

## INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST | INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES [ITME]

### ITME FELLOWSHIP | VOICES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST with Avi Melamed & Regional Experts

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The ITME Fellowship is an unparalleled, immersive, and interactive educational experience designed to equip motivated and passionate students with the knowledge, tools, and resources to explore the complexities of the Middle East. The fellowship's goal is to empower participants to think critically, bridge divides, and confidently initiate meaningful conversations that inspire understanding, drive informed dialogue, and lead to impactful change. By fostering knowledge and providing direct access to Middle East experts and resources, the Fellowship aims to help students shape a more informed and connected world on campus and beyond.

#### [PROGRAM OVERVIEW](#)

##### **Session One: HISTORICAL FRAMING OF THE MIDDLE EAST [Avi]**

**Date: January 26**

Historical milestones that shape the Middle East—this context is essential for understanding its modern complexity and conflicts.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This will be an extended session (1:00 pm Eastern to 3:30 pm Eastern) to do a general orientation, have each of the fellows get to know each other, and for our Board Members to introduce themselves.*

##### **Session Two: NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: February 2**

How the rise of nationalism transformed the Middle East - from the fall of empires to the creation of modern states.

##### **Session Three: “ISLAM IS THE SOLUTION” | THE RISE OF MILITANT ISLAM [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: February 9**

The historical and ideological roots of Militant Islam and its profound impact on contemporary geopolitics.

##### **Session Four: TURKEY AND NEO-OTTOMANISM | RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN AND HIS QUEST FOR REGIONAL POWER [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: February 16**

Turkey's historical legacy and how Erdoğan's policies are reshaping its role in the Middle East and beyond.

##### **Session Four: THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND ITS PURSUIT OF HEGEMONY | WHERE ARE WE NOW? [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: March 2**

Iran's journey from the 1979 Islamic Revolution to its quest for regional dominance and where it stands now domestically and regionally.

##### **Session Six: THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT | A VIEW FROM THE REGION [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: March 9**

How the Middle East geopolitics impact the past, present, and future trajectory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Session Seven: THE WEST BANK & GAZA | AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: March 16**

The interplay of powers in Israel and the Middle East with the Palestinian struggle for identity, power, and direction.

**Session Eight: ISRAEL | PATH, IDENTITY, DIRECTION [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: March 23**

The diversity and ideological conflicts within Israeli society and their implications for Israel's future.

**Session Nine: IRAQ, SYRIA & LEBANON | IDENTITY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: March 30**

The struggle for sovereignty in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon and their ongoing battles for stability and self-determination.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This will be an extended session (1:00 pm Eastern to 3:00 pm Eastern).*

**Session Ten: JORDAN | A MONARCHY IN TRANSITION? [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: April 6**

Jordan - a monarchy navigating tradition, modernization, and regional challenges.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS (13 AND 20) ARE PASSOVER. WE WILL DISCUSS THE DATES FOR SESSIONS 11 AND 12 WITH YOU TO FIND DATES THAT WORK BEST WITH YOUR SCHEDULES.**

**Session Eleven: THE ARAB GULF MONARCHIES AND THE REGION [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: TBD**

Explore the relationship between the different Gulf countries with each other and with the wider Middle East.

**Session Twelve: REGIONAL UPDATE & REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGION [Avi & Guest]**

**Date: TBD**

Overview: Discussion about the most current events in the region – about the region and from within the region.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This will be an extended session (1:00 pm Eastern to 3:00/30 pm Eastern).*

**PLEASE NOTE: SUBJECTS AND LINEUP OF SESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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**CONCLUDING TWO-DAY IN-PERSON SESSION [Avi & Guests]**

**Date: Late May 2025 (Likely the week of May 18)**

**Location: Washington, D.C.**

Celebrate the Fellowship journey with project presentations, reflections, and meaningful engagement with peers, Board Members, and ITME FELLOWSHIP educators.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**We are developing a Portal for the ITME Fellowship. The bios of the speakers will be distributed before each session via the Portal. The speakers' resources will be distributed before or after each session via the Portal as well. We will send out the link to the Portal on Thursday or Friday.**