



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Newsletter



The Gabr Fellows, Mr. Sean Cleary and Chairman Shafik Gabr during the welcome meeting of the 2023 Gabr Fellowship Reunion in Cairo, May 2023

Noise or Silence

It was a rainy afternoon in London - nothing strange there. I was on my way to see a friend in Knightsbridge for coffee when thunder broke the silence. Traffic was heavy and I got wet disembarking from the taxi to his door, although it was no more than six steps away across the pavement.

Norman Clifford is a barrister, and as I rang his apartment, he buzzed me in. I climbed five stories to his apartment, a needed exercise. He had his door open and welcomed me warmly. Norman had not changed. I had not seen him for over two years due to Covid. Norman was dressed casually in jeans, sneakers and a warm cashmere pullover, very much unlike what he wore in court. As he took my waterproof coat another guest arrived. Jennifer Watkins, a well-known theatrical director, came out of the elevator without a coat, and even though her dress was a bit wet she had a warm smile and a positive allure. Norman introduced me to Jennifer and we walked into Norman's living room, overlooking Hyde Park, where two gentlemen were already gazing out of the floor to ceiling windows. Liam O'Conner, an Irish actor, and Ian Boston were introduced to us.

Liam, long ponytail, a t-shirt with somebody's face on it (unrecognisable to me), and green trousers had a firm handshake, and a hug for Jennifer. Ian on the other hand, was in a pinstripe double-breasted suit, white shirt and polka dot crimson tie with an ostentatious gold tie bar bearing a big one-inch crest. Ian was introduced to Jennifer and me as a producer behind many films and theatrical productions including *The One and Only*, *Spies in Prague* and *The White House Mission*, amongst others.

As we all sat in Norman's lavish living room, the conversation turned to the movie and theatre industries globally. Ian was discussing a new movie he was producing about the soccer World Cup in Qatar based on the book *The Ugly Game: The Qatari Plot to Buy the World Cup* by Heidi Blake and Jonathan Calvert. Norman asked Ian if he watched the documentary *FIFA Uncovered* which exposed FIFA as a corrupt, manipulating organisation, accountable to no one. Ian affirmed he had seen it and that it had a big role in the coming movie. Jennifer asked Ian if there was any push back as he was preparing the film. Norman smiled knowingly and Ian nodded and added "It's been hell for a long time." He explained he got offers not to do the movie and when he declined, he was threatened, he lost his script writer and had to hire two in his place and studios have been hesitant to take it on. Ian sighed and said "It will be done. Nothing stops me except disease and death."

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Liam countered “Good luck man. I love soccer but it has become a politicised business game with a huge amount of money involved, no longer the game of style and level playing field of competition.”

Norman’s butler brought in tea, coffee, scones, jams and a plate of small sandwiches of white triangular bread with salmon and a separate plate with cheese sandwiches. Jennifer, sipping steaming tea, asked all of us who had attended a game recently. Everyone acknowledged affirmatively except me. Jennifer looked at me, putting her cup in the saucer and splitting a scone, spreading raspberry jam and asked “What about you Shafik?”

I adjusted in my seat and explained that I played amateur soccer in college, then six-a-side as I added years to my life and quit after an accident on the pitch. I used to go and watch games live. I did that in Cairo, Athens and London but the last game I attended was a fiasco for me. Not because of the score but rather the atmosphere in the stadium. The screaming was massive, spectators collectively acting in a hysterical fashion, jumping up and down with no consideration for fellow spectators behind them. Moreover, I explained, with flags and banners, the viewing was haphazard - but of greater concern was the extreme unrestrained emotion that burst out when a goal was scored, or a score was missed, violence on the pitch when in the opinion of some spectators the referee had made a call they did not approve of. That’s when, I concluded, watching on TV with multiple camera views and replays made more sense.

