



Lumi dall' Islam

Contro il fondamentalismo



ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA
Bruxelles



FONDAZIONE
CORRIERE DELLA SERA

Lumi dall'Islam

Contro il fondamentalismo



Venerdì 30 aprile 2004

Parlamento Europeo, Altiero Spinelli
Rue Wiertzstraat 60
Bruxelles - 1047 - Brussel

KNOWLEDGE MEANS CHOICE

It can seem overly ambitious or daring to give a meeting the name Lights from Islam against fundamentalism when the way to the democratisation of the Middle East (and even its definition) is still obscure. Furthermore it can even be subversive to attempt to give a name and face to the men and women of Arab and Islamic “dissent” which is as alive and multiform as the Soviet one of Solženicyn’s time but still mostly unknown and underestimated in the inattentive eyes of us Westerners. Surely though, the circumstance of this conference renders meaningful such attempt to find a realistic and non moralistic interpretation of the “clash of civilisations” to which we have been brought by terrorism. Not only is there a Diaspora of those who have chosen the democratic West to live and work in, there is also the lonely work, often the sacrifice, of those who have, by choice or by necessity, stayed in their country of origin and who attempt to reform the Middle East with the simple and scarce means of all dissidents: founding associations, opening frequently censored newspapers or web-sites, at their own risk and peril. This is the piece that was missing from the puzzle of the most courageous Western, Arab and Islamic minds, all engaged in attempting to reconstruct the perception of reality confused by terrorism. To be able, even if just for one day here in Brussels, to recompose the complete picture of the intellectual energies necessary to see the light at the end of the tunnel, is in itself a challenge. Knowledge means choice.

Pialuisa Bianco

Director of Italian Institute for Culture



نور الإسلام

L'OCCASIONE DELLA SOCIETA' APERTA

Nella storia recente vi sono eventi - dalla caduta del muro di Berlino, nel 1989, alle stragi dell'11 settembre 2001 negli Stati Uniti - che mai come prima hanno posto la necessità di confrontarsi sul significato e sull'applicazione di parole e principi come democrazia, diritti umani e civili, giustizia sociale, libertà di religione, sviluppo. Al tempo stesso questi fatti condensano le opportunità e le minacce che il modello di villaggio globale porta con sé. Perché prima le diversità convivevano ignorandosi; ora sono a più stretto contatto e la loro contiguità propone nuove sfide.

La più difficile proviene dall'integralismo religioso e dal fanatismo ideologico. Con essi l'identità viene definita per contrasto e negazione dell'altro e la convivenza si trasforma in fonte perpetua di conflitti. E il fondamentalismo sembra avere oggi un punto di riferimento obbligato nell'Islam della contestazione, un Islam puro e duro che rivendica sempre qualcosa. Ma sarebbe sbagliato ignorare ciò che la rappresentazione del villaggio globale può significare. Globalizzazione vuol dire occidentalizzazione? Si può considerare questo come il destino che ci attende o l'obiettivo che va assolutamente perseguito?

Nelle spinte che muovono verso il superamento dei confini tradizionali dev'esserci quindi la consapevolezza che una società aperta, moderna, deve mantenere fede al principio del pluralismo, senza deviazioni, e conservare libere le proprie vie di accesso, proprio perché di lì passano anche quanti vogliono sfuggire alla servitù di un'etnia, alla costrizione di una fede, alla schiavitù di una civiltà non compiuta.

La qualità e la quantità delle persone riunite qui a Bruxelles, mostra che lo sforzo può non essere vano.

Cesare Romiti
Chairman RCS group



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WITH THE KIND SUPPORT OF

PAT COX

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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نور الإسلام

NOI E LORO

I drammatici eventi che hanno segnato e continuano purtroppo a segnare il nostro tormentato presente hanno reso il tema del confronto tra la civiltà occidentale e l'Islam un passaggio obbligato del dibattito politico e culturale. A mio parere, il cimento più impegnativo cui è stato chiamato l'Occidente è stato in realtà quello del confronto con se stesso, e dunque con la sua stessa identità e con i valori che ne segnano il perimetro: un confronto aperto dai fenomeni dell'immigrazione della prima ora, cui si sono successivamente affiancati gli effetti dell'economia e della società globalizzata, che ha portato su scala planetaria l'unità di misura dei problemi e delle loro soluzioni.

Grazie a questa riflessione, mi sembra si sia oggi diffusa una consapevolezza più matura del significato e della forza dei fattori fondanti della civiltà occidentale, ma anche dell'esigenza di saggiarne continuamente l'attualità e la tenuta.

In questa sfida, che si rinnova in forme sempre nuove e nella quale il cambio improvviso delle carte in tavola fa parte del gioco, svolge oggi un ruolo centrale la cultura islamica, con la forza della sua tradizione millenaria e del suo straordinario contributo al progresso dell'umanità. Nessuno pensa di poter eludere o sminuire le difficoltà di questo confronto. Esso presenta un punto oggettivamente di grande complessità: la centralità della dimensione religiosa, che pervade nell'Islam l'intero spettro dell'esistenza e ne costituisce un fortissimo fattore di identità. Tuttavia, per quanto arduo sia il cimento, non è in alcun modo pensabile rinunciare al dialogo con quella cultura. C'è un Islam disponibile e moderato con il quale il confronto è possibile, ed anzi necessario.

Per questo confronto, oggi esiste anzi una ragione in più: è la disponibilità al confronto che marca infatti con nettezza il confine rispetto allo scontro in atto con il terrorismo islamico, che utilizza strumentalmente la matrice religiosa per assestare al dialogo un colpo mortale e che è il primo nemico non solo dell'Occidente, ma anche di coloro che, nati nell'Islam, sono disponibili alla prospettiva della convivenza pacifica. Si tratta di un impegno difficile, certo, che impone una pratica lunga e paziente. Ma gli esiti cui esso può condurre in vista di un mondo più equo e più sicuro valgono senza dubbio lo sforzo di seguire quella strada sino in fondo e senza esitazioni. In questo senso, il convegno odierno dà una misura efficace e concreta della giusta direzione lungo la quale abbiamo tutti la responsabilità di incamminarci.

Pier Ferdinando Casini

Presidente della Camera dei deputati



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IL POLMONE DELLE IDEE

Se l'Italia, provata dalla strage di Nassirya, dal sequestro degli ostaggi, dall'esecuzione di Fabrizio Quattrocchi, si ripiegasse su stessa e non avesse più l'intelligenza, la capacità sentimentale e anche l'orgoglio di assumere iniziative di respiro, oltre la misura della politica, farebbe un danno a se stessa. Ci sono azioni strategiche, politiche, diplomatiche dettate dalla delicatezza del contesto attuale, a sostenere le quali non bastano la scelta di campo contro il terrorismo e l'impegno per la pacificazione e la stabilizzazione irachena. Occorre la consapevolezza dell'identità italiana, di questo nostro paese immerso nella modernità occidentale e capace di attingere al suo ricco patrimonio di sapienza e di cultura, di antiche radici e relazioni nell'area del mediterraneo, per svolgere un ruolo attivo e dialogante in un frangente tanto aspro e confuso della crisi internazionale.

Esistono nel mondo arabo e islamico vastissimi settori della società che non solo nulla hanno a che fare con il terrorismo, ma sono anzi il destinatario finale del messaggio di morte: mai come in questo momento è vitale per l'occidente riuscire ad interloquire con questi settori, offrire loro uno spazio di libertà in cui potersi esprimere, dar loro un segnale attivo di collaborazione ed amicizia. Il valore aggiunto sul piano politico della forza culturale italiana risiede nella capacità di suggerire ai popoli del mediterraneo un processo di integrazione ricco e articolato che non si limiti ad un dialogo tra classi dirigenti, ma impegni i cittadini nella ricostruzione di quel filo comune che non può essere spezzato dal terrorismo.

