



November 2021 Gabr Fellows meeting in New York with the Chairman Shafik Gabr

## THE KHAN ERA

I was invited to lunch during my visit to Washington DC by a dear friend, a retired State Department Ambassador. Also attending were three others: an economist, a professional painter and a medical professional.

We observed some of the painter's beautiful paintings on her phone. No blank canvases or a few dots on panel. This, I felt, was real art. Linda had captured the anguish of covid. Her brushstrokes in portraits of medical doctors, nurses and patients spoke volumes.

As we ordered our food, the economist was talking about the state of the world economy. An interesting reference he made was the possibility of China imploding economically. However, he clearly said he could not see that happening but that China's economy will bleed, he emphasized, and while a Soviet Union collapse scenario is far-fetched in his opinion, social unrest was a possibility.

Our water (for myself, the doctor and the painter), iced tea (for the Ambassador) and a glass of Chardonnay (for the economist) arrived as the doctor switched the focus of the discussion to the pandemic, specifically how poorly it has been managed and the political reasons behind the resulting chaos in dealing with the Covid 19 crisis. Our host, the Ambassador, explained that until now political leaders have failed to deal with the pandemic not only in terms of management but also in terms of democratic process.

Our starters arrived as the painter enthusiastically pointed out that America had a huge number of people against vaccination entirely, Germany had high vaccination rates but also high infections, and when the government interfered riots broke out. Holland has police firing at protestors and, she added, pointing to all of us, it's not only Covid people will push back on. "Look at January 6 at the US Capitol, Black Lives Matter, Rittenhouse protests and the weekly marches in London in Whitehall. The world is changing, gentlemen," she said as we started eating, "and now, as in the title of the famous play, Anything Goes," she added.

I sat listening to the next intervention but a few moments of quiet passed as everyone finished their starters.

Then the economist turned to me and said "Yes, anything goes, however..." I looked back at him and he said "Forced vaccinations, now boosters, no control over the pharma companies that now are dumping all their other businesses and literally splitting and focused on vaccination which makes them tons of money, travel regulations bouncing over the walls, vaccination availability and supply, vaccination passport confusion, Afghanistan now forgotten, and lack of coherent policy on any subject have gone to the extent that populations have become shellshocked and are now starting to push back."

The Ambassador interrupted: "Switzerland has no Khan."

As the server was removing our starter plates and placing our main dishes, the doctor asked the Ambassador what he meant.

I interjected and explained that a Khan is a medieval sovereign whose word was law, and I added: "I assume the Ambassador means

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none of us can even name the President of Switzerland, let alone see him impose laws as we have seen around the world.” The Ambassador nodded an agreement and added that nothing in Switzerland happens without a public referendum and the people are engaged 24/7.

The economist chimed in between mouthfuls of beef: “Remember, we have a real Khan here in America that may cause as much disruption as the pandemic.” I smiled as I sensed what he was referring to but the others stared blankly.

“Lisa Khan,” the economist said as he finished his main dish. “Whilst the Pentagon invites our big tech guns like Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Oracle to work with the DOD, Lisa Khan as Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman is overstepping her agency’s legal authority to clamp down on our tech giants and to add to the socialist streak of America.”

The doctor commented that he knew the leadership of the US Chamber of Commerce and that recently they stated that Khan is waging war on business and the market economy.

“Khan, appointed by the Biden administration,” the doctor added, “has been waiting in the wings and pre-appointment has attacked Facebook and Amazon repeatedly claiming fake reviews, monopolistic activity and misrepresentation.”

The Ambassador intervened: “Doesn’t this sound a bit like Xi Jinping in China with Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu and others like them?” This time, silence engulfed the table.

“The correct definition of a Khan is a medieval sovereign of China and ruler over the Turkish, Tatar, and Mongol tribes,” I stated flatly. “Xi is a Khan but now we see them cropping up everywhere including in America,” I said.

As coffee was served, we all agreed that America’s beacon of market economy could be badly tarnished if the “khan” became the arbitrator, rather than the market. Tomorrow, we agreed, we may witness a real takeover of “anything goes” with unexpected consequences. There was silence around the table as the coffee cups were removed and the bill arrived.

**Shafik Gabr**

## FELLOWS NEWS & UPDATES



### AHMED RADWAN

2015 Gabr Fellow Ahmed recently attended the Cairo International Film Festival in its 43rd edition and had the opportunity to be featured in the festival to do some improvisation scenes with celebrities on the red carpet. This was the first time in the festival's history to include an improvisation section. Ahmed is part of the group 'Irtigalia Cairo'.