Clifford interjected, munching on a scone and wiping his mouth with a cream napkin and said, looking at me “You all have to understand people have pent-up frustration, tension and anger, and watching soccer, boxing, rugby, American football and other sports is a release for them.” Jennifer, pouring a cup of coffee for herself after having finished her tea said “Interesting, Clifford, this is very much unlike tennis, golf, squash and bowling.” We all smiled at Jennifer’s mention of bowling. Liam, smiling and having his second sandwich, while drumming the fingers of his left hand on the side table, remarked that soccer stadiums reminded him of the Colosseum where gladiators fought and the crowds went wild as blood poured and necks were severed.

A sharp bell-like sound was heard throughout the apartment. A few moments later Norman’s butler came in, followed by a couple. Norman got up to welcome them everyone around me waved hello. I stood up as I did not know them. Norman introduced Dr. Simone Dubios, a French psychologist. With her was Richard Firestone. Firestone, dressed in conservative jeans, a white t-shirt and a black leather jacket, was introduced as a technologist. They joined the group. Simone, chatting with Liam after ordering a strawberry cordial with soda; Richard across from them spoke quietly with Ian. Norman, in short sharp sentences, explained to Simone and Richard about Ian’s new movie that is underway and the discussion we were having about spectators in stadiums. Norman asked Simone what she thought about the extreme reaction of spectators in the stands of sports games. Simone, sipping still water, crossed her legs gracefully as her skirt rode up her thighs. She placed her glass on the table in front of her and said “Norman, this phenomenon is as old as the human race. Human beings vent their suppressed emotions in various mannerisms. One of which is sports, but don’t forget the political realm with its many manifestations.” Simone added, “See Paris, Black Lives, January 6 in DC, the so-called Arab Spring across the Arab World, Peru, London strikes, the six-decade Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and much more.”

Liam interjected: “There are now companies and political action groups that hire people to protest, riot and initiate unrest all for cheap money.” “There are too many of us on this Earth,” Richard said. “We are now over 8 billion human beings, double what we were in 1974. “My research,” Richard added “with global data mining shows that without these releases of tension at sports events, protests and controlled challenges, extremism based on deep ideology would create more chaos, and that is why it’s tolerated.” I was about to say something but Jennifer jumped in and said that only three decades ago people attending theatre shows came in suits and enjoyed the show in silence, expressing their appreciation at the end. “Now,” Jennifer continued, attending theatre is noisy, whooping, whistling and noise that may even distract the actors.” As Norman invited us to order more drinks, we all declined politely except Liam who asked for a cappuccino.

Norman continued, saying that the time has arrived for more silence, greater amount of listening and less noise. Ian agreed, nodding his head. Simone said “If we listen carefully and afforded silence its due, allowing us to absorb, learn and think, there would be no war in Ukraine, no homelessness, more money for health, less for weapons, better solutions to complicated problems.” Richard was not amused as you could see from his body language and said “My dear Simone, we can’t live on this Earth without intrigue, power competition, conflict, war and showcasing the worst of human behaviour.” Ian, standing up adjusting his suit and tie, said he had to leave for dinner at the Arts Club. Jennifer followed and we all stood up... we all were preparing to leave except Richard and Simone, who were staying behind with Norman who was walking with us to the door.

Ian, Liam and Jennifer waited for the elevator and I waved to Norman promising to reconnect soon and started down the stairs to exercise my challenged left leg after my accident in Kenya. As I descended the five floors carefully, my mind wandered. I had thought the 21st century would bring peace and prosperity to earth but it was clear I was wrong. We human beings, I thought to myself, continue to walk the path of earlier centuries. Noise is overwhelming silence.

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

MUHAMMAD NAGI, 2016 FELLOW

2016 Gabr Fellow Muhammad Nagi's company MQR has announced a merger with The GrEEK Campus. The GrEEK Campus and MQR are two of Egypt's largest entrepreneur communities, and the merger will see them have a combined 50,000 sq. m. of commercial space across Egypt as well as a total resident community of more than 3,500 members representing north of 450 companies.

According to the agreement signed by Ahmed El Alfi, founder and Chairman of The GrEEK Campus, and Muhammad Nagi, co-founder and CEO of MQR, the two brands will continue to operate independently under a centralized leadership.

The merger will also see the roll-out of a brand-new workspace concept and comprehensive and integrated design-build, furnishing, and procurement services.



