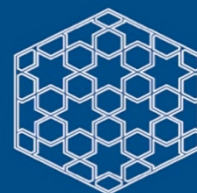




2018 GABR FELLOWS MEETING WITH MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMED ELKESHKY, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HIS TEAM AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

November 2020, Issue 40

IN THIS ISSUE

The Only Constant is Change

During millions of years of evolution, the species that survived and thrived most are those that were most able to adapt.

This vital trait is, I believe, very much alive in humans today. 2020 has been a challenge to say the least, but in order to be able to not only survive it, but thrive in it and in all the challenges ahead, we must tap into that innate ability of our species to adapt.

Because C-19 is not the only challenge ahead of us. Uncertainty has become the new norm, and we must learn not to be surprised by the 'next big thing,' be it pandemics, social and/or political instability, or huge leaps in the development and implementation of artificial intelligence.

Keeping communication alive in a time of social distancing, Zoom, working from home and covering our faces is not easy. Face-to-face communication which this Foundation stands for is now half-face at best, and face-to-Zoom too often.

But this too shall pass, and we will come back to being able to freely meet with friends and colleagues, and hug our loved ones.

Until then, stay safe, and I leave you with a quote by Benjamin Franklin: "Change is the only constant in life. The ability to adapt to those changes will determine your success in life."

M. Shafik Gabr

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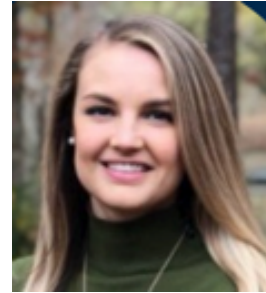
News and Updates...

Mohammed Mubarak wins International Property Award



2013 Gabr Fellow Mohammed Mubarak has recently moved to Toronto from Kuwait with his family. In addition, one of his architectural design projects in Kuwait (for the company KIM Design Bureau) won an award as Winner of the Architecture Single Residence Design, awarded by the International Property Awards. Mohammed's design was recognized as one of the best single residential projects in Africa and the Arab World. A video can be found via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coQA59Grp4k>

Liz Dent on US Policy and the Resurgence of ISIS in Iraq and Syria



2015 Gabr Fellow Liz Dent recently published a paper in the Middle East Institute on US Policy and the Resurgence of ISIS in Iraq and Syria. She writes how, as attacks by ISIS increase in both Iraq and Syria, the U.S. presidential election offers a turning point for how U.S. foreign policy will seek to address a potential ISIS resurgence. Her paper lays out this growing problem and recommends policy.

You can read it on <https://www.mei.edu/publications/us-policy-and-resurgence-isis-iraq-and-syria>

Judson Moore launches a pandemic recovery service

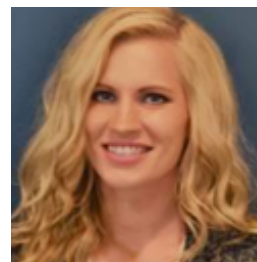


2015 Gabr Fellow Judson Moore has launched a pandemic recovery service called Social Contract. This free service offers guidance and accountability to users' 'social pods' by agreeing and adhering to best practices for ensuring their safety during the pandemic while maintaining a social connection with their community.

More details can be found via the following link: <https://socialcontract.app>

Judson is eager to receive your feedback. Please feel free to email him at hi@socialcontract.app, or write him a WhatsApp message at +1.310.571.5210.

Heidi Green is Chair of International Sign Accreditation Assessment Board



2016 Gabr Fellow Heidi Green has been elected to serve as chair of the WFD-WASLI (World Federation of the Deaf - World Association for Sign Language Interpreters) International Sign Accreditation Assessment Board.

The World Federation of the Deaf is a global organisation working to ensure equal rights for 70 million people around the globe.

Ahmed Aransho starts work for Egypt's Embassy in Addis Ababa



2015 Gabr Fellow Ahmed Aransho has been posted to the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Addis Ababa. The Embassy in Addis Ababa serves as the Permanent representation of Egypt to the African Union as well.

The posting shall begin on the first of November in 2020 and is expected to last for three years.

Karim Sharkawy posted to Egypt's Embassy in Khartoum



2018 Gabr Fellow Karim Sharkawy has been posted to work in Egypt's Embassy in Khartoum as a Political Officer.

The posting is expected to last for two years. Karim is currently the Officer for Israeli affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo.

