

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER



M. Shafik Gabr and Gigi Gabr hosted

Front row: Mohamed Ramzi, Mariam Al Sherif (2025), Jude Husein (2025), Hunter King (2017), Clara Sherwood (2025), Alphaeus D. Hanson (2025). Back row: Alen Amini (2022), Kemp Gouldin (2015), Marielle Becker (2022), Stephanie Lord (2014), Kevin DeWar (2016), Mohamed Ismail (2015), Eze Redwood (2015), Crystal Staebell (2025), Sully (2013), Crawford Horan (2022), Janset Batibay, and Tarek El Tobgui

Fellows Dinner at Ristorante i Ricchi, Washington DC

L/R

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The Lamborghini Theory

M. SHAFIK GABR

February 2026



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It's appropriate that I first heard of the "Lamborghini Theory" of political power in an Italian restaurant. I'm not sure it helped my appetite though.

I was invited for lunch at Café Milano, which the Washington Post called "Washington's ultimate place to see and be seen," by my dear friend Steve Livingston. Steve, in his late 70s established and then sold more than seven successful companies, in manufacturing, trade, music and AI. He also had served as a government envoy focused on Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

I passed through a snowbound city to get there, and I can tell you that D.C. is as ill-prepared for snow as Cairo is for heavy rain.

Steve greeted me and introduced me to the two other guests at his secluded corner table: Michael Hudson, CEO of a well-known think tank in D.C., and Sharon Stevens, a professor of International Relations in a very highly-ranked university in the Carolinas.

We ordered after about 15 minutes of pleasantries and explaining how Steve and I first met many years ago. I asked for smoked salmon as a starter, dover sole and steamed vegetables as a main. Sharon went totally vegan and Michael ordered a veal chop "Milanese style" with asparagus.

As our server departed with our orders, Sharon turned to me, pushed her spectacles up on her sharp Roman nose, and with a small smile creeping onto her lips, said: "You are a regular at the World Economic Forum and the Munich Security Conference, what's your point of view on the state of the world?"

I smiled back and told her that the WEF is no longer committed to the mission of its founder Klaus Schwab, which was "to improve the state of the world." It has become a commercial operation, a money-making venue to marry business and politics. I added that the way the WEF treated Klaus Schwab was shameful and a reflection of what the forum has become.

"As for the Munich Security Conference, it has changed from something designed to strengthen transatlantic relations and improve global security to a forum for America and Europe to express their distrust with each other and a stage for competition amongst leaders to increase their military budgets. Not one leader used the words peace, negotiation or mutual common interest except, surprisingly, the Foreign Minister of China."

"In a nutshell," I concluded, "the so-called international order is undergoing destruction in plain sight and the world is watching."

Sharon responded, "Why do you see destruction? Why not consider that the post-1945 international order is no longer applicable and needs to change?"

She added that the world needs America to lead that change as the G7, NATO, UN, G20 and other institutions have failed to grasp that need.

Our first plates arrived and were served with a flourish. Michael and Steve both were served wine. Sharon and I stuck with still water.

"Shafik and Sharon, you make good points," said Steve. "Michael, what do you think?"

Michael, munching on a large piece of Milanese put his fork down and said: "We must note that the world for all recorded history has been based on who held the power. Remember, it was the strongest caveman that set the rules until a more powerful caveman created a stronger weapon and he took over and established the new order."

I turned to Michael and said, "The US has always been all-powerful and in many circumstances had excellent foreign policy initiatives." Sharon was nodding, "And focused on democracy, human rights, strengthening of institutions checks, and balances, plus mutual interest."

"However," I added, "The US will start with a clear objective to go from A to B but unexpectedly end at K. Vietnam, Afghanistan, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen are just a few examples."

Michael smiled as he finished off his last piece of Milanese. Then he pointed his fork at me and said: "Do you know the Lamborghini Theory?"

My face must have shown my bewilderment. Michael looked at Steve and Sharon and said "Any takers?"