ALEXIS TAYLOR, 2016 FELLOW

2016 Gabr Fellow Alexis Taylor became an Aspen fellow for economic mobility earlier this year, where she is focused on understanding how job platforms can help low-wage workers access quality jobs.

Alexis is also getting married on Friday, June 30 in a small ceremony with family off the coast of Massachusetts.



SHEHAB FAROUK, 2014 FELLOW

2016 Gabr Fellow Shehab Farouk has recently been appointed as the Regional Representative for the Middle East by the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and its initiative, the Young International Arbitration Group.

Serving as a representative for LCIA YIAG (Young International Arbitration Group) will allow Shehab to stay updated on the latest advancements in international arbitration and provide me with opportunities to collaborate with practitioners from various jurisdictions.

The role of a Regional Representative within the context of YIAG involves several important responsibilities, including: (1) Encouraging membership of YIAG in the region, (2) Reporting to YIAG members on significant developments in arbitration in the region, and (3) Assisting with the planning of YIAG events in cooperation with the YIAG Co-Chair.



ALEX GOLDMARK, 2013 FELLOW

2013 Gabr Fellow Alex Goldmark has completed a John S Knight journalism fellowship at Stanford University where he studied the impacts and uses of artificial intelligence for journalism. He is returning to his position at NPR as Executive Producer for the program Planet Money. He will continue his research and experiments with AI for journalism in partnership with NPR and Stanford.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



YASSER EL ZAHHAR, 2016 FELLOW

2016 Gabr Fellow Yasser El Zahhar wanted to share a career milestone that he is proud of:

Four months ago, he proposed an aspiring idea to his company, "Abjjad," which introduced gamification to the e-reading activity. Recently, they launched the "Abjjad Reading Challenge" between 15 May and 15 June, and the numbers proved the initiative was very successful:

- 5,891 participants from all over the Arab world;
- 105,692 completed books;
- 145,202 reading hours on the App;
- 600% increase in the average reading time per reader compared to the month before;
- 450% increase in the average number of completed books per reader compared to the previous month.

In addition, Yasser was invited to the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair to give a seminar about marketing for publishers.

OMAR RAAFAT, 2022 FELLOW

On 22 June, 2022 Gabr Fellow Omar Raafat participated as a panelist at the Union for the Mediterranean Energy and Climate Business Forum. Omar was invited to be part of a panel discussion entitled "Youth Entrepreneurs".

The 3rd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum aims to showcase innovative and tangible financing solutions, private investment and public-private partnerships in the Euro-Mediterranean region oriented to local authorities' efforts in achieving a sustainable energy transition and in facing climate change challenges. The Forum brings together high-level government representatives, stakeholders, private sector investors, companies and service providers, business representatives, international financial institutions, alongside woman-led and youth-led green business, with the aim of identifying business and networking opportunities and enhancing exchanges on regional best practices.



IBRAHIM HAMMOUDA, 2017 FELLOW

2018 Gabr Fellow Ibrahim Hammouda had a private meeting with the Greek Ambassador to Egypt, Ambassador Nikolaos Papageorgiou, to discuss the growing bilateral relations between Egypt and Greece, including the Greek investments in the Port of Alexandria.

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



YOUSSEF EL-TOUKHY, 2016 FELLOW

After winning the first place in the Oxford university final, 2016 Gabr Fellow Youssef El-Toukhy and his team are now representing Oxford in the global final of Map the System challenge next month.

In this challenge, Team "Nomken" which means "to enable" in Arabic is mapping the problem of exclusion of children with Down Syndrome in Egypt and laying out casual loop maps, stakeholders analysis, and potential solutions implementation. The competition will take place at Oxford business school and will be joined by 15 universities from all over the world who reached the final.

MICHAEL MATTHIESEN, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Michael Matthiesen has some updates to share over the recent months:

- Michael passed the DC Bar, and he is officially sworn in as an attorney in Washington, D.C.
- He was sworn in by Chief Judge Cecilia Altonaga of the Southern District of Florida.
- Michael passed the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) with a high enough score that he can practice in 37 states.
- He also received an award from GW Law for over 424 hours of pro bono work (volunteer hours).



