

The Center for Middle East Studies presents the  
**R. Stephen Humphreys Distinguished Lecture**

## **ENERGY AND MIDDLE EAST HISTORY**



**Richard Bulliet**  
(Columbia University)

**Monday, February 2**  
**5:00 pm**  
**HSSB 4080**

From the Bronze Age to the era of petroleum, the Middle East has experienced a succession of energy profiles that helps to explain its political and cultural efflorescences and stagnations. This presentation will discuss the ways in which chariots, camels, and crude oil have shaped the region and distinguished it from the surrounding lands of Europe, India, and Africa.

**RICHARD W. BULLIET** is Professor of Middle Eastern History at Columbia University where he also directed the Middle East Institute of the School of International and Public Affairs for twelve years. Born in Rockford, Illinois, in 1940, he came to Columbia in 1976 after undergraduate and graduate work at Harvard and eight years as a faculty member at Harvard and Berkeley. He is a specialist on Iran, the social history of the Islamic Middle East, the 20th century resurgence of Islam, and the history of transportation.

His most recent scholarly work is *Wheels: A Book about Invention* (forthcoming 2015). His earlier books include *Cotton, Climate, and Camels in Early Islamic Iran* (2009), *Hunters, Herders, and Hamburgers* (2005), *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (2004), *Islam: The View from the Edge* (1994), *Conversion to Islam in the Medieval Period* (1979), *The Camel and the Wheel* (1975), and *The Patricians of Nishapur* (1972). He has also written six novels, beginning with *Kicked to Death by a Camel* (1973) and ending with *Chakra* (2014), and is co-author of a world history textbook *The Earth and Its Peoples* (6ed. 2014).

*Sponsored by the Center for Middle East Studies, R. Stephen Humphreys Distinguished Lecture Series*