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Democracy events

By Michael Allen on March 15, 2010

Tuesday, March 16 – 10:00 am to 11:30 a.m. Disappearing God Gap: Religion’s Role in the 2008 Presidential Elections and Beyond – The Brookings Institution, Saul/Zilkha Rooms, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC – In a new book by religion and politics experts Corwin Smidt and Kevin den Dulk, *The Disappearing God Gap?* (Oxford University Press, 2010), the authors examine religion’s role in the 2008 presidential campaign. On March 16, Brookings Senior Fellow William Galston will moderate a discussion of the book’s key findings, based on data gleaned from a national survey conducted by the authors. Brookings Senior Fellow E.J. Dionne, Jr. will offer his views on what the 2008 presidential election might teach us about religion’s role in the 2010 mid-term elections. To RSVP for this event, please call the Office of Communications at 202.797.6105 or [click here](#).

Tuesday, March 16 – 10:00 a.m. The Helsinki Commission Presents: “Ukraine: Moving Beyond Stalemate?” – SVC 201/200 (Capitol Visitor Center) – President Victor Yanukovich’s narrow victory over former Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko in February’s run-off election opens a new chapter in Ukraine’s ongoing post-Orange Revolution transition. At the first hearing since Yanukovich’s election, the Commission will examine the new challenges and prospects Ukraine faces domestically and internationally and their implications for U.S. policy toward this strategically important country. Witnesses scheduled to testify include Daniel A. Russell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Department of State; Damon Wilson, Vice President and Director of the International Security Program, Atlantic Council; and Anders Aslund, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010- 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing on the Release of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. B-318 Rayburn HOB. Please join the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for a hearing on the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for the reporting year 2009. The hearing is open to the media and the public. The Country Reports were mandated by the U.S. Congress and are submitted annually by the U.S. State Department in compliance with sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act and section 504 of the Trade Act. Originally, the reports were mandated to only give a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation in those countries which receive U.S. assistance, but have since been broadened to include all members of the United Nations. If you have any questions, please contact Hans Hogrefe (Rep. McGovern) or Elizabeth Hoffman (Rep. Wolf) at 202-225-3599.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 – 12 to 1:30 p.m. The Current State of Zimbabwe: Perspectives from Civil Society . SEIU Building, 1800 Massachusetts Ave NW. Following the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in February 2009, Zimbabwe experienced latent signs of democratic progress and reform. In recent months, however, the country has once again suffered under the increasingly draconian directives of President Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF operatives. In this environment, the role of civil society activists take on added importance as they advocate for nationwide reforms and respect for basic human rights. Join Freedom House for a discussion featuring [Jestina Mukoko](#), 2010 International Woman of Courage and Rindai Chipfunde, Founding Director, Zimbabwe Election Support Network; moderated by Thomas Melia, Deputy Executive Director, Freedom House. RSVP with name and affiliation by Friday,

March 12 to Abigail Goliber at goliber@freedomhouse.org or 202-747-7071.

Tuesday, March 16 – 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. An Assessment of the Obama Administration’s Foreign Policy – The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), B1 Conference Center, 1800 K Street, NW – The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and TCU’s Schieffer School of Journalism will be holding their next session of The CSIS-Schieffer Series Dialogues, moderated by Bob Schieffer, Chief Washington Correspondent, CBS News and anchor of CBS News’ “Face the Nation.” Featuring panelists Steve Coll, President, New America Foundation, Staff Writer, The New Yorker; Thomas L. Friedman, Foreign Affairs Columnist, The New York Times; David Ignatius, Columnist and Associate Editor, The Washington Post. Seating is Limited. RSVP is required. RSVP (acceptances only) to CSIS by e-mailing schiefferseries@csis.org.

Wednesday, March 17- 4 p.m. A Superpower in What? A Look into the Nature of Russia’s Social Order- Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave NW, F.A. Hayek Auditorium. The Cato Institute’s Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity holds a policy forum with Julia Latynina, independent journalist in Russia; and Andrei Illarionov, senior fellow at the Center for Global Liberty at the Cato Institute. Register to, 202-789-5229, events@cato.org, or online: <http://www.cato.org>

Wednesday, March 17 – 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. “Prospects for Pakistan” with Jonathan Paris – Grimond Room, Portcullis House, House of Commons, London, SW1A 2LW – By invitation of Stewart Jackson MP, the Henry Jackson Society presents a discussion with Jonathan Paris, Senior Fellow at the South Asia Centre of the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. and Associate Fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization (ICSR). Mr Paris’s talk will cover a range of topics, including the economy; military versus civilian governance; Islamist trends and the Taliban; India-Pakistan relations and US-Pakistan relations in light of the ongoing NATO surge in neighboring Afghanistan. To attend please RSVP to: sherri.whitehead@henryjacksonsociety.org.