### JUDSON MOORE

2015 Gabr Fellow Judson has begun a new chapter of his career as a Senior Technical Product Manager at the world's largest company in the travel industry, Booking.com. Booking.com is headquartered in Amsterdam, which means Judson will be relocating there from his current home in Berlin, Germany, in Q1 2022.







## MENNA FAROUK

2017 Gabr Fellow Menna has won 'Best Graduation Project and Practical Research' award from The National Council for Women (NCW), Media Committee competition. Her story titled, "Bakery of A Woman" or "Makhbaz El Set" portrays a female baker, Afaf, who is a boss over six workers in a small bakery in El-Sayed Zeinab, Old Cairo. After her husband fell ill, she wore his galabyia and took over his place at the bakery.

## LIZ TRAPP

2014 Gabr Fellow Liz recently received a grant from the Greater Columbus Arts Council to financially support a new series of paintings and textile works that she is preparing. She has also wrapped up some design work for Asics and The Columbus Marathon.



## YARA ALBRAIDY

2018 Gabr Fellow Yara recently got married to her partner Ahmed Gamal, an aerospace engineer, in an intimate ceremony in Egypt. Congratulations to the happy couple!

## SARAH DERDOWSKI

2014 Gabr Fellow Sarah recently made it to the finals of the GRIT Awards by ALLY Energy. The GRIT Awards aspire to discover and recognize individuals, teams, and companies who are doing extraordinary things in energy, climate, and sustainability.





## SARAH BADR

2017 Gabr Fellow Sarah has been appointed as the World Youth Forum's official spokesperson. The forum is held annually in Egypt, in Sharm el-Sheikh under the auspices of his excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and is an international platform for youth to exchange their views on pressing global challenges with top policy and decision-makers. The forum has been endorsed by the United Nations and several international organizations as a platform that empowers youth from all over the world and endorsed its annual recommendations.

CLICK HERE



to join the forum.

## AHMED ABOULNAGA

2016 Gabr Fellow Ahmed recently met with the Chairman M Shafik Gabr in London.

Ahmed is currently working as the 3rd Secretary at the Egyptian Embassy in London. The Chairman and Ahmed discussed his new role and current endeavours. Ahmed is also working with the Chairman in becoming an ambassador for the Foundation.



## MENNA FAROUK

2017 Gabr Fellow Menna has recently penned an article for Thomson Reuters Foundation titled 'In conservative Egypt, women seek low-cost ways to 'prove virginity''. To read her article

CLICK HERE





# ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship programme helps to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, half of which are men and the other half women, with an equal distribution between participants from the United States and Egypt. The Fellowship also accepts applicants from Jordan, Lebanon, France and the United Kingdom. Fellows represent a variety of sectors, including the arts, law, finance, tech, non-profits, and entrepreneurship – both business and social.

The mission of the Fellowship is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between the two cultures by instigating dialogue and the exchange of ideas between emerging leaders from the



**2018 Gabr Fellows visit World Bank, Washington**

United States and Egypt. Together, they explore one another's cultures, political realities, business trends and their goals for the future.

In addition to engaging in deep discussions with key stakeholders from both countries in business, government, academia, religion, science, tech and finance, all Fellows are invited to form multinational teams to complete an action project. These projects empower the Fellows as inter-cultural ambassadors, amplifying the Fellowship's reach and impact.

Ultimately, through hands-on activities, rigorous discussions, cultural site visits, and the collaborative action projects, the Fellows have a greater understanding of both countries and become part of an international cohort dedicated to building a more equitable and peaceful world.

The Gabr Fellows have acquired a greater understanding of both Egypt and the United States and the challenges faced by both communities. Having served as cultural as well as linguistic ambassadors to one another, they then return home to play the role of diplomat, introducing Egyptians and Americans to a people, a culture and a future never before explored in this way.

Together, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to their regions' most pressing issues.



**Gabr Fellows with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister Sameh Shoukry**



**Gabr Fellows take on the Pyramids**

# SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

The Shafik Gabr Foundation invites you to invest in the future and partner with the Foundation using one of more of the following means:

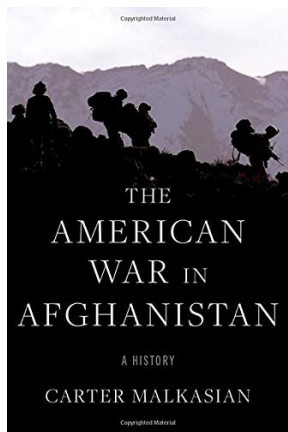
**Sponsor a Fellow** - Individuals have the opportunity to nominate a Fellow and if selected, sponsor their participation in the Gabr Fellowship. Sponsors will be recognised in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and at all events

**Corporate patron** - Corporations can nominate Fellows for participation in the Fellowship and sponsor their participation on a company-wide level. The company will be listed in all publications, the logo will be presented on the Foundation's homepage and be given visibility at all events in the United States and Egypt.