FABRICE GUERRIER, 2018 FELLOW

2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier recently interviewed Alicia Garza, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement on The Fabrice Guerrier Show, a podcast about the future of humanity.

Alicia Garza is the co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter and the Black Lives Matter Global Network, serves as the Strategy & Partnerships Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and is a co-founder of Supermajority, a new home for women's activism.

Alicia has received numerous accolades and recognitions, including being on the cover of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World issue and being named to Bloomberg's 50 and Politico's 50 lists.

To listen to the podcast,

[CLICK HERE](#)



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



WESSAM BAHER, JACK LINCOLN, MENNA ELTOUNY AND CRAWFORD HORAN, 2022 FELLOWS

2022 Gabr Fellows Wessam Baher, Jack Lincoln, Menna Eltouny and Crawford Horan have recently released their 2nd episode of the Habibi Factor podcast on all podcast platforms.

The podcast episode talks about AI and its impact on our lives. This is the first episode of the AI episodes series. The Habibi Factor is an Action Project that stemmed from the Fellows' 2022 Gabr exchange program.

To listen to the podcast,

[CLICK HERE](#)



INTERVIEW WITH....



KATHLEEN HAGAN, 2022 GABR FELLOW

Katie Hagan is the Owner and Chief Operating Officer of FHG Marine Engineering Inc., a yacht and ship maintenance company in South Florida. She co-founded FHG at age 28 in 2018. Katie is on the Board of Directors for the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) and is on the Board of Young Professionals in Yachting (YPY) USA as the Volunteer Chair. She also serves as an Ambassador for She of the Sea advocating for diversity and inclusion in the yachting industry and is a member of Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA).

- 1) **What are the 3 most important takeaways of your 2022 Gabr Fellowship experience?**
 - Invest your time in building new and deepening current relationships.
 - Failure doesn't exist. Everything is an opportunity or lesson to learn.
 - The former Queens of Egypt have left a powerful and lasting legacy on Egyptian culture. Women hold a majestic and symbolic role in both the family and society. That quiet strength made a tremendous impression on me and I admire the mutual respect between Egyptian men and women very much.
- 2) **Would you visit the Egypt again?**
 - Yes, absolutely! I'd still love to visit Alexandria and Aswan.
- 3) **What 3 things can make Egypt-US bilateral relations stronger?**
 - US and Egypt working in tandem to help facilitate the Israeli-Palestinian peace process urging the parties to commit to direct talks and agreements.
 - US demonstrating the importance of their diplomatic relations by appointing an Ambassador to Egypt (the US Embassy in Egypt has had 3 Chargé d'Affaires since early 2022).
 - Deepening trade relations by promoting investment and facilitating easier work visa programs.
- 4) **Did the program in Egypt and the US bring new knowledge to you?**
 - Yes, it was fascinating to visit and learn about the massive infrastructure projects underway in Egypt. In the US, I really enjoyed listening to the unique perspectives of those in the private sector and those working on Capitol Hill.
- 5) **How would you describe the Gabr Fellowship program in three words?**
 - Intense, exciting, illuminating.

Gabr Fellows Ten-Year Reunion 2012 – 2023

28 April – 1 May 2023
Cairo and Luxor, Egypt

Impressions

From Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May, The Shafik Gabr Foundation held its first ever Gabr Fellows reunion, with 60 Gabr Fellows from the United States and Egypt travelling to Cairo and Luxor for a four-day get-together.

The guests of honour during the ten-year Reunion were Mr. Dale Buxton, a global investor and technology expert, and Mr. Sean Cleary, a seasoned diplomat who is Chairman of Strategic Concepts and Executive Vice-Chairman of the FutureWorld Foundation.