Thursday, March 18 – 9:30am to 3:30 p.m. Leveraging International Support to Build Peace in the DRC – U.S. Institute of Peace, 2nd floor conference room, 1200 17th Street, NW – This workshop builds on USIP’s October 2009 Trans-Atlantic Diaspora Dialogue, which outlined concrete steps that diaspora communities could take to help prevent conflict and promote peace in the DRC. These include providing input for U.S.-DRC policy and program development in Washington, D.C., participating in economic development and capacity-building initiatives, and supporting anti-corruption efforts at every level. The workshop will feature two panels: the first comprising representatives from U.S. government departments (e.g. State, Defense and the Treasury) and the second with representatives from development agencies (e.g. the World Bank, UNDP and USAID). RSVP [here](#).

Thursday, March 18 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Analyzing the Political Elite of the Islamic Republic of Iran – 6th Floor Moynihan Board Room, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. Featuring Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Associate Professor, Political Science, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University and Daniel Brumberg, Author of Reinventing Khomeini: The Struggle for Reform in Iran. Mehrzad Boroujerdi is compiling a database with detailed information on nearly 2,000 people in the political elite of Iran—from cabinet and parliament members to religious authorities, military officer, members of the judiciary, and presidential advisors. Dr. Boroujerdi will present his preliminary findings and discuss their implications for Iran’s political landscape. RSVP [here](#).

Friday, March 19- 8:30 to 10 a.m. After the Elections: A New Beginning for Iraq and the United States? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: 1779 Massachusetts Ave NW 20036. The Carnegie Endowment will host a discussion of these questions with Saifaldin D. Abdul-Rahman (former advisor to Iraqi Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi), Brian Katulis of the Center for American Progress, and Carnegie’s Marina Ottaway. Michele Dunne will moderate the event. RSVP [here](#).

Friday, March 19- 12:30 p.m. Different yet Similar: Governance in the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestine Center, 2425 Virginia Avenue NW The Jerusalem Fund holds a briefing with Yezid Sayigh, professor of Middle East studies at King's College London; and Khaled Hroub, director of the Cambridge Arab Media Project at the University of Cambridge. Contact 202-338-1958

Monday, March 22 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Democracy in Ukraine: Are We There Yet? – , Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. – Featuring [Nadia Diuk, Senior Director, Europe & Eurasia, National Endowment for Democracy](#). Seating for this event is available on a first come, first served basis-no reservations required.

Tuesday, March 23 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Russian Anti-Americanism: A Priority Target for U.S. Public Diplomacy – The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE – Featuring Daniel Kimmage, Senior Fellow, Homeland Security Policy Institute, Independent Consultant, Former Senior Correspondent/Geopolitics Analyst, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; Svetlana Babaeva, Bureau Chief, RIA Novosti, Russian State Information Agency; Ariel Cohen, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Russian and Eurasian Studies and International Energy Security, The Heritage Foundation. Host: Helle C. Dale, Senior Fellow for Public Diplomacy, Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation.

Wednesday, March 24 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Reality Television and Arab Politics: Contention in Public Life – Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. – Featuring Marwan Kraidy, Associate Professor, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania and Former Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center. What does it mean to be modern in the Arab world? Against the backdrop of dramatic upheaval in the Middle East, Kraidy's Reality Television and Arab Politics offers an original approach to the "Arab Street." The book shifts attention away from a narrow focus on al-Jazeera and news, towards a vibrant pan-television industry whose entertainment programs are heavily politicized by rival social, political and economic actors. RSVP [here](#).

Wednesday, March 24- 3 to 4 p.m. Why There Is No 'European Islam': Contrasting Contours of Islam in England and France. Elliot School of International Affairs: 1957 E Street NW, Room 214. Professor John Bowen of Washington University in St. Louis will consider contrasting histories of migration, church-state relations, and political philosophies that account for the sharp divergences in Muslim experiences in England and France. He will discuss the possibility of Muslims 'shari'a councils' in England, paralegal mediation or arbitration bodies dealing with family law, and increasingly, commercial disputes, and the contrasting styles of Islamic normative reasoning in the two countries. RSVP [here](#).