E' dunque con grande attenzione che il ministro degli Esteri segue questa preziosa iniziativa culturale italiana, occasione di incontro nella capitale dell'Europa di massimi studiosi che provengono dal mondo arabo e islamico e dalle capitali occidentali. La comunità internazionale respira meglio attraverso il polmone delle idee ed è per questo che la cultura italiana acquista oggi, qui a Bruxelles, il merito di averne offerto l'opportunità.

Franco Frattini

Ministro degli Affari Esteri



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Lights from Islam *against fundamentalism*

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ROOM A3G3 - A. SPINELLI BUILDING

h 9.00 - Welcome

Pialuisa Bianco, *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* **Stefano Folli**, *Corriere della Sera*

h 9.15 - Opening speech

PierFerdinando Casini, *President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic*

h 9.30 - 10.30 - First Session GLOBALISING DEMOCRACY

Bassam Tibi, *Professor of International Relations, Göttingen*
Khalida Messaoudi Toumi, *Former Minister for Culture, Algeria*
Cesare Romiti, *Chairman RCS group, Milan*
Shafeek Ghabra, *President, American University of Kuwait*
Malek Chebel, *Writer and Chairman Collège des Hautes études Psychanalytiques*
Bernard Lewis, *Professor Near Eastern Studies, University of Princeton*
Angelo Panebianco, *Politics Historian, Università di Bologna*

Coffee Break

h 11.00 - 13.30

César Vidal, *Writer and Historian, Madrid*
Mohammed Hadi Semati, *Political Scientist Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*
Philippe Raynaud, *Political Scientist, Université Paris II*
Emma Bonino, *MEP and Former Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs*
Sihem Bensedrine, *Journalist, Deputy Director OLPEC, Tunis*
Omar Karsou, *Chairman Democracy in Palestine*
Emanuel Sivan, *Arabist J. Jerusalem University*
Ernesto Galli della Loggia, *Political Scientist, Università di Perugia, Editor Foreign Policy (it.ed)*
Sergio Romano, *Historian, Journalist and Ambassador*
Fiamma Nirenstein, *Writer and Journalist, Jerusalem*
Saad Eddin Ibrahim, *Chairman Democracy in Egypt*

Lunch

h 15.15 - Opening speech

Franco Frattini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

h 15.30 - 17.00 - Second Session DISCOVERING MODERN LIFE

Moderator: Magdi Allam, *Writer and Journalist, Corriere della Sera*
Hussain Shaban, *President, Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK*
Marta Dassù, *Editor in chief Aspenia, Aspen Institute*
Michael A. Ledeen, *Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute*
Rami Khouri, *Executive Editor, The DailyStar, Lebanon*
Paolo Mieli, *Deputy Chairman RCS group, Milan*
Nicholas Burns, *Arabist, Permanent Representative of USA, NATO*
Sari Nusseibeh, *Dean of Jerusalem University*
Munir Mawari, *Free Lance Journalist and Writer*

h 17.30 - 18.45 - Third Session MEN, WOMEN AND HEAVEN

Moderator: Valentina Colombo, *Researcher, Università di Bologna*
Ndioro Ndiaye, *Deputy Director general, IOM*
Lucetta Scaraffia, *Historian, Università "La Sapienza", Roma*
Antoine Basbous, *Political Scientist, Observatoire des Pays Arabs*
Sergio Noja Nosedà, *Former Professor Arabic Literature, Università Cattolica*
Amal Basha, *Chairperson, Sisters arabic forum for Human rights*
Ahamad Al Bahili, *Writer, Saudi Arabia*
Walid Al Saqqaf, *Editor in chief and Publisher, YemenTimes*
Closing Remarks: Renzo Guolo, *Sociologist, Università di Padova*

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Bassam Tibi

Professor of International Relations and Director, University of Goettingen, Germany and in 1998-2000 The Bosch Fellow, Harvard University, and from April 2003 on Visiting Professor of Islamology, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. He is an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

Born in Damascus in 1944, Prof. Bassam Tibi studied Social Science, Philosophy and History at the University of Frankfurt where he received his Ph.D. in 1971. He received his Dr. habil. (German Super Ph.D.) from the University of Hamburg in 1981 and since 1973 has been full Professor of International Relations at the University of Goettingen the director since 1988. Parallel to his tenured position in Goettingen he had different affiliations between 1982-2000 at Harvard University, the latest as Bosch Visiting Professor 1998-2000 at Harvards WCFIA. From 2003 on has served as Visiting Professor of Islamology at the University of St. Gallen. In Fall 2003 he was Visiting Professor at the Islamic University of Jakarta, Indonesia and thereafter O'Brian Distinguished Visiting Professor at the European Union Center of California/Scripps College.

From 1986-1988 Prof. Tibi had several Visiting Professorships with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Asia and Africa (including Khartoum/Sudan, Yaound/Cameroon). He also had fellowships in Harvard, Princeton and Ann Arbor/Michigan and at the Rockefeller Center in Belagio. In 1989-93 he was also a member of "*The Fundamentalism Project*" of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and co-authored the five volumes of the project report (University of Chicago Press). He is currently a member of the project "*Culture Matters*" at The Fletcher School at Tufts University.

In 1994 Bassam Tibi was Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkeley for Peace and Conflict Studies and in 1995 and again 1998 was at Bilkent University in Ankara.

Prof. Tibi was awarded the Medal of the State/First Class (1995) by the President of Germany, Roman Herzog, and he was also selected by the American Biographical Institute in 1997 as "*Man of the Year*". In October 2003 the Swiss Foundation for European Awareness awarded Prof. Tibi along with the Jewish Professor Michael Wolffsohn, the Prize Award for 2003 in Zurich.

Publications:

"Conflict and War in the Middle East", new edition 1998,

"The Challenge of Fundamentalism. Political Islam and the New World Disorder"
(updated edition 2002, University of California Press) and

"Islam between Culture and Politics" (Palgrave, New York and London 2001).

Khalida Messaoudi

Algerian feminist and Minister of communication and culture. For more than 10 years she slept somewhere different each night and lived in hiding because of her outspoken opposition to the Islamists on the one hand, and the repressive one party state on the other.

Born in 1958, a red-headed, highly-educated and fiercely secular Berber, Messaoudi has established herself as one of Algeria's bravest and most articulate speakers of truth. In 1981 she was active in Algeria's first women's collective and opposed the blatantly sexist Family Code. When the code became law in 1984, she was president of the Association for the Equality of Men and Women before the Law. In 1985 she joined the steering committee for the Human Rights League which was created by Omar Menouer.

In the wake of the violent unrest of 1988 which was to lead to pluralism, she distanced herself from her Trotskyist fellow travellers. She considered that the women's movement was a cause in itself and in 1990 she founded the Independent Association for the Triumph of Women's Rights (AITDF).

She was caught out by the scale of the Islamist landslide victory and was a leading figure in the National Committee to Protect Algeria (CNSA), an ad hoc grouping that supported the coup of January 1992 in the name of a "circumstantial convergence of interest" with the military.

Like many Algerians, Messaoudi blames the Islamist rise in large part on the purposeful scheming of the dictatorship that ruled the country from independence in 1962 until the crisis in 1992. She argues that many of its steps eased the Islamists' path.

