



## UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

An independent institution established by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity  
to promote peaceful resolution to international conflicts

### Regional Cooperation Key to Success in Iraq

For Immediate Release

Contact: Meg Pierannunzi, 202-429-4736

Allison Sturma, 202-429-4725

(Washington) –The United States Institute of Peace announced today the release of “Iraq, Its Neighbors, and the United States: Competition, Crisis, and the Reordering of Power,” a volume that examines how Iraq’s evolving political order affects its complex relationships with its neighbors and the United States.

With the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq complete, this volume underscores how Middle East and U.S. diplomats must now navigate the region’s complex political dynamics to help promote stability in Iraq. Editors Henri Barkey, Scott Lasensky, and Phebe Marr, along with expert contributors, lay out the realities of the political situation in Iraq; evaluate Iraq’s bilateral relationships with neighbors Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Arab States, Syria, and Jordan; and assert that Iraq still needs the support of neighboring countries and the United States.

Noting that continued violence, political corruption and an oil-dependent economy remain serious challenges to Iraq’s ongoing stability, the authors also recognize signs of progress, such as increasing levels of democratic participation and civil activism and a growing free press.

The experts depict a region unbalanced, shaped by new and old tensions, struggling with a classic collective action dilemma, and anxious about Iraq’s political future as well as America’s role in the region. While Iraq strongly desires a regional role, it will likely be a relatively weak country with fragmented leadership for some time. Regional powers—especially Iran—will attempt to exert influence. The United States is one of these regional players, with an important though diminishing role inside Iraq. Iraq’s transformation into a cohesive, single-state actor will require a considerable transition phase as the United States eliminates its military presence in Iraq but ramps up business, education, and cultural exchanges and increases engagement with Iraq’s neighbors.

“Iraq, Its Neighbors, and the United States” offers unique value in the breadth of its findings and in the common framework of analysis employed by the contributors. The book provides a comprehensive picture of the role that the United States and Iraq’s neighbors could play in advancing the country’s transition to security and stability.

## ABOUT THE EDITORS

**Henri J. Barkey** is the Bernard L. and Bertha F. Cohen Professor of International Relations at Lehigh University. He served as a member of the U.S. State Department Policy Planning Staff from 1998 to 2000. He has taught at Princeton, Columbia, the State University of New York, and the University of Pennsylvania. His past books include “Turkey’s Kurdish Question,” coauthored with Graham Fuller; the edited volume “Reluctant Neighbor: Turkey’s Role in the Middle East;” and, most recently, “Europe and Responses to Globalization: Resistance, Adaptation and Alternatives,” which he coedited with Janet Laible.

**Scott B. Lasensky** directed the United States Institute of Peace’s “Iraq and Its Neighbors” initiative from 2004 to 2009. The project combined focused research and regional dialogue efforts and involved participants from Iraq, the United States, and all of Iraq’s neighbors. A former senior program officer at the Institute’s Center for Conflict Management, Lasensky was an adviser on Middle East policy to both the Gore-Lieberman and Obama-Biden presidential campaigns. He is the coauthor, with Daniel C. Kurtzer, of “Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East” and the forthcoming “The Peace Puzzle: America’s Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace.”

**Phebe Marr** has been a scholar and analyst of southwest Asia for more than 40 years and is a leading U.S. specialist on Iraq. From 2004 to 2006 she was a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, where she researched and published work on Iraq’s post-2003 leadership. In 1998–99 she was a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, where she worked on recent Iraqi history. From 1985 to 1998, she was a senior fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, where she was responsible for long-range studies on U.S. security policy. Prior to 1985, she served as an associate professor of Middle East history at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (1975–85) and California State University Stanislaus (1970–75). Dr. Marr has advised high-level U.S. officials, written op-ed pieces in national journals, and testified before the U.S. Senate on Iraq and Gulf affairs. An Arabist, she is the author of numerous books and journal articles. The third edition of her book, “The Modern History of Iraq,” was published by Westview Press in 2011.

### **Iraq, Its Neighbors, and the United State’s December 2011**

**United States Institute of Peace Press**

**300 pp. • 6 x 9**

**\$19.95 (paper) • ISBN: 978-1-60127-077-1**

#### **Contact:**

Meaghan E. Pierannunzi  
Marketing Coordinator  
Publications Office  
United States Institute of Peace  
2301 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
P: 202-429-4736  
F: 202-429-6063  
E-mail: [mpierannunzi@usip.org](mailto:mpierannunzi@usip.org)

Allison Sturma  
Press Secretary  
Public Affairs  
United States Institute of Peace  
2301 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
P: 202-429-4725  
F: 202-429-6063  
E-mail: [asturma@usip.org](mailto:asturma@usip.org)

## ABOUT THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent, nonpartisan conflict management center created by Congress to prevent and mitigate international conflict without resorting to violence. USIP works to save lives, increase the government’s ability to deal with conflicts before they escalate, reduce government costs, and enhance national security. USIP is headquartered in Washington, DC. To learn more, visit [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org).