Here is what some of the Fellows had to say about the experience:



Jeremy Pesner, 2022 Gabr Fellow

The reunion was a wonderful chance to go deeper both with the country and the fellowship, especially for me as a fellow who had participated so recently. Luxor was a fascinating change of pace from Cairo, and gave me the education and background on ancient Egypt that was less emphasized during my initial trip. It was exciting, although overwhelming, to meet so many previous fellows at once, and I hope there are more chances to do so in a bit more of a structured fashion. It was also wonderful to not only hear from Dale and Sean as speakers, but for them to actually travel with us and participate in events, almost like they were fellows themselves! This allowed for more in-depth and casual conversation than would have otherwise been possible.



Michael Goff, 2014 Gabr Fellow

The Gabr Fellowship Reunion of April 28-May 1, 2023 was a very positive experience. We had two guest speakers, Dale Buxton and Sean Cleary, who joined the group for most of the reunion. They both had engaging and informative presentations, provided some great conversation, and in my opinion ought to be considered honorary Gabr Fellows. I had previously visited Egypt in 2014 as part of the fellowship, in the aftermath of the 2011 and 2013 political events. The appearance of the infrastructure and the feeling of order and safety had both noticeably improved in the intervening nine years, and this was gratifying to see. I am very grateful to be a Fellow and to have participated in the reunion, and I look forward to the next event.



Wessam Baher, 2022 Gabr Fellow

The Gabr Fellowship reunion was a unique experience for me. It allowed me to be connected to a huge number of Fellows which was beneficial in sharing knowledge and in having insightful conversations about everything in life and in global affairs.

For me, it is a life-changing experience and it emphasises the main goal of the fellowship in bridging the gaps and building concrete connections between the US and Egypt through investing in emerging leaders who can change the world to be a better place.



Leah Moschella, 2015 Gabr Fellow

The Gabr Fellowship reunion was a phenomenal chance to reconnect with a new sense of energy and urgency for global dialogue. Being able to share ideas with talented fellows across ten years of the program reminded me of the brilliance and depth of this network. It was an honor to have distinguished global leaders and thinkers spark our conversations. Discussing the future of geopolitics and rapidly accelerating technology while exploring the world's earliest innovations in Egypt left me inspired by the world of possibilities the Gabr community brings.



Ahmed Naguib, 2014 Gabr Fellow

When you have an opportunity to live the same great moments that you had 9 years ago with Mr. Shafik, his family and the fellows and also have the chance to meet the new fellows and extend new awesome memories and connections, you will be happy and definitely hungry for more.



Samer Kirolos, 2022 Gabr Fellow

The reunion for me was a very good chance to get to know the previous Fellows, and strengthen my connection with them and with Fellows from my own cohort. Also, the program was very rich with very interesting activities and talks.

I can say that the reunion was exceptional, full of fun and serious discussions and it was really hard to say goodbye to our dear fellows but looking forward to more with Mr. Gabr who did an amazing thing to all of us that I will always remember.



Assem Bolbol, 2022 Gabr Fellow

The reunion was an incredibly beneficial and fulfilling experience as it provided an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and colleagues (Fellows), as well as meet new faces. The exchange of experiences and stories created a rich and diverse environment where we could learn from each other's successes and challenges. It was inspiring to witness the growth and accomplishments of everyone since our last meeting. The reunion not only rekindled old connections but also forged new ones, fostering a sense of community and support. With such a positive and invigorating experience, we eagerly anticipate the next reunion, eager to continue this journey of shared learning and camaraderie in this prestigious program.



Magda Kura, 2015 Gabr Fellow

The reunion was absolutely exhilarating! It presented an extraordinary chance to forge stronger bonds with both new and old friends, immerse ourselves in the timeless spirit of Egypt, and discuss our future with the foremost experts in the field of AI, technology and foreign policy.



Pascal Rathle, 2022 Gabr Fellow

Reunion 2023 was a tapestry of positive disruption. The ancient Pharaonic epoch met Gabr modernity as tomorrow's inevitabilities merged with today's unprecedented need for 25th century leadership. Joy, truth, reflective reorientation, friendship, and an influx of knowledge with leading global interdisciplinarians sparked new pursuits challenging Fellows to reframe, reimagine, and recalibrate.



