

Visiting Speaker Series

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies is pleased to present a talk by esteemed academic

Dilip Hiro, Author and Journalist

"The Syrian War"

Wednesday, 11 October 2017, 5.15 pm

LT1, IAIS Building, Streatham Campus, Exeter EX4 4ND

Tea & Coffee to be served from 4.30 pm in the Common Room, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

All are welcome – no registration required.



The root cause of the civil war in Syria is the rule by the minority Alawis, a sub-sect within Shia Islam, since 1970. To understand how and why Alawis got into the driving seat one has to look at the French Mandate in 1920. I will do that briefly.

The conflict is best viewed in three concentric circles: local, regional and international. The historic pattern of all major civil wars is that it sucks in foreign powers, but as it drags on, these powers lose interest or patience, and violence lessens and then ends.

Dilip Hiro is a London based author and journalist who specialises in the politics of South Asia and the Middle East. Of the 31 non-fiction books authored by him, 18 are

on the Middle East and Islamic affairs. These include *Inside the Middle East*, *Iran under the Ayatollahs*, *Holy Wars: The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism*, *The Longest War: The Iran-Iraq Military Conflict*, *Lebanon, Fire and Embers: A History of the Lebanese Civil War*, *Sharing the Promised Land*, *Secrets and Lies: The True Story of the Iraqi War*, and *A Comprehensive Dictionary of the Middle East*. His articles have appeared in most of the leading British and American newspapers.

For his published articles on the subject, visit:
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/fall-eastern-aleppo-marks-turning-point-syrian-civil-war> and
<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/176303>.