Michael took a deep breath and explained that the President of America drives a Lamborghini and he can go as fast or slow as he likes. "Moreover, if there is engine trouble, a flat tire, an accident... no problem," he said raising his arms. "He just leaves the car he is driving and takes the car behind him. Another Lamborghini... There are 5,000 more of them. No issue."

At this point, Sharon stepped in and asked me: "Do you remember 'Game of Thrones?'"

"Remember what Cersei Lannister did to assert her dominance over Littlefinger. When Littlefinger claimed 'knowledge is power,' Cersei had her guards seize him, demonstrating her ability to command and destroy others. In other words, power is power."

As Sharon continued her dialogue, Michael joined her and my brain was telling me today without any doubt, power is power. All other options for a "standoff" such as EU, BRICS, ASEAN, Mercosur were all meaningless.

The server returned and Michael and Sharon both ordered espressos, Steve asked for a cappuccino. I excused myself as I had a commitment in McLean and I had to go immediately to avoid being late.

Steve walked me to the door as I retrieved my coat, scarf and gloves. It was -7 degrees centigrade. Too cold for me. Steve, as I was thanking him, said: "I wanted you to hear what the think tank and academic world believe."

Waving to my driver, I answered: "They should beware of what they are predicting."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



M. Shafik Gabr is a renowned leader in international business, innovation, and investment, and is one of the world's premier collectors of Orientalist art, and an accomplished philanthropist.

During his career, Gabr established over 25 companies, plus three investment holding companies, including ARTOC Group for Investment and Development, which is a multidisciplinary investment holding company with businesses in infrastructure, automotive, engineering, construction, and real estate. Over the past three years, he has focused on investment in technology and artificial intelligence.

Gabr is the Chairman and founding member of Egypt's International Economic Forum (EIEF), a member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum, a Board Member of Stanhope Capital, International Chairman of the Sadat Congressional Gold Medal Committee, and a Member of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum.

Gabr is on the Advisory Board of the Centre for Financial Stability, the Advisory Board of The Middle East Institute, and the Global Advisory Council of the Mayo Clinic. He is also a former Member of the Metropolitan Museum's International Council and a former member of the Business Council of the World Economic Forum.

In his capacity as Chairman of EIEF, Gabr has hosted global leaders from the worlds of politics, economics, business, media, technology, and culture. These include President Vaclav Klaus, President Atifete Jahjaga, President Boris Tadić, President Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister Tony Blair; Secretaries James Mattis, John Kelly, and Rex Tillerson; H.E. Amr Moussa, members of Congress, business leaders in technology, academics, and media figures from CNN, Fox, and CNBC. Gabr has also hosted six CNBC programs on 'World Business' and 'Peer to Peer'.

Moreover, as Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Gabr regularly hosts his interactive 'Expecting the Unexpected' working dinners in Cairo, Davos, London, Munich, and Washington, DC. The dinners are off the record and engage leaders across the board in timely predictions of geopolitical and geoeconomic issues. The most recent dinners were held in Davos on January 16th, 2025, during the World Economic Forum, and on February 16th, 2025, at the Munich Security Conference. The guests included former Presidents, Ministers, Ambassadors, members of Congress, international organization chairs, heads of think tanks, business leaders, and distinguished scholars from Europe, the Middle East, the United States, and Asia.

Gabr has previously served as the Chairman of the COMESA (Common Market for East and South Africa) Business Council and a member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris). He also served on the advisory boards of Zurich Financial Services and The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Furthermore, Gabr was a founder of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in 1982, serving as its first Egyptian President from 1995 until 1997, and was a Founding Member of the Wilson Global Advisory Council.