She put her full backing behind Mohamed Boudiaf when he took over the helm of Algeria at the head of the High Committee of State, the governing body set up in the wake of the coup. She agreed to sit on the Consultative Council which drew up projects for Boudiaf.

During the terror years of 1993 and 1996, she tirelessly toured Europe to raise awareness against the Islamist position.

She stood as a RCD candidate in the June 1997 election and was elected to Parliament. From vice-president of the RCD, she now became the party's parliamentary whip.

She left the AITDF to set up a new movement, Rachda, mostly made up of RCD activists.

When RCD leader Said Saidi issued a call to support Bouteflika's candidacy in 1999, she publicly disagreed. But in January 2000 she finally came round to his position and agreed to become the President's advisor.

In the wake of the general election held on May 30th 2002 she was appointed minister of culture and communication and official government spokesperson, the first woman ever to hold the position.

Publications:

Author, with Elisabeth Schemla, of *Unbowed: An Algerian Woman Confronts Islamic Fundamentalism*, Pennsilvanya Press, 1998.



Cesare Romiti

***Chairman of the Board of RCS Quotidiani S.p.A. (formerly RCS Editori S.p.A.).
Born in Rome on June the 24th, 1923 Romiti graduated in Economic ed Commercial
Sciences in 1945.***

He joined the B.P.D. (Bombrini, Parodi, Delfino) Group in 1947; later in 1955 he became Vice General Manager of one of the Group companies and thereafter was promoted in various stages to the position of General Manager of B.P.D. In 1968 he played a leading role in the merger of B.P.D. with Snia Viscosa; upon completion of this operation he was appointed General Financial Manager for the coordination of Snia Viscosa. On January 26, 1970 he joined the Board of Alitalia with the position of Managing Director and, immediately afterwards, of General Manager too. In september 1973, he became Managing Director and General Manager of the IRI finance company Italstat. On november 1, 1974, he joined the Fiat Group as Manager of the Central Department of Finance, Planning and Control and member of the Management Committee. On April 30, 1976, he became a member of the Board and Managing Director. From November 1988 to December 1990 he was directly responsible for the Car Sector as Managing Director of Fiat Auto, in addition to his previous posts.

From February 28, 1996 to June 22, 1998 he was Chairman of the Board of Fiat S.p.a. On June 2, 1998 he was appointed Chairman of the Board of RCS Quotidiani S.p.A. On March 8, 2000 he was also appointed Chairman of the Italian-Chinese Institute. On January 12, 2004 he was also appointed Chairman of the Italy-China Foundation. Cesare Romiti has been nominated Cavaliere del Lavoro, and Officer of the French Legion d'Honneur.

He has received many honorary degrees from the Complutense University of Madrid and the Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte (Brazil), and Pisa University has awarded him an honorary degree in Mechanical Engineering. The University IULM (University of Foreign Languages and Communications of Milan) has awarded him an honorary degree in Public Relations. He received a Honorary degree in Business Administration from St. John's University in Rome. He has received the International Manager Award from the World Management council of New York, together with the Dalai Lama, the Lifetime Achievement Award of Business from the N.I.A.F. (National Italian American Foundation) of Washington DC, the Globo d'Oro from the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of New York, and the Tiepolo Prize from the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Spain in Madrid, the Campidoglio Prize for the Economy from the Rome City Council. The magazine "Il Mondo" nominated Mr. Romiti "Manager of the year" in 1982 and the American weekly "Automotive News" voted him the "Best European Executive, Automobile Industry" in 1988.

Mr. Romiti is President of the Honour committee of Unicef, a member of the Steering committee of APPI (International Association for the Promotion and Protection of Private Foreign Investments), a member of the Executive Board and of the Steering committee of Confindustria (Confederation of Italian Industry) a member of the Board of Federmeccanica and of the Steering committee and General Board of Assonime, a member of the Council of the Aspen Institute of Italy.

Shafeeq N. Ghabra

First president of the American University of Kuwait.

He was appointed in February 2003. The University is due to open in Kuwait in the Fall of 2004. Dr Ghabra is a full professor of Political sciences. Before assuming his new duties, Dr. Ghabra was director of the Center of Strategic and Future Studies at Kuwait University from September 2002 to January 2003.

From 1998 to 2002 he was the Director of the Kuwait Information office in Washington DC. From 1996 to 1999 he was the editor-in-chief of the Journal of The Social Sciences at Kuwait University. Dr. Ghabra writes weekly columns on political affairs for Kuwait's daily Al Ra'y Al A'am, Lebanon's daily Al Nahar, al Sharq of Qatar, and the U.A.E.'s Al Bayan.

Dr. Ghabra is a frequent lecturer on topics including Kuwait, Iraq, Arabian Gulf security and political issues, democratization in the Arab world, the Middle East peace process, Islamic affairs, Arab-Western relations, and the public opinions of Arabs and Americans vis-à-vis each other. He is a long-time advocate of democratic reform in the Middle East.

Publications

He is author of four books and scores of articles and papers. His *Palestinians in Kuwait: The Family and the Politics of Survival* was named by "Choice" as Outstanding Academic Book of 1989. His latest volume is entitled *Israel and the Arabs: From the Conflict of Issues to the Peace of Interests* (1997). Two new studies appear by Ghabra in "*Crisis in the contemporary Persian Gulf*", Ed. Barry Rubin, published by Frank Cass 2002 and in "*Radicals and Reformers Islamist Movements of the Middle East*", ed. Barry Rubin, forthcoming, published by SUNI Press 2003.

Malek Chebel

Anthropologist specialising in Middle East and Islam.

Born in 1953 in Skikda (Algeria) he learned by heart the Koran before going to school. He graduated in Philosophy in 1977 at the University of Constantine. After graduation he moved to France. In 1980 he earned a doctorate in Clinical Psychopathology and Psychoanalysis at the Paris VII University.

Chebel also earned a doctorate in Anthropology and History Religion in Jussieu in 1982 and a Political Science doctorate at the IEP in Paris. From 1995 Malek Chebel has been a researcher in Sociology appointed by La Sorbonne. He was an active member of the High Level Advisory Group working throughout 2003 for the President of European Commission, Professor Romano Prodi, whose aim was to evaluate cultural implications and encourage dialogue between Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries.

Publications

He has written more than twenty books about symbolism, sexuality, love and refinement and the 1001 and one nights. He wrote the introduction to the Koran translated by Edouard Montet (Payot editions), best seller after September the 11th attack, in which he suggested important reflections on how the Koran can be put in context and how it has to be read today. Modernity of Islam has been one of Malek Chebel's main themes of interest. Most of his works are translated into many languages (Japanese, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, etc.). He has been visiting Professor in a lot of Universities around the world (La Sorbonne-Paris IV, Marrakech, Tunis, Berkeley, Stanford, UCLA, ULB ...). "*Du désir*", Manuels Payot, 1999, "*Le sujet en Islam*", Paris, Seuil, 2002, "*Islam et libre arbitre. La tentation de l'insolence*", Paris, Editions Dervy, 2003, "*Manifeste pour un Islam des Lumières. 27 propositions pour réformer l'Islam*", Hachette Littératures, 2004.

Bernard Lewis

A worldwide outstanding expert in the history of relations between Europe and Islam from Early through Ottoman to modern times. Bernard Lewis took both his B.A. (Honors in History) and his Ph.D. at the School of Oriental and African Studies. His B.A degree was in History with special reference to the Near and Middle East; and the Ph.D. in the History of Islam.

