

# Islamist Approaches to Governance

by [Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](/experts/matthew-levitt), [Aaron Y. Zelin \(/experts/aaron-y-zelin\)](/experts/aaron-y-zelin), [Joana Cook \(/experts/joana-cook\)](/experts/joana-cook), [Shiraz Maher \(/experts/shiraz-maher\)](/experts/shiraz-maher)

This event, originally scheduled for October 10, 2023, has been postponed.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



### [Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](/experts/matthew-levitt)

Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Fellow and director of the Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at The Washington Institute.



### [Aaron Y. Zelin \(/experts/aaron-y-zelin\)](/experts/aaron-y-zelin)

Aaron Y. Zelin is the Richard Borow Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy where his research focuses on Sunni Arab jihadi groups in North Africa and Syria as well as the trend of foreign fighting and online jihadism.



### [Joana Cook \(/experts/joana-cook\)](/experts/joana-cook)

Joana Cook is a senior project manager at the Netherlands-based International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), coeditor of its journal "Perspectives on Terrorism," and an assistant professor of terrorism and political violence at Leiden University.



### [Shiraz Maher \(/experts/shiraz-maher\)](/experts/shiraz-maher)

Shiraz Maher is director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), a member of the War Studies Department at King's College London, and author of *Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea* (<https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/salafi-jihadism/>) (Oxford, 2016).



Brief Analysis

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**Scholars will explore past and current attempts to establish Islamist governance by groups across broad swaths of the globe, from North Africa to the Indonesian archipelago. This event, originally scheduled for October 10, 2023, has been postponed.**

The past four decades have been shaped by the rise of Islamist politics across large swaths of the globe. Whether by gun or ballot box, Islamist movements from as far and wide as the Malian desert and Indonesia's archipelagos have sought to obtain power, govern territory, and revive an Islamic *ancien regime*.

To discuss efforts to establish Islamist governance by groups in various jurisdictions—particularly Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the so-called Islamic State—The Washington Institute is pleased to announce a virtual Policy Forum with Matthew Levitt, Aaron Zelin, Joana Cook, and Shiraz Maher, who will draw on their contributions to the new book *The Rule Is for None but Allah: Islamist Approaches to Governance*

(<https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/the-rule-is-for-none-but-allah/>) (Hurst, 2023).

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**Matthew Levitt** is the Fromer-Wexler Fellow at The Washington Institute, director of its [Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence \(/node/15976\)](#), and host of its podcast [Breaking Hezbollah's Golden Rule \(/node/18328\)](#).

**Aaron Zelin** is the Institute's Richard Borow Fellow, creator of its interactive [Islamic State Select Worldwide Activity \(/islamicstateinteractivemap\)](#) map project, and coauthor of its new study *Exploiting a 'Vast Jihad Arena': The Islamic State Takes Territory in Mali (/node/18346)*.

**Joana Cook** is a senior project manager at the Netherlands-based International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), coeditor of its journal *Perspectives on Terrorism*, and an assistant professor of terrorism and political violence at Leiden University.

**Shiraz Maher** is director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), a member of the War Studies Department at King's College London, and author of *Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea* (<https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/salafi-jihadism/>) (Oxford, 2016).

*The Policy Forum series is made possible through the generosity of the Florence and Robert Kaufman Family.* ❖

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## RECOMMENDED

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BRIEF ANALYSIS

### [The New Middle East: Hamas Attack, Israel at War, and U.S. Policy](#)

October 10, 2023, starting at 12:00 noon EDT (1600 GMT)

◆  
Robert Satloff,  
Ehud Yaari,

Neomi Neumann,  
Ghaith al-Omari

(/policy-analysis/new-middle-east-hamas-attack-israel-war-and-us-policy)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## As Protests in Syria Reignite, Many Syrians Look for a Change in U.S. Policy

Oct 6, 2023



Ammar Al-Musarea

(/policy-analysis/protests-syria-reignite-many-syrians-look-change-us-policy)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## Implications of the October War: From Warfighting to Peacemaking

Oct 5, 2023



Mohamed Anwar E. al-Sadat,

David Makovsky,

Efraim Halevy,

Abdel Monem Said Aly,

Martin Indyk

(/policy-analysis/implications-october-war-warfighting-peacemaking)

### TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics (/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics)

Democracy & Reform (/policy-analysis/democracy-reform)