Gabr has been recognized among the “Most Influential Arabs” and “Top 50 Business Leaders in the Arab World.” In 2009, Mr. Gabr was presented with the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) award for Corporate Responsibility. In June 2014, Mr. Gabr was awarded the Meridian Global Citizen Award, and in November 2014, the Middle East Institute’s Visionary Award. In March 2015, Gabr received the American University in Cairo’s Global Impact Award in New York. In May 2016, Gabr was awarded the College of Mount Saint Vincent’s Saint Vincent de Paul Award and Drew University’s Peacebuilder Award. In September 2017, Gabr received the Policy Direction and Leadership Award from the London Centre for Policy Research. Most recently, in November 2024, Gabr was awarded the highest honor conferred upon foreign nationals by the President of Italy: the ‘Grande Ufficiale’ (Grand Officer) of the ‘Ordine della Stella d’Italia’ (Order of the Star of Italy) for his extraordinary achievements and merit.

Since 2016, Gabr has focused his attention on innovation and investment in technology, as well as his Foundations. Gabr has invested in a wide spectrum of technology companies, ranging from startups to fully mature companies, and across a wide variety of sectors. Gabr’s focus is multidimensional in a world of technology, which is reflected in his personal approach to the sector through its multifaceted applications, including AI, machine learning, data mining, mobility, and business.

M. Shafik Gabr’s contributions and insights have been the subject of numerous articles, including some published in Egypt Independent. Additionally, his perspectives on international business, investment trends, and cultural diplomacy have been featured in interviews with global media outlets such as Bloomberg, CNBC, BBC, Al-Horra and many more. Through these platforms, Gabr has highlighted his extensive work on cross-cultural dialogue and offered perspective on world markets and geopolitics.

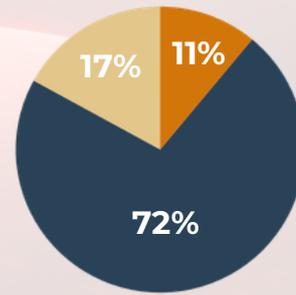
Through The Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development, Gabr is helping to improve elementary-school education in Egypt, introducing students to arts and culture, and promoting sports and physical fitness for youth. In the area of higher education, Gabr is a major supporter of the American University in Cairo. The Foundation also developed a free medical-care system by providing “Medical Caravans” for residents of underprivileged areas of Greater Cairo. The Foundation established its first Medical and Social Development Centre in Mokattam, Cairo, offering free medical and health services. In 2012, Gabr established the Shafik Gabr Foundation in the U.S., which supports educational and medical initiatives and, in November 2012, launched the ‘East-West: The Art of Dialogue’ initiative (see www.eastwestdialogue.org), promoting exchanges between young emerging leaders from the U.S. and Egypt with the purpose of cultural dialogue and bridge-building. At present, the Foundation’s Fellowship program has over 140 Fellows.

Gabr is recognized as one of the world’s largest collectors of Orientalist art, amassing a unique and extensive collection that captures the beauty, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. His collection showcases masterpieces from the 19th and early 20th centuries, reflecting the works of prominent Orientalist painters who were captivated by the region’s vibrant landscapes, traditions, and people. Through his dedication and passion for preserving and sharing these historical artworks, Gabr has significantly contributed to fostering cultural appreciation and understanding of the Orientalist movement on a global scale.

Gabr holds a BA in Economics and Management from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Economics from the University of London.

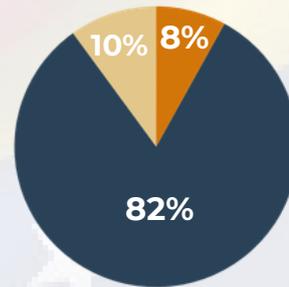
MONTHLY WORLD PREDICTIONS

Do you see a future for human beings on Mars by 2030?



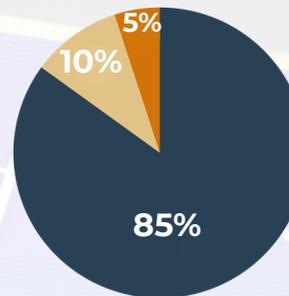
- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Do you support what happened to President Maduro of Venezuela?