Lewis also studied Law, and went part of the way towards becoming a barrister, but decided that he didn't like it, and returned to study, and later teach, Middle Eastern History. It was a choice that he has never regretted. He also did part of his graduate work in the University of Paris, and spent some months touring the Middle East. Bernard Lewis received his first teaching appointment in 1938, as an assistant lecturer in Islamic History at the School of Oriental and African Studies. With the exception of the years 1940 to 1945, when he was otherwise engaged, he remained a University teacher until formal retirement in 1986, and, in a less formal sense, ever since. Until 1974, he taught at the University of London. Since 1974 he is emeritus professor at Princeton. His earliest interest was in medieval Islamic History, especially that of religious movements such as the Ismailis and Assassins. After the war years the interest arose for the contemporary Middle East, which he has retained ever since. His major research interest for some time past has been the history of the Ottoman Empire.

Publications

The Arabs in History, London 1950; *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, London and New York 1961; *The Assassins*, London 1967; *The Muslim Discovery of Europe*, New York 1982; *The Political Language of Islam*, Chicago 1988; *Race and Slavery in the Middle East: an Historical Enquiry*, New York 1990; *Islam and the West*, New York, 1993; *Islam in History*, 2nd edition, Chicago, 1993; *The Shaping of the Modern Middle East*, New York, 1994; *Cultures in Conflict*, New York, 1994; *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years*, New York, 1995; *The Future of the Middle East*, London, 1997; *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, London, 1998; *A Middle East Mosaic: Fragments of life, letters and history*, New York, 2000

Angelo Panebianco

Professor of political science at the University of Bologna and professor of International Relation and political science at University of Forlì.

Panebianco's research is wide-ranging, from international relations to analysis of the democratic regimes. He is a columnist for the daily newspaper *Corriere della sera*.

Publications

Modelli di partito, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1982, *L'analisi della politica*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1989, *Guerrieri democratici*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1997.

César Vidal

Doctor of History (Extraordinary Prize of Career), of Philosophy and of Theology, and has been a lawyer for ten years.

Born in Madrid 1958, he has taught in many important Universities in America and Europe. He is also a member of many distinguished Academic Institutions such as the Oriental Research Society and the Oriental Institute of Chicago.

Publications

He has written over 125 books. Some of them have been translated to half dozen of languages including Russian, Polish and Georgian. His latest books are "*España frente de L'Islam*" "*Spain facing Islam*", "*Chekas of Madrid*" and "*The International Brigades*". César Vidal has been awarded with several literature and history prizes. The latest is the Las Luces de Biografía prize for an Abraham Lincoln biography which he published in 2002. He has received different prizes rewarding his work related to Human Rights.

Mohammed Hadi Semati

Leading Iranian political scientist on leave from Tehran University, who will be a visiting scholar with the Democracy and Rule of Law Project, in particular its Middle East Political Reform Initiative.

M. Hadi Semati is on leave from his position as assistant professor in the faculty of Law and Political Science at Tehran University. He is a prolific writer and frequent commentator on Iranian domestic and foreign affairs, including Iranian security issues, political reform in Iran, Arab-Iranian relations, and the Islamic revolution. Education: M.A. and Ph.D. from the University at Tennessee at Knoxville.

Publications

The Coming Generation in Iran: Challenges and Opportunities, Security in the Persian Gulf: Origins, Obstacles, and Search for Consensus (Palgrave, 2002); *Iran's Security Priorities, Gulf Security: Opportunities and Challenges for the New Generation* (Sherrens Printers, 2000); Gahani Shodan Va Ravabeteḥ Beinolmelal: Moamaey Siasat Dar Asr Pasa Modrn. Siasateh Khareji 14(Paiz) 1379; (Globalizations and International Relations: Politics in the Post-Modern Age. Foreign Policy 14 (Fall), 2000.

Philippe Raynaud

Professor at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Paris II, where he teaches Political Philosophy and History of American Constitutional Theory.

He studied at ENS in Saint Cloud and graduated in Philosophy and Political Science. He is Chairman of the Société pour la Philosophie et la Théorie Juridiques et Politiques (S.F.P.J.) as well as the Fondation du 2 Mars. He is also noted commentator on the Franco-American relationship. He is preparing, at the present time, an essay on the latest change in modern politics and a philosophical history of civilization.

Publications

Known mostly as the author of *Max Weber et les dilemmes de la raison moderne (Max Weber and the dilemmas of modern reason* (2nd Ed., PUF, coll. « Quadrige », Paris, 1996), together with Stéphane Rials he has compiled a *Dictionnaire de philosophie politique (Dictionary of Political Philosophy)* (3rd ed., PUF, Paris, 2003). He published in 1985 *Terrorisme et démocratie* (avec François Furet et Antoine Liniers), with the Publishing House Fayard.

Emma Bonino

Member of European Parliament. She has been member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies from 1976-1994 and of the European Parliament in 1999, 1984 and 1979. Mrs. Bonino was appointed European Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs in 1995, a position that she covered until 1999.

Emma Bonino has live in Cairo since 2002 learning the Arab language, and at the same time is committed to the defence of democracy and human rights in the Arab region. For almost thirty years Emma Bonino's political activities have been and continue to be governed by the practice of “*non-violence*”, defined and adopted by Mahatma Gandhi. Strongly committed against any discrimination, particularly against women, she promoted in 1976 the referendum leading to the introduction of the legalisation of abortion in Italy.

Emma Bonino launched worldwide campaigns during the 90s, in the aftermath of the Cold War, to promote the principles of democracy and human rights. Amongst others, she campaigned for the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court, and for a Moratorium on the Death Penalty. In 2000, she led an Italian delegation in Seoul for the launch of the “*Community of Democracy*” campaign.

Her commitment to the promotion of women's rights led to a campaign in 1998 “*A Flower for the Women of Kabul*” to give Afghani women access to humanitarian aid and later in 2001 for the inclusion of women in the interim Government of Afghanistan. An ongoing Afro-Arab campaign launched in 2000 is the “*Stop FGM*” for the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation in the 28 African and Arab countries where they are practiced.

Sihem Bensedrine

Engaged very early in the fight for freedom, Sihem Bensedrine has been an activist in the autonomous movement of the women from 1978 to 1985.

She is prominent in many independent NGO's AJT, LTDH and also in the National Council of Freedom. The engagement and the passion of her fight have caused to her many problems: amongst them the deprivation of passport, deprivation of work, attacks by the police force, imprisonment. Bensedrine has been a journalist since 1980 but after repeated suspension of the many newspapers (the Headlight, the Maghreb, Réalités, El Mawkif, Nissa...) she worked with, she left. In 1989 she hoped to find a margin of freedom in the edition activity so she created with a group of authors a new Euro-Tunisian publishing house, Aloès editions. In 2000 the Governor of Tunis arbitrarily closed the publishing house. Just before this event, in November 1999, Bensedrine tries to start a journal “*Kalima*” whose legal registration was refused. In spite of this prohibition she published the newspaper on Internet, which continues to appear today.

In May 2001, she set up the “*Observatory for the press Freedom creation and publishing*” (OLPEC) with many press personalities in Tunisia, which the Ministry for the Internal Affairs refused to give legal visa.

Sihem Bensedrine received several international rewards such as: Media Award Amnesty International Journalist under threat (London); International prize “*Una donna fuori dal coro*” (Italy); Prix APFW London; Palm prize of the freedom of expression (Germany).

Publications

She published in November 2003 “**Letter to an Iraqi friend**” with the “*Editions La Découverte*”. The book is the outcome of several missions she carried out in favor of the independent press in Iraq. The last one was in April 2004.

Omar Karsou

Palestinian businessman from Nablus who was living in Ramallah until few years ago and has now moved to America.