Ahmed Radwan, 2015 Gabr Fellow

The reunion was a great chance to meet with fellows from different years whom i never got the chance to meet before. It was also a reminder of the old golden days of the fellowship and we got to reunion with my fellowship batch. It's a pleasure being part of this great successful community.



Eze Redwood, 2015 Gabr Fellow

The Gabr Fellows reunion was a great chance to learn from global thought leaders about topics immediately relevant to our world, while sharing in the genre-bending art & ideas of fellows from different years.

Our reunion, much like the fellowship, was a place where you're surrounded by a community of people with the creative intelligence to change the world. The reunion is where those talented individuals solidify their bonds as a family.



Reham Gamal, 2017 Gabr Fellow

The reunion was a heartwarming experience that brought together old friends and new colleagues, creating a strong sense of belonging and community. Also, it was a unique opportunity to reflect on the impact that the fellowship had on our personal and professional growth.



Omar Raafat, 2022 Gabr Fellow

The reunion was an opportunity to connect bridges between the different cohorts, achieve networking, and benefit from a distinctive cultural program to learn about the ancient Egyptian civilization. The meetings contributed to raising important issues related to technology, politics, and economics.

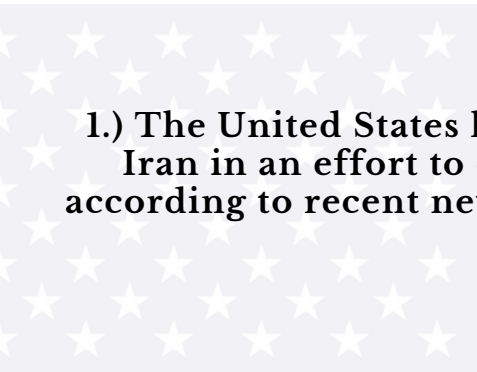


Ibrahim Hammouda, 2017 Gabr Fellow

Given the opportunity to reunite with my fellowship batch and meeting fellows I did not get to know since they joined in different years provided an amazingly motivating environment to know them better and share more interests that keep our ties together for a better future.

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.) The United States has quietly resumed indirect talks with Iran in an effort to constrain Tehran's nuclear program, according to recent news. Do you think this will bring positive progress?

Yes - 38%

No - 40%

I don't know - 22%

2.) Egypt has formally applied to join the five-member BRICS bloc of emerging economies. Do you see this as a positive development for Egypt?

Yes - 80%

No - 8%

I don't know - 12%

3.) There has been some backlash about Apple's new mixed reality headset, Apple Vision Pro. Would you use it?



Yes - 41%

No - 45%

I don't know - 14%

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

America Still Leads the World, But Its Allies Are Uneasy

By Niall Ferguson

Bloomberg, June 2023

On recent visits to Lisbon and Paris, I heard much discussion of American leadership. I was reminded of what Mahatma Gandhi supposedly said when he was asked for his view of Western civilization — that it would be a very good idea. I feel the same way about American leadership: It would be a very good idea. It's a view that seems to be quite widely shared within the European elite, though few of the continent's leaders dare to say so out loud.

An essential ingredient of leadership is an inspiring destination. Where exactly is it that the US would like its allies to follow? A good answer to that question can be found in the National Intelligence Council's Global Trends 2040 report, which envisions five scenarios for 17 years hence.

The desired one is obviously “Renaissance of Democracies,” in which the US leads a resurgence of what used to be called the free world. But it is worth reviewing the other four destinations — the ones to be avoided:

- 1. In “A World Adrift,” China is the leading but not globally dominant state.
- 2. In “Competitive Co-existence,” the US and China prosper and compete for leadership in a bifurcated world.

- 3. “Separate Silos” portrays a world in which globalization has broken down, and economic and security blocs emerge to protect states from mounting threats.
- 4. “Tragedy and Mobilization” is a story of bottom-up, revolutionary change on the heels of devastating global environmental crises.