Leah Moschella leads economic recovery



2015 Gabr Fellow Leah Moschella, in her position as Associate Director of Jobs for the Future, recently led the development and writing for the state of Hawaii's economic recovery roadmap that brings together leaders in education, workforce development, and business. You can read about the work here: <https://www.hec.org/talent-roadmap/>. The plan is being implemented by the Hawaii Executive Collaborative, actively engaging the business leaders in supporting education policy.

Additionally, she is leading a partnership with the global company, Prologis to rapidly re-skill the thousands of workers who lost their jobs due to the pandemic and get them jobs in the growing logistics industry. ([Logisticscareers.prologis.com](https://logisticscareers.prologis.com)) They are currently rolling out the initiative in 10 major cities across the United States.

Gabr Fellows Meeting in Cairo

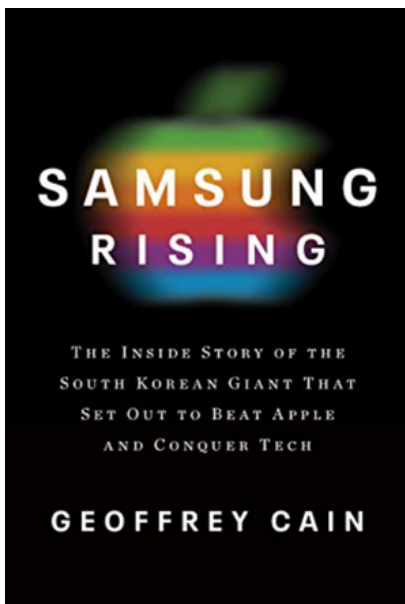


On 13th October, Mr Gabr met with the Gabr Fellows in Cairo. The Fellows discussed with Mr. Gabr their latest updates and their professional and personal plans.

The Fellows also discussed the opportunities and obstacles for local and foreign investors in order to establish or operate their business in Egypt, and the optimal strategies for attracting business and investment in the country.

The Fellows present were Shehab Farouk (2014 Gabr Fellow), Ahmed Aransho (2015 Gabr Fellow), Ahmed Radwan (2015 Gabr Fellow), Yasser El Zahhar (2016 Gabr Fellow), Ahmed Abounaga (2016 Gabr Fellow), Youssef El-Toukhy (2016 Gabr Fellow), Amr Seda (2017 Gabr Fellow), Karim Elsharkawy (2018 Gabr Fellow), Ahmed Hashemy (2018 Gabr Fellow), Muhammad El Hawary (2018 Gabr Fellow) and Marwa Abdalla (2018 Gabr Fellow).

Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends *Samsung Rising: The Inside Story of the South Korean Giant That Set Out to Beat Apple and Conquer Tech* by Geoffrey Cain.

Based on years of reporting on Samsung for *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Time*, from his base in South Korea, and his countless sources inside and outside the company, Geoffrey Cain offers a penetrating look behind the curtains of Samsung. Seen for decades in tech circles as a fast follower rather than an innovation leader, Samsung today has grown to become a market leader in the United States and around the globe.

A sweeping insider account, *Samsung Rising* shows how a determined and fearless Asian competitor has become a force to be reckoned with.

Guy Fawkes Comes To America

by Harlan Ullman

Dr Harlan Ullman is Senior Advisor at the Atlantic Council. His next book is The Fifth Horseman: To Be Feared, Friendled or Fought in a MAD-Driven Age

Two days after America's presidential election is Guy Fawkes Day, commemorating the failed attempt in 1605 to blow up the English House of Lords and assassinate King James I memorialized by the phrase "gunpowder, treason and plot." Rebellious Catholics, headed by Robert Catesby and Guy Fawkes, were apprehended hauling 36 barrels of gunpowder into Parliament where the explosives were to be detonated the next day. November 5th is still celebrated with bonfires throughout Britain.

Given that this election may be the most contentious in American history, the prospect of many, but hopefully far less destructive, Guy Fawkes Days erupting throughout the nation cannot be discounted. No matter who wins, many of the losing side will be angered and outraged with the outcome. Given the intense polarization of society today, easy access to guns and social media and affinities for violence, it is not difficult to imagine "the carnage" of what could happen.

Whether the election is close or not and he loses, Trump will press charges over fraud, ballot rigging and other electoral malfeasance challenging the election. Recounts will be demanded. Massive numbers of lawsuits and litigation will follow. And both parties will stage huge rallies to influence the final tabulations. Some of those rallies could easily escalate to violence.

In this regard, Trump has several advantages. Historically, Republicans have been better at PR and political perception management dating back to Richard Nixon's "dirty tricks" operation. This was perfected in the 2000 Miami-Dade County Republican effort to halt the recount allowing George W. Bush to win the presidency by 537 votes in Florida. Trump's team is even more skilled.

