now made their own. In particular, al-Ali demonstrates how Iraqi politicians and the political system have failed to address Iraq's problems.

Zaid al-Ali has been practicing law since 1999, specializing in international commercial arbitration and comparative constitutional law. He has law degrees from Harvard Law School, the Université de Paris I (Sorbonne) and King’s College London. From 2005 to 2010, he was a legal adviser to the United Nations focusing on constitutional, parliamentary and judicial reform in Iraq. Since the beginning of 2011, he has been working on constitutional reform throughout the Arab region, in particular in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

- Books will be made available for sale during the lecture

Note: Event will be in English