The father of his family founded the first company for money-changing in the West Bank, which quickly became the largest of its kind in the Middle East. The company opened branches all over the Arab world, in Abu Dhabi, Cairo, Kuwait and Amman. After studying economics at the University of Buckingham in England, Karsou returned to the family business, working in various managerial positions. The company thrived, but in 1986 the Jordanian prime minister ordered its assets frozen, in response to the decision by the Bank of Israel to grant it a banking license. The Jordanians, who refused at the time to obey the demand of the Arab League to sever themselves from the West Bank, didn't agree to independent Palestinian activity that was recognized by Israel. The Jordanian ruling led to the closing of the firm's branches, and to the loss of its assets. Karsou turned to private business, and maintained contacts with Israeli businessmen.

In the past year Mr Karsou has been engaged in an ambitious project: the establishment of a civic movement, "*Democracy in Palestine*", in order to found a clear legal government system that is transparent and reliable.

Emmanuel Sivan

Professor of Islamic History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and has authored many books on contemporary Islam.

In his work on religious radicalism, he has begun to look beyond Islam to explore the phenomenon of fundamentalism in other major religions. In the late 1980s he was among the first scholars to begin to look at radical forms of Islamic movements that were generated from the Iranian revolution. From 1993-1996, Sivan was an advisor to Prime Minister Rabin for negotiations with the PLO on civilian affairs.

In addition, Sivan is actively involved in civic affairs in the Middle East. He has been served for many years as an op-ed writer for the Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz and for the London-based Arab daily Al-Hayat.

Publications

Radical Islam, The 1948 Generation, and Mythes Politiques Arabes. The forthcoming one is Clash within Islam (Hebrew). He has also written more than 150 articles and chapters, and one of his areas of expertise is Islamic conceptions of the sanctity of Jerusalem. Sivan is a regular commentator on Islamic movements for Israeli television and writes prolifically for the Israeli press. Sivan has focused his scholarly energies on tracing the historical and intellectual roots of religious radicalism in the Middle East.

Ernesto Galli Della Loggia

Since 1987 full professor of History of Political Parties and Movements at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Perugia.

Born in Rome on 18th July 1942. He graduated in Political Sciences at Rome "La Sapienza" University in 1966 with a dissertation in Modern History. As a graduate he benefited from several University grants and was therefore a researcher at the Einaudi Foundation in Turin.

From November 1972 to October 1975 he was assistant professor of Italian Economic History since the Unification at the Faculty of Economic and Banking Sciences of the University of Siena, and then assistant professor of Contemporary History at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Perugia.

From 1990 to 1992 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the "Italian Society for the Study of Contemporary History" (SISSCO). In 1995 he was one of the founders of the monthly magazine "Liberal", of which he was also a director up to January 1998. Since 1993 he has been columnist of Corriere della Sera. *He is also Editor of the italian edition of Foreign Policy.*

Publications

Il mondo contemporaneo (1945-1980), Il Mulino, 1982. *La politica e l'integrazione mitico-simbolica*, in "Il Mulino", 288, July-August 1983. *La democrazia immaginaria. L'azionismo e l' "ideologia italiana"*, in "Il Mulino", 346, March-April 1993. *Intervista sulla destra*, Laterza, 1994. French translation in press. *La morte della patria*, Laterza, 1996. *L'identità italiana*, Il Mulino, Bologna 1998.

Sergio Romano

Retired from the Italian Foreign Service in 1989 after serving as Director general for cultural relations (1977 - 1983), Permanent representative to N.A.T.O. (1983 - 1985) and Ambassador to the former U.S.S.R. (1985 - 1989).

He was visiting professor at Harvard University, at the University of California (Berkeley) and also taught at the Universities of Firenze, Sassari and Pavia. From 1992 to 1998 he was Professor of "History of International Relations" at the Bocconi University in Milan.

He is a columnist for the newspaper "Corriere della Sera" and for the magazine "Panorama". He also contributes opinion articles to "Affari Esteri", "Corriere del Ticino", Les Echos of Paris. He has honorary degrees from the Institute of Political Studies in Paris (1989), The University of Macerata (1993) and the Institute for World History of the Russian Academy of Science (1994). He is a foreign correspondent of the Royal Academy of Belgium.

Publications

Il rischio americano, Le grand désordre mondial, I confini della storia.

Fiamma Nirenstein

Born in Florence and now lives in Jerusalem. She is the Jerusalem correspondent for the leading Italian newspaper, La Stampa, as well as for the Italian magazine, Panorama.

Her work has appeared in many prestigious magazines and newspapers, including Commentary and The New York Sun. Nirenstein is an author of several books about the Arab Israeli conflict and the Middle East and other subjects. Holding a doctorate in modern history she teaches history of the Middle East at the LUISS University in Rome as a visiting professor.

Publications

Il razzista americano, 1992 - *Israele: una pace in guerra*, 1996- *Un solo Dio, tre verità*, 2001. The latest is *L'abbandono. Come l'Occidente ha tradito gli ebrei*, BUR, 2002.

Saad Eddin Ibrahim

Founder and first Secretary General Of the Arab Organization of Human Rights from 1983 to 1988. A professor at the American University in Cairo, he is also founder and director of an Egyptian organisations promoting democracy.

In June 2000, this widely respected scholar and 27 of his associates of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development studies were arrested because of their advocacy of democracy. Authorities charged Dr Ibrahim with offenses largely related to a documentary film he was making about Egyptian elections. The Ibn Khaldun Center for development studies focuses on democracy and human rights and also speaks out against both anti-democratic actions by some islamic groups and government crackdowns on non-violent Islamic activist.

The trial of Dr Ibrahim and 27 others failed to meet international standards of fairness. The trial's conclusion came in May 2001 and all the 28 defendants were convicted. Dr. Ibrahim received a sentence of seven years' imprisonment.

Upon an appeal, Egypt's highest Court of Cassation overturned the conviction and sheduled the trial three times, and eventually acquitted him and his associates of all charges on March 18, 2003. He was nominated for the Sacharov Prize in 2003. He is currently a visiting professor of political sociology at Columbia University in New York, and will return at the end of the academic year to Egypt to resume his activities from the Ibn Khaldun Center.

He has published widely in Arabic and English, and appeared frequently on the major TV networks.

Magdi Allam

Deputy Editor in Chief for the Italian daily newspaper Il Corriere Della Sera.

He has been following political, economic, social and cultural events in the Middle East for many years, including transversal subjects such as terrorism, Islam, religious confrontations and North-South relations. He has interviewed several Middle Eastern leaders, among them Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and the Libyan Leader, Moammar Gheddafi. He collaborates as a commentator at the Italian tv-channel La7. He has a Forum on the website www.corriere.it/allam. He was born in Cairo in 1952 and has been living in Italy since 1972. He graduated in Sociology at the University "La Sapienza" in Rome.

Publications

As a sociologist, he has specialised in immigration phenomena, with particular regard to Muslim immigrants. He has written *Diario dell'Islam* ("Diary of Islam", Mondadori, 2002), *Bin Laden in Italia* ("Bin Laden in Italy", Mondadori, 2002), *Saddam. Storia segreta di un dittatore* ("Saddam. Secret history of a dictator", Mondadori 2003) and, together with Roberto Gritti, *Islam, Italia - Chi sono e che cosa pensano I musulmani che vivono tra noi* ("Who are the Muslims living among us and what are their thoughts?", Edizioni Guerini e Associati, 2001). In May his new book *Kamikaze made in Europe* (Mondadori) will be published.

