

Beyond a 'New Beginning': Obama Administration Middle East Policy

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In-Depth Reports

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The Proceedings

In June 2009, President Barack Obama traveled to Cairo to deliver a speech outlining what he hoped would mark a "new beginning" with the world's Muslims. Since then, the Middle East has witnessed a series of major developments in Iran, Iraq, the Levant, and, not least, Afghanistan.

The critical issues facing the president in fall 2009 created the backdrop for vigorous debate and discussion at The Washington Institute's 2009 Weinberg Founders Conference, which took place October 16-18 in Leesburg, Virginia. An impressive array of guests from Washington's policymaking community participated in plenary sessions, keynote panels, and special breakout sessions to offer practical recommendations for the pressing problems on the U.S. Middle East policy agenda as the Obama administration reaches the end of its first year. These proceedings present the substantive content and conclusions of those policy discussions in an easy-to-read, rapporteur summary format.

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