**Unrestricted support** - A general operating grant can empower the Foundation to continue to invest in innovative platforms to facilitate ongoing dialogue between the East and West. From new technologies to expanding the programme to more countries and a greater number of participants, the Fellowship can create a broader multiregional impact.

To support the Foundation

CLICK HERE

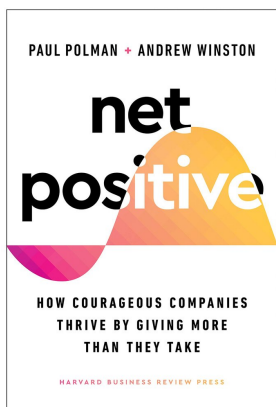


## Gabr Foundation Reading Corner

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 *The American War in Afghanistan* by Carter Malkasian and *Net Positive* by Paul Polman and Andrew Winston.

In *The American War in Afghanistan*, Malkasian provides the first comprehensive history of the entire conflict. Wise and all-encompassing, this provides a truly vivid portrait of the conflict in all of its phases that will remain the authoritative account for years to come.

In *Net Positive*, former Unilever CEO Paul Polman and sustainable business guru Andrew Winston argue that, to thrive today and tomorrow, companies must become “net positive” - giving more to the world than they take. They reveal key lessons from Unilever and other pioneering companies around the world about how you can profit by fixing the world's problems instead of creating them.



# Interview with 2017 Gabr Fellows Bryan & Dalia



[www.bryandgriffin.com](http://www.bryandgriffin.com)



<https://www.daliayounis.com/>



**What is your message to future applicants of the programme?**

Be prepared to take advantage of every minute of the programme. You will remember this for the rest of your life.

**What impact did the Gabr Fellowship programme have on your personal life/career?**

Thanks to the Gabr Fellowship I can speak with firsthand knowledge about policy and society in the Middle East.

**Did the programme change any of your personal views?**

The programme definitely illuminated areas in which I had a lack of knowledge, in terms of everyday life in the Middle East and helped me to empathise with stakeholders in Middle East politics.

**Tell us about the work you have undertaken following the programme.**

I have taken best practices from the programme and used this to highlight social and economic issues, and build on individual relationships between Israelis, Egyptian and Americans with the goal of bringing nuance and understanding to ongoing conflict.



**What attracted you to the Gabr Fellowship programme?**

This was an opportunity of a lifetime not just because it offered a trip to some key locations in the country and meeting many decision makers, but also because it gave me a chance to also listen to the story from youth my age who come from different backgrounds of the American society.

**How has the programme helped with your development?**

I became more aware of the different cultures around me within my own country and the US. Overall, the programme helped me realise more of my potential and made me more eager to pursue new opportunities.

**How did you become involved with your singing?**

I had always enjoyed music/singing but it was really just a hobby as life, children and marriage got in the way.

In 2016 after some personal issues, I decided to take singing more seriously.

**Tell us about your upcoming trip to the US.**

After the Gabr programme I visited the US again the following year and realised that this could be the perfect venue to spread message of colour, peace and love in New York.

After lots of work, I will be performing at St Patricks Cathedral in New York to perform traditional Christmas carols in Arabic and I am excited to rise to this new challenge.



**CLICK HERE**





# QUESTIONS 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 it should be mandatory to wear masks in closed spaces with the new COVID variant looming?**

Yes - 80%  
No - 17%  
Unsure - 3%

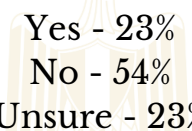
**2.) Will you/have you invested in cryptocurrency?**

Yes - 40%  
No - 60%

**3.) Will Biden last a second term?**

Yes - 20%  
No - 43%  
Unsure - 37%

**4.) Do you believe we are any closer to tackling climate change?**



Yes - 23%  
No - 54%  
Unsure - 23%

**5.) Do you think COP26 was a success?**

Yes - 13%  
No - 27%  
Unsure - 60%

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



# What Anwar Sadat's murder 40 years ago meant for the Middle East

By Bruce Riedel  
1st October 2021

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Forty years ago, on October 6, 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated by Islamist terrorists in Cairo. I was then the Egypt analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and had just published an internal paper on the prospects for succession if Sadat was killed, which I judged to be likely given the deep opposition to his unilateral peace deal with Israel. Sadat's death set in train the disastrous road to the war in Lebanon in 1982, the creation of Hezbollah, and the seeds of al-Qaida.

