AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
معهد عصام فارس للسياسات العامة والشؤون الدولية

IFI NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2023

NEWS

General Agreement for Cooperation with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

This agreement aims to establish and promote collaboration on joint conferences and seminars, academic exchanges, research and publications deemed of interest to both parties.

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Call for Proposals: Demystifying Decentralization and Federalism

IFI and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Lebanon launched a call for proposals for a multi-dimensional research project entitled "Demystifying Decentralization and Federalism." Deadline for applications is August 15, 2023.

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Summer 2023 Interns Cohort

IFI welcomed 16 interns as part of its ongoing Internship Program. The program is designed for local and international students (both undergraduate and graduate) interested in learning and contributing to the work of public policy and international affairs.

PUBLICATIONS

Erdogan's Enduring Popularity - Sumru Altug

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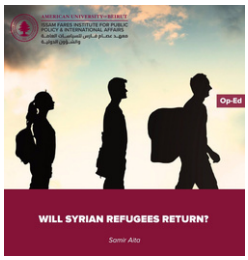

Will Syrian Refugees Return? - Samir Aita

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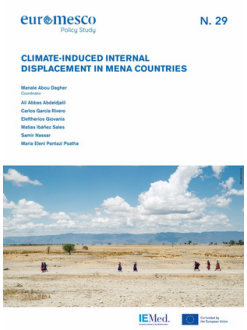

Climate-Induced Internal Displacement in MENA Countries

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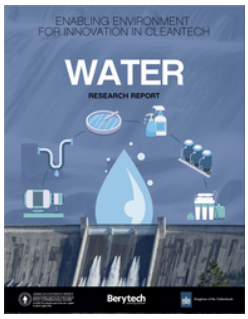

Cleantech in the Water, Solid Waste, Energy & WEF NEXUS Sector

The Campaign to End Statelessness in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, & Egypt

Who is a Refugee In Times of Deportation? - Maya Janmyr

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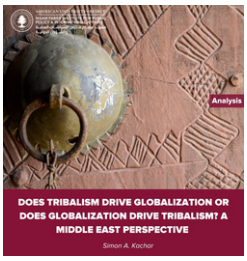

Does Tribalism Drive Globalization or Does Globalization Drive Tribalism? - Simon Kachar

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Building a Lebanese State & Administration Based on Meritocracy - Simon Kachar

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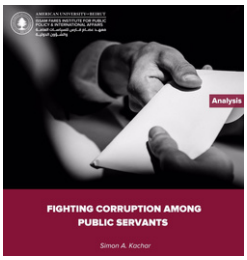

Fighting Corruption among Public Servants - Simon Kachar

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The Impact of Technology on Governance - Simon Kachar

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POLICY BLOG

Iran in Focus: Issue #5

The Spring/Summer 2023 issue of the Iran in Focus brief examines the possibility of a mini nuclear deal between Iran and the US, the March Iranian–Saudi détente deal, the change at the top of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), as well as prospects for economic cooperation between Iran and Russia.

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Voices from the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum 2023

"As new rising economic actors in the Persian Gulf are monitoring global events and acting based on their national interests, the Middle East will once again become the center of gravity of global geopolitical and geo-economic developments."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Launch of the WPS Guidebook

IFI & the Canadian Embassy launched a guidebook on “Mainstreaming the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the MENA Region Through Media."

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Launch of our Revamped YouTube Page

We are delighted to announce the launch of our revamped YouTube page, where you can now watch watch recordings of our policy discussions, talks, webinars, and conferences.

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EVENTS

Domestic & Regional Impact of the Turkish General Elections

05/31/2023

The webinar discussed how Erdogan's re- consolidation into power influenced Turkey's sociopolitical climate and regional relations, highlighting his focus on military achievements, nationalism, and fear politics, while also predicting shifts in Turkey's relations with the Arab world and the EU.

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Unpacking the Refugees Situation in Lebanon & the Issue of Return

06/02/2023

In collaboration with SAWA, specialists discussed the pressing need to protect Syrian refugees in Lebanon and ensure their return is safe, voluntary, and dignified, while also acknowledging the challenges faced by the Lebanese state in managing the complex refugee issue.

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Current Challenges to Neutrality: Lessons Learned from Austria

06/12/2023

In this joint IFI - Embassy of Austria talk, experts explored the complexities of defining and adopting neutrality in Lebanon, with Ambassador Helmut Tichy highlighting Austria's model of military neutrality and former Lebanese Foreign Minister Nassif Hitti emphasizing the significance of political pro- active neutrality for ensuring stability in small countries such as Lebanon.

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Refugees in the Middle East: Navigating an Uncertain Future

06/21/2023

In collaboration with ME Council, panelists highlighted the challenges faced by refugees in the MENA region, including harsh living conditions and lack of funding, and emphasized the need for immediate action and long-term solutions to address the crisis, such as early intervention, humanitarian aid, job opportunities, and return facilitators.

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Strengthening Social Stability in & through Education

06/22/2023

In collaboration with International Alert and LPRND, speakers highlighted the role of educators in reducing violence and bullying, creating inclusive environments, and promoting social stability in formal and non- formal educational settings, emphasizing the importance of cohesion, healthy relationships, and policies within schools.

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Democracy for Realists

06/27/2023

In this joint IFI - Bobst - AUB Collaborative Initiative, Professor Christopher Achen presented insights on the failures of "democratic" elections to produce responsive governments, challenging current democratic theories and highlighting examples from Lebanon's politics to illustrate the need for a conceptual revolution in democratic thought.

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Lebanon Unsettled: The October 2019 Uprising as a Product of Urban Space

07/03/2023

In this joint IFI - LSE Middle East Centre workshop, experts explored the historical context of the uprising, its geographical significance, and the creation of a student-led archive, highlighting the need for well- rounded educational tools and methodologies in understanding the complex dynamics of the protests.

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Refresher Course on Water Safety Plans for Regional Water Establishments in Lebanon

07/05/2023

IFI and USAID-funded Water Sanitation and Conservation project held a refresher course aimed to enhance the planning capabilities and management of water systems for regional water establishments in Lebanon, ensuring safe water delivery to beneficiaries as part of efforts to optimize the efficient operation of governmental water utilities in the country.

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Thinking Beyond the Modern (Western) State

07/26/2023

In collaboraton with AUB's Department of Philosophy, IFI held a talk with Loubna El Amine, focusing on ways to think beyond the state, by reflecting on non-Western pasts, particularly the histories of two Eastern empires, the (Chinese) Qing empire, and the Ottoman empire.

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For a roundup and summary of the Institute's events, visit Events at IFI.

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