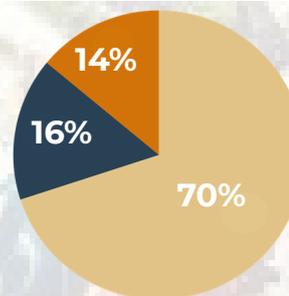
- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Do you believe the U.S.-led Board of Peace will achieve sustainable peace in any of these conflicts by the end of 2026 (Ukraine–Russia, Palestine–Israel, Sudan)?



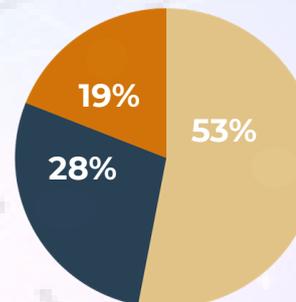
- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Given current global conflicts, is investing in the defense industry a good call this year?



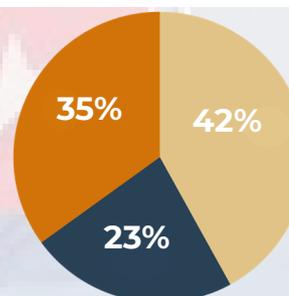
- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Do you favor globalization or deglobalization?



- Globalization
- Deglobalization
- Don't Know

Will Cuba survive till 31 December 2026, or will it collapse as a nation?



- Survive
- Collapse
- Don't Know



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Clara Sherwood, 2025 Fellow

Clara Sherwood, 2025 Gabr Fellow, recently began a new position as an Executive Director at the National Nuclear Security Administration. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations and coordinating the overall strategic, operational, and financial scope of her office.

Dalia Younis, 2017 Fellow

Dalia Younis, 2017 Gabr Fellow, joined UNICEF Gulf's communications and fundraising efforts at the 25th Dubai Marathon. Between engaging donors and capturing key moments, she covered nearly 17.8 kilometers in steps alone.

[Click here to view the full story](#)



Erika Witt, 2014 Fellow

Erika Witt, 2014 Gabr Fellow, opened her exhibition "From the Nile to the Mississippi: King Tutankhamun and the Giovanni Amin Collection" on February 23, 2026, at the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art, marking the first major Egyptian exhibition ever presented at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Jude Husein, 2025 Fellow

Jude Husein, 2025 Gabr Fellow, who currently works in public service and community advocacy in Philadelphia, is officially running for Philadelphia City Council at Large spring of 2027.

Maries Meshrequey, 2025 Fellow

Maries Meshrequey, 2025 Gabr Fellow, recently delivered training at the IDSC of the Cabinet of Ministers in collaboration with GIZ on international development. The training was for government officials from different organizations and political science students.



Marwa Abdallah, 2018 Fellow

Marwa Abdallah, 2018 Gabr Fellow, was invited to lead a film screening and discussion at Heliopolis University's "Space of Culture" initiative, marking the campus's first screening in years. She curated graduation films from the Higher Institute of Cinema that explored urban life and resilience, reinforcing the university's commitment to connecting art, education, and sustainable cultural development.



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Pascal Rathle, 2022 Fellow

Pascal Rathle, 2022 Gabr Fellow, has joined the global intellectual community WORLD.MINDS as Director, Americas, based in DC. He most recently worked at a single family office that invested globally. He will also be attending the Baku Economic Forum.

Shehab Farouk, 2014 Fellow

Shehab Farouk, 2014 Gabr Fellow, was recently selected by the World Bank to contribute to a project related to regulatory reform in Oman called "Business Ready" which assesses the regulatory framework and public services directed at firms, and the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.



Thomas Stein, 2017 Fellow

Thomas Stein, 2017 Gabr Fellow, is currently writing his second book that evaluates the utility of economic schools of thought application during different turns of the cycles of societies. He also recently planted an orchard for his boys, this will be able to harvest long after he is gone. A long-lasting memory.