Hussain Shaban

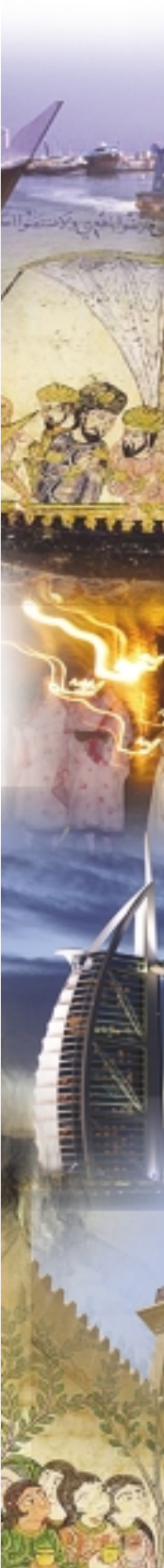
Born in Najaf, Iraq, Dr Shaban is an Intellectual, Academic Researcher, Legal Consultant and Author of over 30 books within International Law, Politics, Ideological conflict, culture, literature and Human Rights.

A media expert within TV and Radio current affairs. An active member of a number of organisations and associations of Arab, Regional and International Human rights, including Amnesty and the Euro-Mediterranean Network for human rights. He has been General Secretary of International Justice Organization and Human Rights Forum.

He is also a senior member and General Secretary of Arab European Studies Centre. General Advisor of the Arab Program of Human Rights Activists. Chairman of Iraqi Network for Human Rights Culture and Development.

Former president of the Arab Organisation of Human rights (AOHR) - UK.

Awarded Prize for the best Activist in Human Rights in the Arab World (Cairo, 2003).



Marta Dassù

General Director, Aspen Institute Italia, and Editor of the Aspenia quarterly.

Between October 1998 and June 2001 she was Foreign Relations Adviser to Italy's Prime Minister. Between 1988 and 2001 she was Director of the Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale (CeSPI), Rome.

She is a member of the Board of IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali) and of several European and Transatlantic networks.

She has participated in a number of conferences and workshops organized by leading international research institutions (IFRI, Royal Institute of International Affairs, IISS, CSIS), and has carried out research projects and initiatives for such institutions as Italy's Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministries, the World Bank, NATO, the European Commission.

Publications

Author or editor of several books and of many essays on international security problems, including "Conflicts in the 21st Century" (Rome, 2002) "American Balkan Disengagement?", Survival, Winter 2001, and "One year on: lessons from Iraq", Chaillot Paper, Paris, 2004.

Michael A. Ledeen

Holds the Freedom Chair at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., is one of the world's leading authorities on intelligence, contemporary history and international affairs.

In a few years in government, he carried out some of the most sensitive and dangerous missions in recent American history. He has been profiled in the New York Times, and was the subject of a front-page article and a lead editorial in the Wall Street Journal. A profile of him concluded that "a portrait emerges of a man with an intense knowledge of 20th-century history, a deep commitment to democracy, and a willingness to be adventurous. This is a man who has helped shape American foreign policy at its highest levels."

Formerly Rome correspondent for the New Republic, the founding editor of the Washington Quarterly, and Contributing Editor of National Review Online, he is a regular contributor to the Wall Street Journal, The International Economy, the American Spectator, the New York Sun, and National Review, an adviser to multinational corporations in Europe, Africa and the United States, and a corporate director in America and Africa.

Publications

Dr. Ledeen is a celebrated scholar and lecturer. He holds a Ph.D. in History and Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, and has been the recipient of many awards and research grants. His 15 books include *Grave New World*, which predicted the crisis of the Soviet Empire five years before it occurred, *Machiavelli on Modern Leadership*, (1999, St. Martin's Press), *Tocqueville on*

American Character; Why Tocqueville's Brilliant Exploration of the American Spirit is as Vital and Important Today as it was nearly Two Hundred Years Ago (St. Martin's Press, 2000) and, most recently, his highly successful *The War Against the Terror Masters; How it Happened; Where We Are Now; How We Will Win* (St. Martin's Press, 2002). He is currently writing a book on Naples, Italy. His essays and books have been reprinted in dozens of languages around the world. Dr. Ledeen lectures on War & Peace, Terrorism, the Middle East, and American Foreign Policy.

Rami George Khouri

A Palestinian-Jordanian and US citizen. He is executive editor of the Beirut-based Daily Star newspaper, published throughout the Middle East with the International Herald Tribune.

He is an internationally syndicated political columnist and book author. In recent years he hosted "Encounter", a weekly current affairs talk show on Jordan Television, and "Jordan Ancient Cultures", a weekly archaeology program on Radio Jordan.

He spent the 2001-02 academic year as a Nieman Journalism Fellow at Harvard University and was appointed a member of the Brookings Institution Task Force on US Relations with the Islamic World. For 18 years he was general manager of Al Kutba, Publishers, in Amman, Jordan (Al Kutba was the Nabataean goddess of the scribes) and since 1999 has been a consultant to the Jordanian tourism ministry on biblical archaeological sites.

He is a research associate at the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University (NY, USA) and a Fellow of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (Jerusalem).

He was editor-in-chief of the Jordan Times for seven years, and wrote for many years from Amman for leading international publications, including the Financial Times, the Boston Globe and the Washington Post. He often comments on Mideast issues in the international media, and lectures frequently at conferences and universities throughout the world.

He has BA and MSc degrees respectively in political science and mass communications from Syracuse University, NY, USA.

Paolo Mieli

Deputy Chairman of RCS Media Group since April 2003.

Born in Milan on 25th February 1949, he graduated in modern history in 1972 from Rome La Sapienza University.

He started his career as a journalist with the editorial office of "L'Espresso", covering roles such as foreign correspondent, correspondent on internal politics, head of the cultural section, and head of the central editorial office.

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In 1985 he worked for “*Repubblica*” writing about internal politics, foreign politics, and culture. In September 1986 he moved to “*La Stampa*” and became editor in chief in May 1990. In September 1992 he became editor in chief of “*Corriere della Sera*”. In May 1997 he was appointed Editorial Manager of the Rizzoli Corriere della Sera Group.

Publications

“*Litigio a sinistra*” (L'Espresso) on the controversies between socialists and communists; “*Il socialismo diviso*” (Laterza); “*Storia del partito socialista negli anni della Repubblica*” (Casini), “*La storia, le storie*” (Rizzoli), “*Storia e Politica*” (Rizzoli), “*La goccia cinese*” (Rizzoli) published in 2002.

Nicholas Burns

United States Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. As Ambassador to NATO, he heads the combined State-Defense Department U.S. Mission to NATO.

Mr. Burns was born on January 28, 1956. Raised in Massachusetts, he earned a B.S. in European History from Boston College in 1978, graduated Summa Cum Laude. He then received an M.A. with distinction from John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in 1980 in International Economics and American Foreign Policy.

Prior to his current assignment, Ambassador Burns was Spokesman of the Department of State and Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs for Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary Madeleine Albright.

Mr. Burns, a career Senior Foreign Service Officer, served for five years (1990-1995) on the National Security Council staff at the White House. Mr. Burns began his Foreign Service career in Africa and the Middle East. He was an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania, Vice Consul and Staff Assistant to the Ambassador in Cairo, Egypt between 1983-1985, and then Political Officer at the American Consulate General in Jerusalem from 1985 to 1987. In this position, he coordinated U.S. economic assistance to the Palestinian population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Mr. Burns speaks French and Greek. As a good Arabist, he also speaks Arabic very well.

