

# WHAT'S NEXT AFTER THE ARAB SPRING?

Four former U.S. ambassadors reflect on recent events and look for clues to the Middle East's future:

## **Ambassador James F. Collins**

Director, Russia and Eurasia Program, and Senior Associate  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Ambassador Collins was the U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation from 1997 to 2001 and is an expert on the former Soviet Union, its successor states, and the Middle East. He was appointed the director of the Russia and Eurasia Program in January 2007. Prior to joining the Carnegie Endowment, he served as senior adviser at the public law and policy practice group Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP.

Before his appointment as ambassador to Russia, he served as ambassador at large and special adviser to the secretary of state for the newly independent states in the mid-1990s, and as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Moscow from 1990 to 1993. In addition to three diplomatic postings in Moscow, he also held positions at the U.S. embassy in Amman, Jordan, and the consulate general in Izmir, Turkey.

He is the recipient of the Secretary of State's Award for Distinguished Service; the Department of State's Distinguished Honor Award; the Secretary of State's Award for Career Achievement; the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service; and the NASA Medal for Distinguished Service.

Ambassador Collins has been active on the boards of nonprofit organizations concerned with U.S. foreign policy and U.S. relations with Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. He has served as a member of the board of the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the American Academy of Diplomacy, the Open World Leadership Center, and American Councils for International Education. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Civilian Research and Development Foundation and the Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow.

Before joining the State Department, Ambassador Collins taught Russian and European history, American government, and economics at the U.S. Naval Academy. Ambassador Collins earned his MA from Indiana University and his AB from Harvard University. He speaks English and Russian.

## **Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann**

President, American Academy of Diplomacy

Formerly a Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ronald E. Neumann served three times as Ambassador: to Algeria, Bahrain, and finally to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan from July 2005 to April 2007. Before Afghanistan, Mr. Neumann, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, served in Baghdad from February 2004 with the Coalition Provisional Authority and then as Embassy Baghdad's principal interlocutor with the Multinational Command, where he was deeply involved in coordinating the political part of military action.

Prior to working in Iraq, he was Chief of Mission in Manama, Bahrain (2001-2004). Before that, Ambassador Neumann served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near East Affairs (1997-2000), where he directed the organization of the first separately-funded NEA democracy programs and also was responsible for the bureau's work in developing the North African Economic Initiative for Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. Before that assignment, he was Ambassador to Algeria (1994 to 1997) and Director of the Office of Northern Gulf Affairs (Iran and Iraq; 1991 to 1994). Earlier in his career, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and in Sanaa in Yemen, Principal Officer in Tabriz, Iran and Economic/Commercial Officer in Dakar, Senegal. His previous Washington assignments include service as Jordan Desk officer, Staff Assistant in the Middle East (NEA) Bureau, and Political Officer in the Office of Southern European Affairs.

Ambassador Neumann is the author of *The Other War: Winning and Losing in Afghanistan* (Potomac Press, 2009), a book on his time in Afghanistan. He is the author of a number of monographs and articles. At the Academy he has focused particularly on efforts to expand State and USAID personnel to enable these institutions to carry out their responsibilities.

Ambassador Neumann speaks some Arabic and Dari as well as French. He received State Department Senior Foreign Service pay awards in 2004, 2003, and 1999 as well as individual Superior Honor Awards in 1993 and 1990. He served as an Army infantry officer in Viet Nam and holds a Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. In Baghdad, he was awarded the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. He earned a B.A. in history and an M.A. in political science from the University of California at Riverside. He is married to the former M. Elaine Grimm. They have two children.

## **Ambassador Edward S. Walker, Jr.**

Christian A. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Global Political Theory, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY  
Adjunct Scholar, Middle East Institute, Washington, DC

Ambassador Edward Walker is a professor at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and is continuing consulting activities in Washington DC with the Middle East Institute. Until the summer of 2006, Ambassador Walker was the president and chief executive officer of the Middle East Institute, a Washington-based nonprofit organization concentrating on Middle East policy. He possesses a unique depth of knowledge based on forty years of experience dealing with the region's problems and people. Before assuming this position in 2001, Walker worked for five months in the new Bush administration as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, a position he had previously held during the second Clinton Administration. During that time he helped initiate and negotiate U.S. policy toward Iraq and engaged in secret negotiations with Libya. He also engaged in recalibrating our policies toward Iran and the Middle East peace process.

His diplomatic career includes successive years (1989-1999) as Ambassador to Israel, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Nations (as Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States). In the course of the past forty years, Walker has worked with every Israeli Prime Minister since Golda Meir, with Presidents Sadat and Mubarak of Egypt, with Presidents Assad and Bashar al-Assad of Syria, with Kings Fahd and Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and with Kings Hussein and Abdullah of Jordan, among others. He has personally worked with almost every current Middle East leader with whom the United States has relations, exclusive of President Morsi of Egypt.

Ambassador Walker regularly contributes articles and commentary to major U.S. and Middle East newspapers and publications. He appears frequently on national and foreign TV and radio, including Arabic Television news broadcasts where he offers an American perspective on issues of the day and on matters critical to building better relations between the peoples of the Middle East and the United States. He testifies before Congress and works with the Administration on efforts to better understand the region and consider the implications of possible policy approaches.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Hamilton College and a Master's degree in International Relations from Boston University. He is the recipient of various U.S. Government honors, including distinguished honor awards from the Pentagon and the State Department. He has honorary doctorates from Hamilton College, Nazareth College, St. Leo University, and Juniata College. He has studied both Arabic and Hebrew and has a working knowledge of French.

## **Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson**

Adjunct Professor, Georgetown School of Foreign Service

Janet Sanderson's 34-year career with the U.S. Foreign Service spanned three continents, four regions and 10 countries. As U.S. Ambassador to Haiti from 2006 to 2009, she shepherded U.S.-Haitian relations through a period of intense political change, social upheaval, and natural disaster. She led the normalization of U.S.-Algerian relations following its bloody civil war in the 1990s as U.S. Ambassador to Algiers from 2000 to 2003. Her final assignment with the Department of State was as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (DAS) for Near East Affairs, responsible for U.S. relations with the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa (2009-2011). During her tenure, the United States began to grapple with new policy realities in the wake of the tumultuous "Arab Spring."

In addition to service in Algeria and Haiti, Ambassador Sanderson's overseas postings included economic assignments in Cairo, Kuwait, Tel Aviv and Bangladesh, as well as service as the Deputy Chief of Mission, the number two at the Embassy, in Amman. She represented the Department of State as a Diplomat in Residence at the University of California Berkeley and served in Washington in the 1980s as desk officer for Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, with special responsibilities for relations between the United States and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Later she held the energy, trade, and OECD portfolio in the Department's Bureau of European Affairs.

Ambassador Sanderson received a Presidential Performance Award for her last year as Ambassador to Haiti and was awarded the Department of Commerce Award for Promotion of U.S. Commercial Interests for her work as Ambassador to Algeria. She is the recipient of numerous Department of State awards, including the Herbert A. Salzman Award for International Economic Performance, the Department's highest award for economic officers. In 2012, she was elected to the American Academy of Diplomacy in recognition of her contributions to the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the College of William and Mary, Ambassador Sanderson holds a BA with high honors in government. She obtained a Master of Arts with honors in National Security Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. Originally from Tucson, Arizona, she now lives in Arlington Virginia. Ambassador Sanderson is currently an adjunct professor at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service teaching "Economic Statecraft and Diplomacy," a graduate-level course she developed on economic tools and foreign policymaking. She speaks Arabic and French.