FOUNDATION EFFECT

FROM WALL STREET TO CAIRO: Face-to-face dialogue defines global leadership

ALPHEUS D. HANSON - 2025 FELLOW



(Files) A view of Egypt's Foreign Ministry headquarters highrise building in the centre of the capital Cairo. AFP

Looking out from the 49th floor of Hudson Bay Capital's New York City office impressed upon me the extent to which global affairs permeate every crevice of every industry. Inversely, the nuances of our conversation on the 49th floor with Sander Gerber, CEO of Hudson Bay capital, conveyed how a potent network and prudent allocation of resources can resolve issues beyond the auspices of traditional conduits/means. The activities that foster an individual's ability to achieve what both Sander Gerber and Shafik Gabr achieved are also the same principles that underpin the East-West Art of Dialogue Fellowship program with the Shafik Gabr Foundation.

The Shafik Gabr Foundation was founded in 2012 by Mr. M. Shafik Gabr, leader in international business, innovation, and investment; and one of the world's premier collectors of Orientalist art. The foundation seeks "to promote greater mutual understanding between young emerging leaders of the United States



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and Egypt in various disciplines.” The mission of the Shafik Gabr Foundation’s initiative, East-West: The Art of Dialogue “is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between the people of the Arab world and the West, particularly with the U.S., by instigating dialogue and the exchange of ideas between these two cultures.”

The program features a 10 day trip to Egypt for a cohort of Americans who have never been to Egypt to meet leaders of Egypt’s institutions. This experience is shared by 10 Egyptian fellows who travel to the United States about 2 weeks after the Egypt leg of the programme. They experience the US through cultural engagements and meetings with business leaders, politicians and academics.

From the initial recruitment process to the programming in both Egypt and the United States, I warmed to the intimate and formal nature of the discourse with other fellows and the speakers of varying backgrounds, disciplines, and specialties. The unparalleled opportunity to refine my professional presentation, learn more about the continent from which my family descends, grow my network, and, of course, visit Egypt motivated me to promptly submit my application.

Upon landing and speaking with professionals in Egypt, I quickly realized why the country with the largest number of Arabic speakers also exerts outsized influence on the Arab world’s direction. The mosaic of Egypt’s differentiated Arab identity can be understood through five domestic factors shaping Egyptian foreign policy: location, society, domestic political institutions, identity — as Arabs, majority Muslims and Africans — and economic conditions.

Understanding Egypt’s foreign policy architecture was only the beginning. The same five factors that explain how Egypt projects influence, also mold the investment landscape within its borders. Egypt is not just a geopolitical actor, it is a capital market in motion with asymmetric pockets of opportunity that reward the investor willing to look beyond headline risk. The young median age underpins the innovation that surges from the country – a fact made very apparent during many meetings with growth investors in the country. My work as a senior fellow at Transform Venture Capital gave me a lens through which to observe Egypt: not just as a lifelong student of foreign policy, but as someone trained to find structural conditions to scale frontier technology.



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Connections built and sustained following the fellowship were the most meaningful and lasting component of the experience. The program created an eco-chamber of connection through shared meals, post-event discussion, spontaneity, and cultural events. The catalyst that facilitated relationships of this caliber was, as we came to find out, the in-person nature of almost all the events the foundation launches. Mr. Gabr underscored how much more effective meeting in person can be compared to relying solely on the convenience of virtual formats.

I came to realize that the high-performing individuals we met throughout the program respond to the most pressing issues on their radar. In order to remain relevant, you must be present – in person, face-to-face. Another key concept the experience imparted to the cohort was the understanding that campaigns are developing beyond screens and tabloids — away from public view. These are more sophisticated and typically have longer time horizons.

