The Struggle for Democracy in the Middle East: Civil Insurrections and U.S. Policy

Wednesday, May 29 / 5pm

Multicultural Center Lounge

Stephen Zunes
Department of Politics, University of San Francisco

The ongoing struggle for freedom and democracy in the Middle East continues to be challenged by autocratic regimes, occupation forces, heavily-armed militias, and extremist groups, but the largely nonviolent civil insurrections—which have toppled three dictators and have challenged others—continue. What role should the United States, which professes support for democracy but has long been the major foreign backer of repressive governments in the region, play in the face of this ongoing popular struggle?

Sponsored by the Center for Middle East Studies, the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, the UCSB Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, the Political Science Department, the History Department, and the Center for Cold War Studies and International History