

World Affairs Council of Washington, DC



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WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON LAUNCHES THE 2007 SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATORS

U.S. AND THE ARAB WORLD

The World Affairs Council of Washington D.C. is proud to announce its 16th annual Summer Institute on International Affairs. The week-long program brings teachers from across the country together to hear experts from area think tanks, the U.S. government and the diplomatic community, in addition to special presentations by organizations involved in curriculum and resource materials for teachers. This year's topic, "U.S. and the Arab World," focuses on U.S. foreign policy in the Arab World. The 2007 Summer Institute includes site visits and presentations at the United States Department of State, the World Bank, The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, American University, and the Smithsonian Institution with presentations by notable experts such as Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Ambassador Saqr Ghobash, Ambassador Afif Safieh, Dr. Peter Bechtold, Nathan Brown, Afshin Molavi, and Dr. John Duke Anthony.

On June 25th, 2007, **Ambassador Chas. W. Freeman, Jr.** delivered a speech to the Summer Institute of the Washington World Affairs Council. His remarks, titled "American Foreign Policy and the Arab World," draw upon Amb. Freeman's experience in formulating U.S. foreign policy, his expertise in geopolitics and his knowledge of the Arab and Muslim worlds.



"The ignorance of most Americans, even educated Americans, about Islam and the Arab world has made a large contribution to these strategic failures with both Arabs and Muslims. Lacking understanding of those who oppose us, we have reasoned from fallacious analogies with our former foes in Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. Instead of trying to understand and rebut al Qaeda's case against our direct and indirect interventions in the Arab and Islamic worlds, we have ascribed to it an ideology that does not exist. "Islamofascism" is a word invented in America, redolent with politically evocative overtones of the European holocaust, and totally disconnected from both Islam and Arab history. Rather than analyzing the objectives that al Qaeda and its allies profess – which have to do with freeing the realm of Islam of our presence so that they and other Islamic extremists can direct its course to the future – we assign to them an objective of world conquest similar to that of our past Eurasian enemies. Our ignorance, confusion, and self-indulgence have led us to impose unfounded stereotypes on Muslims and to mistake Arab friends for Arab enemies – and, no doubt, vice versa." -Ambassador Chas. W. Freeman, Jr.

Heidi Shoup, Director of the World Affairs Council of Washington D.C., believes the Summer Institute is vital in reinforcing the importance of global education and helping to understand the world we live in. "The 2007 Summer Institute will give educators an in-depth look at major issues impacting U.S-Arab relations as well as resources, methodologies to bring the world into their classrooms."