As leaders in business and politics discussed their approach to formulating and executing these initiatives, I became increasingly aware and capable of thinking bigger, more longer term, and in a cross-disciplinary manner. The engagements through the fellowship displayed that despite the growth of social media, many intellectual substrates still follow a course set by individuals outside of the digital social sphere. This is not a drawback but rather an essential dimension of the paradigm that must exist and must be populated by capable, willing individuals who have the personal competency to execute in practical sessions face to face – not just digitally.

Despite the technological changes occurring in almost every domain, the world continues to innovate with humans in mind. The broader underlying theme of the fellowship accentuates the skillset one must leverage to solve problems our society faces. Dialogue, relationship building and pursuit of truth underpin the competencies that yield structural solutions to the challenges our society faces.

Neglecting these statutes risks atrophying institutional knowledge and dulling the cognitive edge this generation of youth need to confront the six structural forces reshaping the global order: debt, demographics, decarbonization, digitalization, and deglobalization. When systems, whether educational or institutional, neglect fundamental components of problem-solving, future



FOUNDATION EFFECT

generations do not obtain a practical understanding of the context that surrounds previously functional relationships.

Current digital media landscape seeks to simplify, shorten, and segment content so as to commoditize attention. The world is not simple. Relationships that facilitate resolutions of structural problems are not built fleetingly and definitely not exclusively virtually.

The fellowship shows the result of prioritizing the mindset that enables overcoming challenges. The future of leadership is global. The East-West: Art of Dialogue fellowship does an excellent job of bringing youth into authentic, formal settings with the incumbent generation of leaders and sets a leading example of how organizations can meaningfully source esteemed professionals to convey proximate challenges to aspiring youth leaders.



Alphaeus Hanson is a thought leader in geopolitics, economics, and technology innovation, and a former G7 advisory body delegate. A native of Delaware, he began his career in Senator Chris Coons' Washington, D.C. office, where he covered economic policy and foreign relations before providing geopolitical and technology policy consulting services for global technology firms as an analyst at Krebs Stamos Group (acquired by SentinelOne in 2023). His research at the Atlantic Council examined how improved data collection can enhance the efficiency of cybersecurity risk management through cyber-insurance-linked securities.

As the former President of the World Economic Forum Jacksonville Global Shapers, Alphaeus steered climate education and civic engagement initiatives supported by grants from local and national nonprofits.

Alphaeus D. Hanson - 2025 Fellow

He also served on the steering committee of the Future50, the first collaborative initiative between the World Economic Forum Global Foresight Initiative and the Global Shapers.

Alphaeus is currently the Vice President of Capital Markets at Dark Alpha Capital, where he sources investors for lower-middle-market companies in technology and healthcare and leads outreach across institutional, family office, and private credit channels. In parallel, he serves as a Senior Fellow at Transform Venture Capital, focusing on fundraising and capital allocation at the nexus of artificial intelligence and impact.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Delaware, along with a foreign language certificate. Alphaeus speaks Spanish, Arabic, and Brazilian Portuguese. He holds the FINRA SIE certification and the CFA Certificate in Private Markets and Alternative Investments.



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THE OBSERVANT IN ACTION

MARIAM AL SHERIF - 2025 FELLOW



AI generated image

I'm not going to say I was lucky. I'm going to say I was fighting. Fighting to reach a certain place in my life. A certain standard, a certain way of being.

What I was given wasn't luck, it was an opening, as I stepped into it as a first timer. Not knowing what it would demand of me, only knowing that I was ready to be transformed.

Life has a way of applying pressure, sometimes gently, more often relentlessly. I've always respected that force, because pressure reveals what comfort hides. The more I pushed into reality, the more I discovered what had been buried within me.

I've always sensed I was different. Not in a way that seeks attention, but in a way that creates tension. The kind of difference that is meant to lead, not for recognition, but for consequence. To leave behind impact, not noise.

I was deeply grateful to become a 2025 Gabr Fellow. It was not a destination, it was a confrontation.