The striking thing to me is that, just two years after the document was published, we are already in Scenario 3:

The US-China rivalry and other state-to-state relations are channeled into competition for markets, resources, and brand reputation... Strengthened economic interdependence lowers the risk of the major powers pursuing armed conflict; most of them engage in influence operations, corporate espionage, and cyberattacks that allow them to achieve goals without risking destructive wars. The central security challenge is how to keep the geopolitical competition between the United States and China from undermining the economic cooperation upon which their prosperity and the global economy depends. Long-term stability remains at risk from growing climate challenges that were ignored in favor of near-term economic gains; technological innovations and economic prosperity have lulled leaders into believing that they can put off making hard choices on climate change.

Many Europeans have the unpleasant feeling of being caught between two superpowers in a new cold war. They know China is partly to blame for this. But they see the US as equally culpable.

Superficially, of course, the US-led transatlantic alliance is doing much better than might have been expected in its response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year. The problem is what might be called “the power law — geopolitical edition,” meaning that the contributions of the 38 countries supporting Ukraine's war effort are not normally distributed but follow a power law. Put crudely, there is one very large contributor and a lot of very small ones. The very large contributor is of course the US.

According to the most recent data on bilateral commitments from the Ukraine Support Tracker, US commitments of all kinds to Ukraine (financial, humanitarian and military) are seven times greater than those of the next-largest nation state, the UK. They are 15% above the total commitments of all EU members and institutions combined. And US commitments are 45% greater than those of all the other 39 nation states combined. In other words, the US really does lead not only NATO, but also the larger, informal coalition of pro-Ukrainian states. The reason this is a problem — as opposed to an inherent feature of US leadership — is that it makes any American-led effort abroad heavily reliant on the support of US voters.

To read the full article,

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

New weapons, tactics further entangle U.S. in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By Shira Rubin

The Washington Post, June 2023

TEL AVIV — In a week that saw U.S.-made attack helicopters strafing a Palestinian city and Israeli settlers rampaging through a village filled with American citizens, the Biden administration finds itself caught up in a rapidly escalating conflict.

Both sides are also introducing new and more powerful weapons and tactics that hark back to the all-out war of the second intifada more than 20 years ago, when Israel reoccupied much of the West Bank.

For months the White House, which is mired in a prolonged diplomatic chill with Israel's far-right government, has expressed concern over the spiraling violence in the West Bank, where Israel is being confronted by increasingly effective Palestinian militants, with whom its forces fought in lengthy street battles this week.

On Monday, a pre-dawn Israeli raid in Jenin quickly devolved into an extremely unusual eight-hour gunfight, during which Israel had to deploy Apache helicopters to extricate its soldiers under fire after roadside bombs trapped them in the city. The cycle then spiraled further when the next day, two Hamas gunmen killed four Israelis in the West Bank in retaliation.

On Wednesday, 400 armed settlers rampaged through Turmus Ayya, a West Bank town that is 85 percent Palestinian American dual citizens, according to its mayor. The settlers torched dozens of homes, cars and orchards while shooting at civilians. One Palestinian was killed by Israeli police when clashes broke out.

Later that night, Israel, in another rare move, announced it had used drones for the first time since 2006 to kill three members of a Palestinian "terrorist cell." Settlers from the hard-line settlement of Yitzhar also cut electricity lines leading to the Palestinian village of Ourif, the hometown of the two Hamas gunmen.

"In the near future, all hell will break loose," said Alon Pinkas, a former Israeli consul in New York, adding that an Israeli-Palestinian escalation was "the last thing that the Biden administration wants to deal with."

The last time that the United States meaningfully engaged with the region was in 2014, when then-Secretary of State John F. Kerry oversaw the collapse of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. At the 2016 Saban Forum, an annual gathering of senior Israeli and American policymakers, Kerry said he found the views of some right-wing Israeli leaders "disturbing," and said they had deliberately sabotaged efforts to broker a deal. But with the violence across the West Bank escalating in both ferocity and sophistication — and increasing

numbers of U.S. citizens on both sides of the divide — the United States may be forced to assume some measure of involvement once more.

Israel, under the most far-right, pro-settler government in the country's history, appears to be seeking the annexation of the West Bank, home to 3 million Palestinians, in a challenge to U.S.-Israeli bilateral relations, based for decades on the stated goal of a two-state solution.