Mr. Burns has been awarded the State Department's Superior Honor Award for outstanding performance three times, the Department's James Clement Dunn Award for Excellence in 1994, and in 2000 the Charles E. Cobb Award for Trade Development by an Ambassador. He was also awarded the Order of the Terra Mariana by Estonian President Meri for his work in securing withdrawal of Russian military forces from that country.

Sari Nusseibeh

Academic; Professor of Islamic Philosophy, President of Al Quds University, former PLO representative in Jerusalem, co-author of the People's Voice initiative to build grassroots support for a Two State Solution.

Born 1949, in Shaykh Jarrar, East Jerusalem. Studied PPE (Politics, Philosophy & Economics) at Christ Church, Oxford. Graduated BA, 1971.

Went to live with relatives in Abu Dhabi, where he worked for the Abu Dhabi Oil Company and as a columnist the The Abu Dhabi News.

In 1974, won a scholarship to study for his doctorate at Harvard. Graduated D.Phil in Islamic Philosophy, 1978. Returned to the West Bank in 1978 to teach at Birzeit University (where he remained as Professor of Philosophy until the University was closed for an extended period - 1988 to 1990 - during the first intifada). At the same time, taught classes in Islamic philosophy to Jewish students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In June 1987, he controversially suggested that the Palestinians should recognize Israel, and that Israel should annex the Occupied Territories, reunify the country, and give full citizenship to the Palestinians in a single binational state. Some of his early comments on the binational state mirror closely the kind of discussion coming into prominence today.

In 1991, co-authored No Trumpets, No Drums with Mark Heller, calling for a two-state solution with emphasis on openness between the two states. Nusseibeh pointed out that it is much easier to fix the location of a border, if it is going to be permeable or porous to the people on both sides.

Founded and still directs the Palestinian Consultancy Group (Maqdes), in Ramallah; undertakes research projects on the management of Palestinian infrastructure.

Returned to academia in 1995, when appointed President of al-Quds University in East Jerusalem.

Munir Mawari

Yemeni journalist who worked for Aljazeera TV Channel for three years 2000-2003 as Deputy Managing Editor of its news web.

He moved back to Washington DC recently to work for the Voice of America's Radio Sawa, the Arabic-language station aimed at young people in the Middle East.

Mawari devoted his writing as a freelancer to the issues of Human rights and Changes in the Arabic World. He always calls for adopting Democracy and Modernization in the Middle East by benefiting from the European & American experiences, especially in separating State from Church.

His articles in Arabic language emphasize that the change is coming whether Arab governments like it or not.

He calls on Arabs to study rather than lambast as Satanic whatever comes from the West. He suggested once in an article that Saddam Hussein willingly leave power before it was too late. That article was rejected by many Arabic newspapers and was published on an Israeli website. Mawari was criticized by many Arab journalists for his calls and for dealing with an Israeli newspaper.

Valentina Colombo

Teaches Islamic Studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Bologna (Course on Cultures and Human Rights) and at the University of Bologna in Ravenna (Course on Civilizations of Eastern Europe and Mediterranean) and Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Bologna in Ravenna.

She teaches the Master on Human Rights (Univ. of Bologna), Master on Equal opportunities (Univ. of Bologna), Master for Peace-keeping (Univ. of Ravenna).

She is the official Italian translator of the Egyptian Nobel Prize Winner Naguib Mahfuz.

She has written many articles on Classical and Modern Arabic Literature and Arabic political thought in the pre-Nahda and Nahda period.

Publications

Her PhD thesis was published in 2000 under the title *Sifah e hal. Teorie dell'unicità divina nel pensiero mu'tazilite ("Sifah and hal. Theories of divine unicity in Mu'tazila thought", Pubblicazioni dell'Università Cattolica di Milano)*.

She is the editor, along with Gustavo Gozzi, of *Tradizioni culturali, sistemi giuridici e diritti umani nell'area del Mediterraneo ("Cultural Traditions, Juridical Systems and Human Rights in Mediterranean Area", Il Mulino 2003)*.

Ndiro Ndiaye

Deputy Director General of the International Organisation on Migration.

She was born in Bignona, Senegal, on 6 November 1946. After secondary studies in France, she undertook medical studies and was one of the first African women to have passed the concours de l'agrégation in France in odontology. On that basis she then took up office as a Head of the Department of Odontology and Stomatology at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, until then occupied by foreign experts.

In 1988, Mrs. Ndiro Ndiaye was appointed by the President of the Republic to the post of Minister for Social Development. On behalf of the Senegalese Government, she coordinated

humanitarian activities during the crisis between Senegal and Mauritania in 1989. From 1990 to 1995, Mrs. Ndiaye was Minister for Women's, Children's and Family Affairs. Thereafter, and until her appointment as Deputy Director-General of IOM, she resumed her numerous activities at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, where she was highly instrumental in reforming tertiary education in Senegal.

In 1990 Mrs Ndioro Ndiaye was invited by UNICEF to take part in preparations for the World Summit for Children. In that context she proposed that rich countries should reinvest a part of debt service payments by poor countries into programmes to help children. She also made a major contribution to preparations for the World Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held in Geneva in 1992 and followed by a meeting on the same topic in Brussels in 1994. She led the Senegalese delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994.

As Chairperson of the Regional Conference of African Women, she was one of the driving forces in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. As a member of the Advisory Counsel, she also helped to prepare the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995.

A founding member of the Comité scientifique pour les femmes et le développement, (Scientific Commission for Women and Development), Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye founded an NGO in the mid-90s called "*Réseau de femmes africaines leaders pour la paix et le développement*" (Network of African Women Leaders for Peace and Development), which she coordinated until her appointment to IOM in September 1999.

Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye has published numerous scientific papers and has written several works and studies on social and political issues. She is Commandeur des Palmes académiques and Chevalier dans l'ordre de la Légion d'Honneur of France, and Commandeur de l'Ordre du Lion of Sénégal.

Lucetta Scaraffia

Teaches contemporary history at Rome La Sapienza University. She has written mainly about the history of women and the history of Christianity, with particular attention to female religiosity

Publications

La santa degli impossibili. Vicende e significati della devozione a S. Rita, Turin, Rosenberg & Sellier, 1990; *Donne e fede. Santità e vita religiosa in Italia*, edited by Gabriella Zarri, Rome-Bari, Laterza publishers, 1994; English translation: Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England, Harvard University Press, 1999.

She studied the relations between western society and Islam in the modern age (*Rinnegati. Per una storia dell'identità occidentale*, Rome-Bari, Laterza Publishers, 1993; Second edition updated, 2002). She discussed the link between the Italian identity and the oldest and most



important sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady in Italy (Loreto, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1998). She reconstructed the history and the meaning of the institution of the Jubilee (Il Giubileo, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1999).

She wrote with Anna Bravo, Margherita Pelaja, and Alessandra Pescarolo, *Storia sociale delle donne nell'Italia contemporanea* (Social history of women in contemporary Italy) (Roma-Bari, Editori Laterza, 2001), and with Anna Maria Isastia *Donne ottimiste. Femminismo e associazioni borghesi nell'Otto e Novecento* (Bologna, Il Mulino, 2002), and the three volumes *I nuovi fili della memoria. Uomini e donne nella storia* (Roma-Bari, Editori Laterza, 2003) with Anna Bravo and Anna Foa.

For years she has studied Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and the history of the congregation founded by her; on this subject she published *Il Concilio in convento. L'esperienza di Chiara Grasselli MSC*, Brescia, Morcelliana, 1996, and recently (2003) *Francesca Cabrini. Dalla terra al cielo*, Paoline, and a number of essays.