In the beginning, I didn't feel a sense of belonging. Curiosity took over; a watcher, an observant I've become. Measuring myself against a room that



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operated at a different altitude. That opening didn't come with instructions. It came with exposure, and the responsibility to rise to it. That exposure came through my mentor, M. Shafik Gabr.

He did not simplify the path or soften expectations. Instead, he introduced me to a standard, and made it clear that proximity is never symbolic. It is earned.

He told me that my uniqueness was not something to dilute or disguise, but something I needed to embrace with discipline and confidence. That moment recalibrated how I saw myself, and how I understood leadership.

From there, I became an intentional observant. I watched how he engaged with people. How he listened before responding. How decisions were shaped by precision, not impulse. How his leadership was expressed through consistency, restraint, and clarity, not performance.

As an entrepreneur, I had built everything on my own. I was self-taught, self-driven, self-corrected. And as a young Egyptian woman, the climb carried additional weight, expectations to prove more, endure longer, push harder. Yet no matter how far I advanced, I kept encountering an invisible ceiling. A boundary I could feel, but not yet name.

Through M. Shafik Gabr's mentorship, its shape became clear. Talent without direction fragments. Ambition without a moral compass eventually stalls.

I didn't need encouragement. I needed alignment. So I persisted, quietly, deliberately, and consistently.

With patience and high persistence, I was given the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Gabr. Not from a distance, not ceremonially, but directly.

That closeness changed everything. Traveling across regions, moving between cultures, climates, and conversations. Experiencing leadership across both East and West.

I remember one evening in particular, in Davos, during the WEF (World Economic Forum). A single room representing more than thirty different nationalities from all over the world. From world leaders, ministers, royal families, ambassadors, think tank leaders, business leaders, and so much more; and I was there, not speaking to be seen, but observing to understand.



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That moment clarified something fundamental, power does not announce itself. It reveals itself through presence and precision. Working at that level leaves no space for complacency. There is no tolerance for assumption. No room for being unfocused, unprepared, or undirected.

M. Shafik Gabr makes this clear consistently, proximity demands contribution, and standards are not negotiable. The first lesson I learned, one that is repeated often, was simple and exacting: Be precise. Do not assume.

But beneath those words lived something deeper, something permanent.
Excellence is not a goal. It is a standard.

You don't reach it and move on. You live up to it, every day.
This is only my beginning and only my first lesson.

I am deeply grateful, for the exposure, the discipline, and the mentorship that is giving me space for a transformative experience.

I am ready for what comes next, and eagerly waiting for my next lesson.



Mariam Al Sherif, 2025 Fellow

Mariam Al Sherif is an entrepreneur & creative strategist. She is the CEO & Co-Founder of Fame, an international creative agency, CCO & Co-Founder at OneFurever, a pet-based community app.

With a background of political science, languages, business, and arts, she is a visionary behind multiple ventures spanning technology, healthcare, environment and renewable energy; including GenHub, an AI-driven platform accelerating global genetic research and precision medicine.

Currently, she has taken an active role as a representative for The Shafik Gabr Foundation.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



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

Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship program helps connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders aged 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 16-24 Fellows, half of whom 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 facilitating 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.

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 intercultural 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.



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

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 region's most pressing issues.



Gabr Fellows at 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 recognized 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.

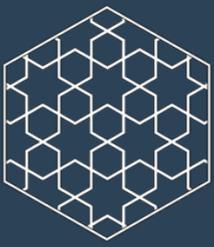
UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT

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 program to more countries and a greater number of participants, the Fellowship can create a broader multiregional impact.