Sadat enjoyed celebrating the anniversary of the start of the Ramadan War (or Yom Kippur War) every October, reliving the day — October 6, 1973 — that Egyptian soldiers crossed the Suez Canal. He was “the hero of the crossing.” Earlier in life he was Gamal Abdel Nasser's right-hand man. He and Nasser had led Egypt into a disastrous war in Yemen in the 1960s, a quagmire where Cairo was bogged down when it stumbled into the catastrophe of the 1967 war with Israel. In 1973, Sadat and the Egyptian military had redeemed both themselves and Egypt.

He was an unpredictable leader, deliberately and thoughtfully so. His famous 1977 speech offering to visit Jerusalem was dismissed as a rhetorical flourish by the CIA in the President's Daily Brief the next morning; a week later Sadat was in Jerusalem. He made peace with Israel at Camp David with the stellar support of U.S. President Jimmy Carter. But for most Arabs he had betrayed the Palestinian cause at the Maryland summit meeting and was considered a traitor and an outcast by 1981.

My paper predicted a smooth and uncomplicated transition to Hosni Mubarak, then vice president, which is precisely what happened. The new director of the CIA, Bill Casey, had it reprinted and distributed all over Washington to call attention to the CIA's prescient analysis. He wanted to distract attention from the fact that the Agency was responsible for training Sadat's bodyguards.

A few weeks later Israel's then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon asked his military intelligence experts how Mubarak would react to an invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli army, intended to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization and drive the Syrian army out of north Lebanon. Their response, as I have written previously, was that Mubarak would do little or nothing. Sadat would have reacted differently, they noted, probably renouncing the peace treaty to clear his reputation. He was certain to respond forcefully to an invasion that many believed was only possible because he had removed the threat of war from Egypt.

Assured by the intelligence assessment, Sharon embarked on the disastrous June 1982 invasion that led to the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps massacre in September, the April 1983 suicide bombing of the U.S. Embassy that killed 63 people including seven CIA officers, and the October 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks at Beirut airport that killed 241 Marines, sailors, and soldiers. The invasion also led to the creation by Iran of Hezbollah, which ultimately drove the Israelis out of even the most southern part of Lebanon in 2000. President Ronald Reagan withdrew the Marines after the bombing of the Marine barracks and Syria and Iran were triumphant.

In the description of his former Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, Mubarak was a “stabilizer” who “maybe because of his experiences with Sadat... shied away from grand policy schemes.” He was passive during Operation Peace for Galilee. On the fringe of the assassination plot in 1981 was a prominent Egyptian doctor named Ayman al-Zawahiri who was arrested in the police sweeps after Sadat's murder. Because of his language skills and demeanor, Zawahiri became the spokesperson for the plotters in prison. Released for lack of evidence, Zawahiri has been on the run ever since.

As Osama bin Laden's deputy and eventual successor, Zawahiri has been the leading ideologue of al-Qaida since its birth. He articulated its goal as being to destroy America's will to support Israel. He was also at the center of the triple agent plot that killed seven CIA officers and a Jordanian in 2009 in Khost, Afghanistan. He surfaced last month with an audiotape celebrating a new book in time for the 20th anniversary of 9/11. It's a safe bet he will be back in Kabul sooner or later.

**Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER FELLOWS!



2014 Fellow - Nancy Habib  
December 1st



2014 Fellow - Shehab Kamel  
December 1st



2013 Fellow - Alex Goldmark  
December 9th



2016 Fellow - Leisel Bogan  
December 11th



2014 Fellow - Ahmed El Assal  
December 15th



2013 Fellow - Beth Cartier  
December 16th



2014 Fellow - Zeyad Elkelani  
December 17th



2017 Fellow - Menna Farouk  
December 17th



2015 Fellow - Nick Thomas  
December 22nd



2013 Fellow - Becca Doten  
December 23rd



2018 Fellow - SOaad Hossam  
December 26th

December

# THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

*Monthly Newsletter*



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

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/>



**Frederick Arthur Bridgman – *Preparations for the Wedding, Algiers* - Oil on Canvas**  
**The Shafik Gabr Collection**

## Connect with us!



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