She edited with Eugenia Roccella the three volumes *Italiane*, published by Poligrafico dello Stato, Rome, 2004, a collection of 247 portraits of Italian women that have left an impact on the life of our country.

She is contributor to the newspaper "Avvenire", the weekly magazines "IO donna" and "Sette" of Corriere della Sera and several other magazines.

Antoine Basbous

Chairman of the OPA Observatoire des pays arabes that he created in 1992 and he is the President since.

Antoine Basbous, born in 1953, studied between Lebanon and France. After his law degree and his research degree in Lebanon, he came in France and obtained, among others, a doctorate in political science.

During four years (1975-1979) he worked in Lebanon as journalist in different medias, and between 1979 and 1986 he was a foreign correspondent accredited in Paris.

From 1987 to 1991, he work closely with the French and European authorities on behalf of Lebanon.

In 1992, he has created the OPA : Observatoire des pays arabes, a consulting office that works in Arab countries and on the question of Islamism around the world. He did lot of conferences in universities, interventions in media and hearings by parliamentary commissions.

Publications

All along these years, Antoine Basbous has published some books and lot of articles ("Une proie pour deux fauves", "Le Liban entre le lion de Juda et le lion de Syrie", 1983; "Guerres secrètes du Liban", 1987; "L'Islamisme une révolution avortée?" 2000; "L'Arabie Saoudite en question, du wahhabisme à Bin Laden", 2002).

Sergio Noja Noseda

President of the FONDAZIONE FERNI NOJA NOSEDA DI STUDI ARABO-ISLAMICI which he founded in 1999.

Sergio Noja was born in Pola in 1931. He graduated in 1956 and started working at the Biblioteca Ambrosiana library as a young scholar.

His first work *La lingua nelle Sacre Scritture* (The Language in the Sacred Scriptures) dates from 1948. In 1967 he was appointed to teach Moslem Law at the University of Turin, a course he ran for ten years.

He has published and edited the translation in Italian of the Sahih al-Buhari (Sayings and deeds of the Prophet of Islam collected by al-Buhari) in 1983. He was responsible for tracing in Cairo the Arabic manuscript of a lost commentary by Galen on the Hypocratic treaty On places, air and water.

In 1975 he published a new biography of Mohammed, Prophet of Islam using for the first time pre-Islamic Arabic poetry and all the archaeological sources available on pre-Islamic Arabia (Cuneo 1975), receiving positive reviews especially for the originality of his approach.

Afterwards he compiled the Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts of the Biblioteca Reale di Torino, (pub. Rome 1984).

In 1976 he was appointed to teach Arabic language and literature at the Università Cattolica in Milan. In 1999 he founded the FONDAZIONE FERNI NOJA NOSEDA DI STUDI ARABO-ISLAMICI (containing more than 20,000 volumes about Arab-Islamic civilization) in Lesa (Italy) of which he is the President. He actually cooperates with Il Corriere della Sera.

Publications

Storia dei popoli dell'Islam (History of the Islamic peoples, Milan 1990-2003, 4 volumes). He directed, within the scope of the CORPUS ARABICUM, the volume entitled *I Primi Arabi (The First Arabs - pub. Milan 1994)* He directed the Islamic and Hebrew section of the publishing house, Marietti. In 1997 he published *A Brief History of the Arab peoples.*

Amal Basha

Chairman for Sisters Arabs Forum for Human Rights, Basha has been recently appointed as Advisor to the Ministry of Human Rights.

Born in 1962, Amal Basha was graduated from the Department of Political Science in the American University in Cairo. She received her MA on Gender and International Development from IDS, Sussex University in Brighton, England. She had also two high diplomas on Public Management and on Research Methodology and Women's Studies from Sana'a University.

She started her professional career at the Ministry of Economy as the Head of International Economic Relations and External Relations. In 1992, she became the Programme Officer on

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Gender, Human Rights and NGOs within the UNDP. Then she headed the UN Staff Association for two terms. Having served as the National NGOs Coordinator for Beijing Conference, she also worked with the EU and UNIFEM as Project Manager for a Regional Programme in the follow-up process of the Beijing Conference. Basha also worked as Advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Head of Information and Dissemination Division. In 1997 Amal was elected as Mother of the Year and one of the Most ten Prominent Working Women in Yemen. She had received a number of honorary awards as a Muslim woman human rights activist, especially in recognition of her work to support women in prisons and marginalized groups.

Hamad Al-Bahili

Journalist and writer, born in Ryadh in 1945. He says of himself that “he is also a social activist”.

He graduated in Saudi Arabia and then completed his studies in France. From 1970 until 1975 he was a free lance journalist. Since that time he has been working for many Saudi Arabian newspapers and magazines.

Walid Al-Saqqaf

One of the younger editors in the Republic of Yemen who took on the duty of leading Yemen's most widely read English language newspaper, Yemen Times.

Born in Taiz, Yemen in 1973, he has been active in the press field for more than 11 years. He started as a regular journalist in the newspaper founded by his father, Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf in 1990. The newspaper was established to provide an alternative voice that conveys the truth as it is reported from the ground, promote civil values such as human rights, democracy, and freedom of expression, and to serve as an example for other newspapers to follow. Walid Al-Saqqaf participated in tens of events in Europe and elsewhere, and represented Yemen in many international conferences and seminars throughout the world.

Being a graduate of Turkey, who lived parts of his life in Jordan, the USA, the UK, and elsewhere, Walid has always been active in promoting understanding between different cultures of the world. His involvement in various expatriate activities. Being a member of the Flugbirght Alumni Association, the Interreligious International Peace Council, the World Association of Newspapers, he has been pushing for greater understanding between cultures of the world. He used and continues to use his newspaper to promote this cause and work on bringing common ground of understanding and peace by connecting readers from the four corners of the world.

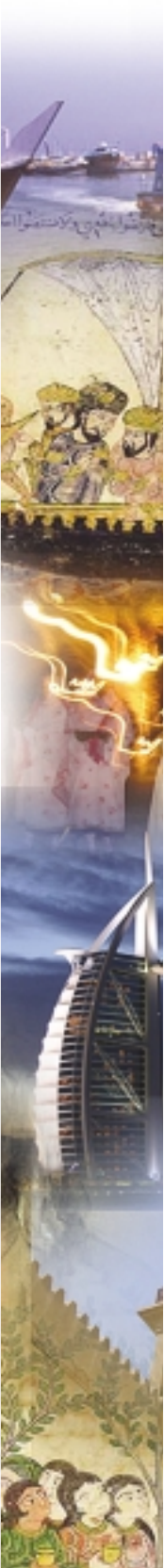
Renzo Guolo

Sociologist and political scientist, he is Professor of Sociology of Religions at the Universities of Trieste and Padua.

His main research interests include the following: Islamic fundamentalism, both radical and neotraditionalistic; the analysis of Islamic societies; the geopolitics of Islam; Islam in Europe; the relations between Islam and the West.

Publications

Il partito di Dio. L'islam radicale contro l'Occidente (Guerini, 1994); *Avanguardie della fede. L'islamismo tra ideologia e politica* (Guerini, 1999); *Il fondamentalismo islamico* (Laterza 2002), *Xenofobi e xenofili. Gli italiani e l'islam* (Laterza, 2003); *L'islam è compatibile con la democrazia?* (Laterza, 2004) He is co-author of *I fondamentalismi* (Laterza 2002) with E. Pace and of *America/Islam* (Donzelli, 2003) with F. Romero. Moreover, he edited the volume by Michel Foucault, *Taccuino persiano* (Guerini, 1998). He collaborates with several reviews of political and geopolitical analysis, including *Limes* and *Aspenia*.



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