Wednesday, March 24- 4 to 6p.m. Global Internet Freedom: A Foreign Policy Imperative in a Digital Age. U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center, Room SVC-203/202, E Capitol St NE & 1st St NE Washington, DC. The Center for a New American Security (CNAS) will hold an event to mark the public launch of the U.S. Senate Caucus on Global Internet Freedom, which will provide bipartisan leadership and serve as a resource in the Washington policy community on this important issue. The event will feature remarks from caucus co-chairs Senators Ted Kaufman (D-DE) and Sam Brownback (R-KS), in addition to other Senate caucus members and a panel of experts including: Michael Posner (invited), Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Ambassador Mark Palmer, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs; Richard Fontaine, Senior Fellow at CNAS; Daniel Calingaert, Deputy Director of Programs at Freedom House; and a representative of Google. Caucus members and panelists will take questions from the audience and press. General Public [RSVP here](#). Media [RSVP here](#). Or call: 202.457.9427

Friday, March 26- 7 to 8:30 p.m. Shifting Political Visions in Modern Iran: Islamism and Neo-secularism. George Washington University: 2201 G Street, NW Washington DC- Fungler Hall, Room 108.

Annual Noruz Lecture by Distinguished Scholar of Iranian Studies Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi of the University of Toronto. To RSVP email FIS@fis-iran.org or call (301) 657-1990.

Monday, March 29 – 12:00noon to 1:00 p.m. Russia’s Underground Fire: Politics, Security and Human Rights in the North Caucasus. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. – Featuring Tom Parfitt, Correspondent, The Guardian, Moscow, and Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center. In April 2009, the Russian government announced it was ending “counter-terrorism operations” in Chechnya, effectively declaring victory over separatist rebels in the troubled republic. A closer look, however, reveals that in recent years the insurgency has spilt over Chechnya’s borders, radicalized and spread across the whole North Caucasus region of Russia, between the Black Sea and the Caspian. This “underground fire,” as Kremlin officials have called it, is now one of Russia’s gravest internal threats. Tom Parfitt, a reporter who has visited the North Caucasus regularly for the last seven years, gives an assessment of the situation on the ground and discusses the policy implications for Moscow and Washington.

Monday, April 5, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Assessing the Reset: The First Year of the Obama Administration’s Russia Policy – Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. – Featuring Samuel Charap, Associate Director, Russia and Eurasia Program, Center for American Progress. Seating for this event is available on a first come, first served basis-no reservations required.

Wednesday, April 7 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Legacy of President Lula and Brazil’s 2010 Presidential Race – Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. – Clifford Young, Executive Director, IPSOS Public Affairs Brazil; Chris Garman, Director, Eurasia Group; David Fleischer, Professor Emeritus, Universidade de Brasília and President, TCC-Brazil (Transparency, Consciousness and Citizenship); João Augusto de Castro Neves, Founding Partner and Political Analyst, CAC Consultoria; and more to be announced. RSVP [here](#).

Monday, April 12 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Challenges in Building Russian Democracy - Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. – Featuring Robert Orttung, President, Resource Security Institute, and former Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Scholar, Kennan Institute. Seating for this event is available on a first come, first served basis-no reservations required.

Wednesday, April 28 – 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. U.S. Relations with the Muslim World: One Year After Cairo – Ronald Reagan Building Amphitheater, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW – This all day conference will discuss many pressing issues, such as Muslim Perceptions & Public Opinion, Islam, Human Rights, and Development, and keynote speech, Prospects for Improved Relations and Understanding Between the U.S. and the Muslim World from Tariq Ramadan, Oxford University. View tentative schedule [here](#).

July 25 – 30, 2010. Islam and Religious Freedom at the Princeton Theological – Princeton University – The Witherspoon Institute presents a seminar on Islam and Religious Freedom at the Princeton Theological Seminary. The Islam and Religious Freedom Seminar is a week-long program for graduate students and professionals in Islam-related fields of study and work. In a small seminar setting, led by scholars, religious leaders, and experienced policy makers, participants will explore the intersection of Islam and religious freedom. This will include Muslim perspectives on faith and religious freedom, U.S. government policies on religious freedom abroad, modern social science research about the relationship of religious freedom to societal and individual well being, and perspectives on religious freedom in philosophy and among other faiths. The seminar will address religious freedom issues facing Muslim minorities, Muslim dissenters in Muslim-majority areas, and non-Muslims living in Muslim-majority areas.

The seminar is open to graduate students or professionals in Islam-related fields. If accepted, a seminar registration fee — \$100 for students, \$300 for non-students — will be required. The seminar will provide room, board, and seminar materials. Travel expenses are not included. A limited number of travel scholarships will be available. To apply, please send the following by April 1, 2010 via e-mail to islamproject@winst.org. Applicants can expect to be notified of admission decisions no later than April 15, 2010. Full details [here](#).

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