



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**PROFESSOR MICHAEL BURLEIGH** is a Research Professor at University of Buckingham, and taught at Oxford, LSE, Rutgers, Stanford and Cardiff in his twenty year academic career as a historian. His thirteen books include *The Third Reich: A New History* (Samuel Johnson Prize 2001) and most recently *Small Wars, Faraway Places: The Genesis of the Modern World 1945-65* (long listed for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2014). His books have been translated into 24 languages. In 2012 he won the Nonino "International Master of His Time Prize" for his life's work. He is a regular commentator on global affairs and terrorism in the Times, Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday. He is the founder of the geopolitical risk company Sea Change Partners LLP which he set up with George Walden four years ago.

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR GRAEME LAMB** is a former Director of UK Special Forces and Commander of the British Field Army. With a reputation for 'blasphemous plain speaking', he is widely recognised for his intimate appreciation for Hobbes's view of man with his articulation of 'reconcilable and irreconcilable' actors in modern conflict. He graduated from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1973 and went on to command at every rank on operations leading Conventional, Airborne and Special Forces. Working with others: Lamb has, by dint of his appointments, found himself not only operating overseas but nearly always with and alongside others, in particular the United States Special Forces. This ranged from small-scale Counter-Narcotics operations in South America, Persons Indicted for War Crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina to Deputy Commanding General Multi-National Forces Iraq under US General David Petraeus. He is a trustee of Walking with The Wounded (WWTW), a UK based charity that supports disabled Servicemen and women. He operates as a limited Company and occupies his time as a Senior Fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, is a member of the RUSI Advisory Council, Chairman of the Advisory Council to C5 Capital, a NED with GardaWorld and enthusiastic supporter of Palantir Technologies. Lamb also undertakes work for HMG in the Middle East.

**SIR DEREK PLUMBLY** is Visiting Professor of Middle Eastern Studies in IMES at King's College London. He has long experience as a diplomat and international official, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. From 2012 to 2015 he was the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, resident in Beirut and reporting regularly to the Security Council. From 2008 to 2011 he chaired the international commission which oversaw the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan prior to the independence of South Sudan. He had previously served as British Ambassador to Egypt (2003-2007) and Saudi Arabia (2000-2003), and was the Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the FCO from 1997 to 2000. His earlier career in the FCO included postings to the UK mission to the UN in New York and as Deputy Head of Mission in Riyadh during the Gulf War. He is fluent in Arabic, which

he studied in Lebanon and Jordan in the 1970s after graduating in politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford and teaching in Pakistan. He was appointed CMG in the Gulf War honours list in 1991 and KCMG in 2000. He has an honorary doctorate from Loughborough University.

**JONATHAN RUGMAN** has been Foreign Affairs Correspondent at Channel 4 News for the past 9 years. His reporting from around the world has included the uprisings in Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Libya. He was formerly Channel 4's Washington Correspondent and Business Correspondent. He was also based in Turkey for the BBC World Service and is the author of *Ataturk's Children - Turkey And The Kurds*.

**FAROUK SOUSSA** is Citi's Head of Middle East Economics, based in London. Farouk previously worked in Citi's Dubai office, and before that was the head of Government Ratings for the Middle East and Africa at rating agency Standard & Poor's. Farouk started his career at the Bank of England, working in various divisions within the Financial Stability wing of the Bank, ultimately as a senior economist within the International Finance Division. While at the Bank, Farouk spent 18 months as a financial regulator with the Financial Services Authority (FSA), and did a 6-month post-doctoral Jean Monnet fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence. Farouk holds a Master's degree in Finance and a PhD in Economics from University of Birmingham, UK.

**RT HON JACK STRAW** was the Member of Parliament for Blackburn from 1979 to 2015. From 2007 to 2010, he was the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain and the Secretary of State for Justice. He has served as Home Secretary from 1997 to 2001, Foreign Secretary from 2001 to 2006 and Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons from 2006 to 2007. Following the election in May 2010, he became the Shadow Lord Chancellor and Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, but announced his intention to step down from the front bench after the Labour Party Conference of that year. His autobiography, *Last Man Standing: Memoirs of A Political Survivor* was published in September 2012. He retired as MP for Blackburn at the May 2015 general election. He continues to play a leading role in national politics, on home and foreign policy. He is co-Chairman of the British Turkish Forum; takes a close interest in Iran; is a member of the Independent Commission on the Freedom of Information Act, chairman of the Blackburn Youth Zone.