In 2000 when the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in Bush's favor, one swing vote came from Clarence Thomas appointed by Bush senior. Trump has three justices he appointed to the court giving him potentially a 5-4 or 6-3 advantage. And does anyone think in today's hyper partisan politics, the court would decide any case based solely on the law, when laws such as the Electoral College Act of 1887 and Presidential Succession Act of 1947 are highly ambiguous?

An earlier column speculated how Trump might also win if the election were forced to the House of Representatives because of a deadlocked Electoral College. Provided Republicans maintained control of at least 26 state delegations, that simple majority would select the president. The outcry would not only be deafening. It could too easily become violent.

Of course, the election could proceed smoothly, probably the least likely scenario. In all other cases, the looming question is how did America get to this point? The answers are not reassuring.

First, while many Americans consider this country to be a democracy, in fact it is a representative republic. Originally, only the House of Representatives was directly elected and then by white, male landowners. States appointed senators and the Electoral College chose the president. The fundamental reason for the Senate, long since forgotten or ignored, was that states should have the power to balance the federal government. Hence, each state, regardless of size or population, was awarded two senators. Further, not only were political parties unmentioned in the Constitution. They were feared as disruptive "factions" destructive to governing.

Even after women won the right to vote in 1920 and Senators were popularly elected, the U.S. remained a republic. Over the past several decades, senators became more dependent on the party for funding and support than the state each represented. As a result, many senators grew ambivalent about loyalty to the party or, as originally intended, to the state. Party as opposed to state loyalty has contributed to making gridlock almost permanent as politics became more rigid. And to Republicans, Trump is the party. That both parties have moved much further to left and right has affected this dual loyalty.

Meanwhile, the failure of successive governments to govern has frustrated and disenfranchised many in both political parties. Donald Trump understood and exploited this anger. Unfortunately, given his personality and disruptive nature, Trump has widened these divides. And no apparent countervailing force is present to span or narrow these differences.

After the George Floyd murder, violent protests exploded across the nation. These could be trivial compared to what a contested election might produce. And Corona and the raging Covid pandemic that are reaching record highs in new cases, hospitalizations and deaths have accelerated and aggravated these already irreparable differences.

What can be done to preempt a worst case scenario? There is only a single and improbable answer. To prevent a 21st century equivalent of the November 5th gunpowder plot, both campaigns must meet and agree now on a modus operandi for resolving any potential contested election crisis. Should that not happen, welcome back Guy Fawkes.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published in Daily Times: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/682751/guy-fawkes-comes-to-america/>

Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles—in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more—they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

1. Do you think the Electoral College voting system in the US is democratic?

Yes: 12%

No: 76%

I don't know: 12%

2. Will the US Senate be led by Democrats or Republicans in the November election?

Democrats: 73%

Republicans: 12%

I don't know: 15%

3. Will war break out between Egypt and Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) problem?

Yes: 19%

No: 50%

I don't know: 31%

Stay tuned for next month's question of the month and the Gabr Fellows' takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



November 1: Afnan Khalil, 2015 Gabr Fellow



November 1: Heba Sawfat, 2013 Gabr Fellow



November 3: Amr Ismaeil, 2013 Gabr Fellow



November 7: Elizabeth Trapp, 2014 Gabr Fellow



November 8: Amr Seda, 2017 Gabr Fellow

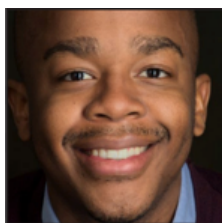


November 9: Suzanne Youngner, 2014 Gabr Fellow

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



November 13: Jeff Walls, 2013 Gabr Fellow



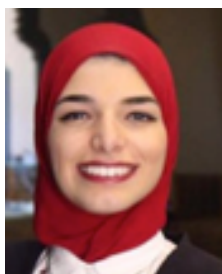
November 14: Fabrice Guerrier, 2018 Gabr Fellow



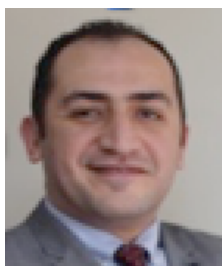
November 14: Morgan Williams, 2013 Gabr Fellow



November 15: Jeremiah Bowden, 2014 Gabr Fellow



November 22: Yara Albraidy, 2018 Gabr Fellow



November 30: Moataz Hussein, 2013 Gabr Fellow

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



Gustave Boulanger, *The Courtyard of the Palace Dar Khdaouedj El Amia, Algiers*
Shafik Gabr Collection

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