The Center for the Study of the Middle East invites you to attend

CSME Academic and Professional Lecture Series

The "War of Necessity" in Afghanistan and its Unexpected Consequences

Professor Nazif Shahrani
Wednesday, February 20th, 12 noon
Center for the Study of the Middle East

The war launched by the US and her coalition partners against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was to bring peace and stability in that country and to rid the world of the menace of global terrorism. But the war also had an unmistakable cast of taking revenge. Eight years and several billion dollars later, President Obama recast the war in Afghanistan as a "War of Necessity" and intensified it by military surges, only to declare recently the end of combat for the US troops (by spring of 2013) and total withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan before the end of 2014.

The war against resurgent Taliban is to be Afghanized and US losses brought to a halt. Disillusionment with the outcome of the decade-long international intervention and uncertainty about the future grips Afghans and the peoples of the region.

How and why did the apparently well-intentioned and costly war efforts produce so little? Were these outcomes avoidable? What will be the consequences of America's longest war? What will be the fate of the region and the future of American foreign policy in the decades to come?