

A Public Forum

Thursday, September 19, 2019 - 7pm

Jepsen Center – Wolff Auditorium, Gonzaga University

Middle East Meltdown: Causes & Consequences

Speaker: The Honorable Ryan C. Crocker

Retired Career Ambassador – U.S. Foreign Service



Summary: The Middle East has long been a turbulent region, punctuated with revolutions, coups, counter-coups and border wars. In the interval since the Arab Spring, however, we are witnessing something new: not just the collapse of governments but of states themselves. What does this mean for regional and international stability? And what does a future without US leadership look like? Find out September 19.

Bio: Ambassador Crocker served as United States Ambassador to Afghanistan (2011–2012), Iraq (2007–2009), Pakistan (2004–2007), Syria (1998–2001), Kuwait (1994– 1997), and Lebanon (1990–1993). In September 2004, President Bush conferred on him the diplomatic rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the Foreign Service, equivalent to a four-star officer in the military.

Crocker was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, by President George W. Bush in January 2009. In January 2010, he became Dean of Texas A&M University's George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Although retired from the State Department and the Foreign Service, Crocker was called upon by the Obama Administration and nominated by President Barack Obama in April 2011 to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. The appointment was confirmed by the United States Senate by unanimous consent on June 30, 2011. When he stepped down in July 2012 as ambassador in Kabul, Crocker was named an Honorary Marine by the United States Marine Corps. Since leaving government service, he has taught at the University of Virginia, Yale, and Princeton.