News, Research and Events

November 30, 2021
The future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict 30 years after Madrid

It’s been 30 years since the Madrid Peace Conference — a fundamental milestone in Middle East diplomacy catalyzed by President George H. W. Bush and Secretary James A. Baker, III. The conference marked the first time the Arab states and Israel, as well as a Palestinian delegation (officially part of the Jordanian delegation), came together for direct face-to-face bilateral and multilateral peace talks. However, in the years since the conference, relations in the region have evolved, and the once-dominant two-state discourse — an ultimate outgrowth of the negotiations — is being increasingly challenged.

To reflect on what has changed and the new solutions being sought, the Baker Institute Center for the Middle East and the U.S. Institute of Peace hosted a recent webinar featuring a diverse panel of experts. Baker Institute Director Ambassador Edward Djerejian, who was a participant in the Madrid Peace Conference, offered opening remarks. Reaching a final peace settlement, he said, will take leadership not only from the United States, but from a host of new global actors.

For more on efforts to achieve lasting conflict resolution in the Middle East, watch the webinar here.

Preview: International artist installs sociopolitical mural series at Baker Institute

The Baker Institute's second-floor hallways have been transformed into works of art with the recent installation of a series of murals by Egyptian artist Ganzeer. His mixed-media design, commissioned by the Baker Institute in partnership with Rice University's Moody Center for the Arts, takes inspiration from the Baker Institute's areas of study — notably energy, health and biosciences, public finance, and Middle East and U.S.-Mexico policy.

“I really wanted these murals to be strictly informed by the environment and conditions within which they were created,” said Ganzeer, “but also quite conversely, to have a very transformative effect on the space.”

A time-lapse video and photo compilation of the works will be released tomorrow on the Baker Institute website.
“With oil and natural gas still playing a dominant role in the U.S. (and global energy) mix, the central challenge for all of us ... is how to ensure sufficient, affordable energy for today while still pursuing a rapid transition to a lower carbon future.”

Mark Finley, Fellow in Energy and Global Oil, in an op-ed for The Dallas Morning News

Latest Research

Will the North American Auto Industry Survive Proposed U.S. Electric Vehicle Subsidies? By subsidizing only electric vehicles and EV batteries produced by union labor in the U.S., the auto industry could face trouble in valuable trade partnerships with Canada and Mexico, writes David Gantz, the Will Clayton Fellow in Trade and International Economics. Read his new post on the Baker Institute Blog.

Managing Water on the U.S.-Mexico Border: The Binational Challenge. Stephen Mumme, a nonresident scholar for the Center for the U.S. and Mexico, examines the prospects for binational cooperation in confronting two water management challenges along the U.S.-Mexico border — rising water demand and the persistent, long-term diminishment of the region's reliable riparian water supply. Read his paper here.

Energy Transitions and Carbon Neutrality by 2050? Senior director of the Center for Energy Studies Ken Medlock examines the current energy landscape in the context of recent history to identify important considerations — and major questions — that influence what's achievable as we reach for carbon neutrality by 2050. Read the article at the IEEJ Energy Journal or download the PDF from our website.
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Thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous donor, gifts made in support of the Drug Policy Program will be matched up to $100,000. Text BAKER to 24725 or visit our website to make your gift today on Giving Tuesday and double your donation. Contact Director of Development Leah Gross at 713-348-2977 or leah.gross@rice.edu if you’d like to discuss ways to make a bigger impact and maximize your contribution.

Upcoming Events

Roundtable Dialogue — The Year in Review: 2021 in Texas Politics. At this member-exclusive event, political science fellow Mark P. Jones looks back at the year in Texas politics. Become a member of the Baker Institute Roundtable to enjoy this and other exclusive events! Nov. 30 | 6:00 p.m. CST

Webinar — Mexico Country Outlook 2022. Experts examine the major challenges facing Mexico and anticipate what companies and investors can expect in 2022. Topics include Mexico’s politics, economic prospects and new regulatory environment. Dec. 9 | 8:30 a.m. CST

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