"We continue to work directly with our Israeli partners, with the Palestinian Authority, to promote steps to advance de-escalation," said U.S. State Department spokesman Vedant Patel in a news conference Wednesday when asked about the presence of U.S.-supplied weapons in recent battles that killed militants as well as civilians.

On Thursday, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides took a tougher line in a meeting with young Israelis and Palestinians in Tel Aviv, saying that the United States does "not stand and watch settler violence. ... And we're pushing the Israelis to take whatever action they need to take to stop those people."

To read the full article,

[CLICK HERE](#)



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



2022 Gabr Fellows at the National Defense University with the NDU's President, Lt Gen Michel Plehn

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 Major General Mohamed El Keshky, Egypt's Former Assistant Minister of Defense



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 or 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 Foundation 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, visit

<https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support/> or

CLICK HERE



Gabr Foundation Reading Corner

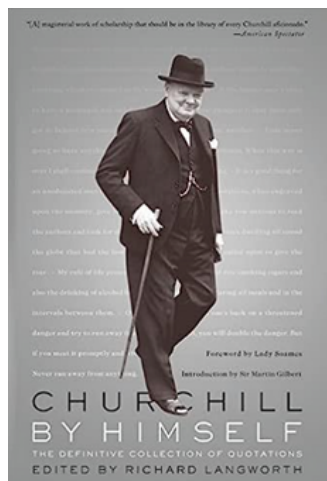


Foreign Spies, Moles,
Saboteurs, and the Collapse of
America's Counterintelligence
JAMES BAMFORD

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 *Spyfail: Foreign Spies, Moles, Saboteurs, and the Collapse of America's Counterintelligence* by James Bamford and *Churchill By Himself: The Definitive Collection of Quotations* by Richard Langworth,

Spyfail is about the highly dangerous and growing capability of foreign countries to conduct large-scale espionage within the United States and how the FBI and other agencies have failed to prevent it. With his deep investigative style, James Bamford digs as deep as one can go into these clandestine invasions and attacks, uncovering who's involved, how these spygames were carried out, and why none of this was stopped.

A powerful, persuasive speaker and notorious wit, Churchill is one of the twentieth century's most oft-quoted leaders - and one frequently misquoted or quoted out of context. Yet his actual remarks were often much wiser and wittier than reported. *Churchill By Himself* is the first exhaustive, attributed, and annotated collection of Churchill's sayings. Edited by a longtime Churchill scholar and authorized by the Churchill estate, the quotations provide the first wholly accurate record of the esteemed statesman's words.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JUNE FELLOWS!



Hadir Helal
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 1



Dalia Younis
2017 Gabr Fellow
June 5



Wes Rogerson
2018 Gabr Fellow
June 13



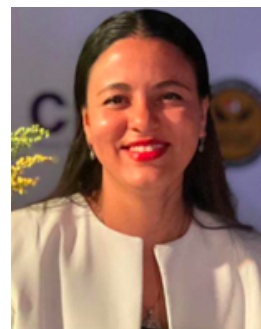
Anis Issa
2016 Gabr Fellow
June 15



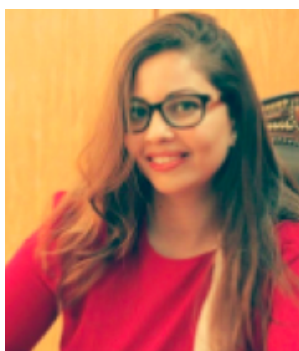
Abby Weidenhafer
2016 Gabr Fellow
June 19



Aya Ali
2022 Gabr Fellow
June 22



Sarah Badr
2017 Gabr Fellow
June 23



Marwa Abdalla
2018 Gabr Fellow
June 23



Ahmed Aransho
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 25



Elizabeth Dent
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 26

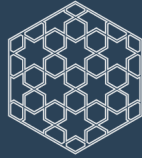


Judson Moore
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 29

June

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/>



Adolf Seel, *Oriental Beauty in a Palace*
Oil on panel
The Shafik Gabr Collection

Connect with us



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<https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/>

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