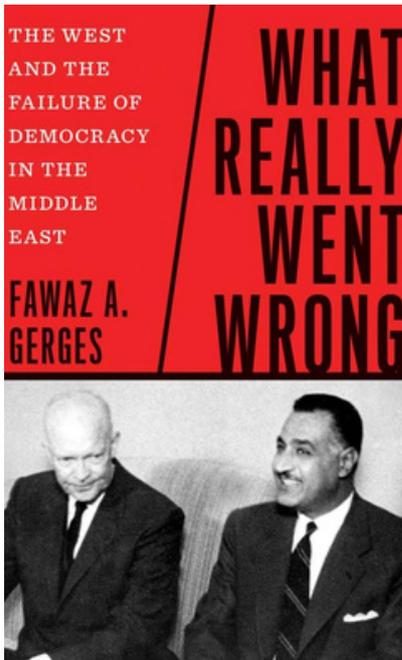
TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION VISIT <https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support/>

**We also invite our readers to contribute thoughts, stories, and recommendations for the newsletter!
Please write to chairman@shafikgabrfoundation.org**



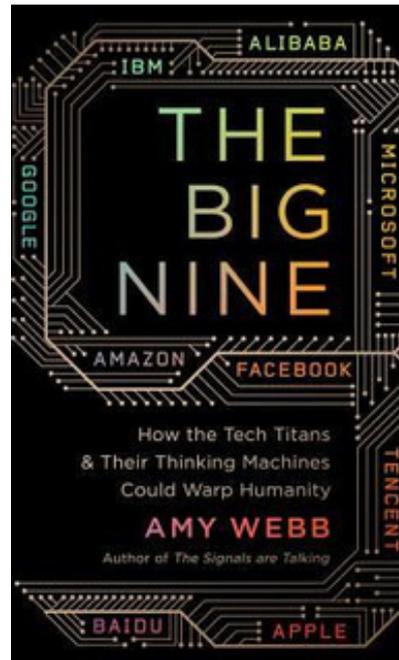
CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOKS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



What Really Went Wrong

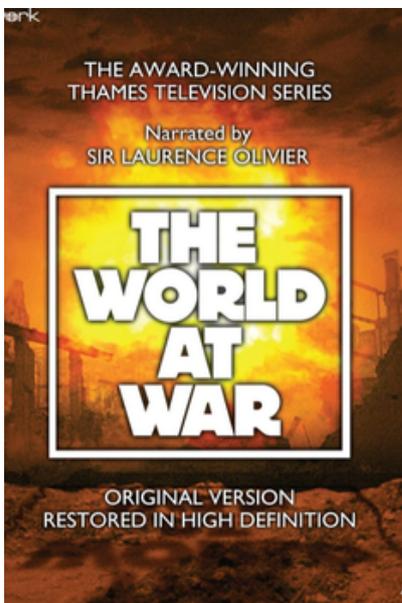
Fawaz A. Gerges's book, argues that Western interventionist foreign policy, rather than inherent cultural or religious factors, is the primary cause of the Middle East's persistent instability and the failure of democracy.



The Big Nine

This book written by the futurist **Amy Webb** examines how a handful of powerful US and Chinese tech companies are shaping the future of artificial intelligence (AI) and its profound implications for society.

MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES



The World at War

The World at War – Narrated by Laurence Olivier, this iconic series offers an unflinching, immersive look at World War II through powerful narration and archival footage.



Dirty Money

Dirty Money – A Netflix documentary series exposing shocking cases of corporate greed, corruption, and scandal across global industries.

February 2026

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY 2026 FELLOWS!



Kevin DeWar
2016 Fellow
February 1st



Jude G Husein
2025 Fellow
February 2nd



Crystal Staebell
2025 Fellow
February 6th



Jessica Mulligan
2017 Fellow
February 6th



Julie Yang
2018 Fellow
February 8th



Thomas Stein
2017 Fellow
February 18th



Mohamed Ismail
2015 Fellow
February 26th



Kemp Gouldin
2015 Fellow
February 26th



Bryan Griffin
2017 Fellow
February 27th



Reham Salem
2017 Fellow
February 28th



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

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



*A Gathering Around The Morning News
Cairo (1885), by Ludwig Deutsch
Oil on Canvas*

THE SHAFIK GABR COLLECTION
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