

US Policy in the Middle East and Revolutionary Movements

In this 6-week GRIID class we will explore the historical relationship between the United States and Middle East countries since WWII.

The class is divided into 2 sections. First, we will look at how the US has consistently supported leaders that endorsed US interests, suppress democratic movements and supports long-term US regional goals.

In addition, we will explore how the US has supported, both financially and militarily, extremist Islamic groups, the State of Israel and what the significance of that has been in the Middle East.

We will use Mark Zepezauer's book ***Boomerang!: : How Our Covert Wars Have Created Enemies Across the Middle East and Brought Terror to America*** to explore these historical dynamics.

The second half of the class will explore the more current revolutionary uprisings in the Middle East and the US response to those movements. For this section we will rely on online articles, analysis and video.

This class will meet for 6 weeks on **Wednesdays beginning April 13, 2011**. We will meet in a classroom at the Steepletown Neighborhood Center at the corner of Fifth and Davis on the Westside of Grand Rapids.

The cost of the class is \$20 (not including the Zepezauer book). For more information or to sign up for the class contact Jeff Smith jsmith@griid.org or Mike Saunders at outobol@gmail.com.

