Dr ANDREW ARSAN
Faculty of History, University of Cambridge

Integration and Intervention
Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East, c. 1815-2016

Tuesday 21st March 2017, 6 pm
ULB - Room AZ1.101 - Building A - avenue F. D. Roosevelt 50 - 1050 Brussels
Biographical Note

Andrew Arsan is University Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History in the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St John’s College, Cambridge. A historian of the Ottoman and post-Ottoman Levant, he has published widely on the political, intellectual, and cultural histories of the region. In 2015, his monograph, Interlopers of Empire: The Lebanese Diaspora in Colonial French West Africa (London: Hurst, 2014), was named the Joint Winner of the Royal Historical Society’s 2014 Gladstone Prize.

Abstract of the Lecture

How have European statesmen and diplomats sought to resolve recurrent political, economic, humanitarian and financial crises in South-Eastern Europe and the Middle East? And how have they understood the relationship between European order and Middle Eastern disorder in the two centuries since the Congress of Vienna? To answer these questions, we must look to the past, recovering the forgotten connections between collective European responses to debt defaults and refugee flows in the nineteenth-century Eastern Mediterranean and current EU policy on these issues. The origins of contemporary ideas of integration, intervention, and sovereignty, this lecture contends, can be found in the diplomatic crises of the nineteenth century.
Presentation of the course

This lecture is part of the course “European Order and Middle Eastern Disorder, 1798-2016”.

The course will examine the prehistory of European integration through a Middle Eastern lens. To do so, it will trace the attempts of the European concert of powers to forge a common front and stave off continental conflict in the century and a half between Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt in 1798 and the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Central to these efforts to preserve European order was the question of Middle Eastern disorder.

What, European statesmen and thinkers asked themselves, were the root causes of this disorder: a tradition of autocratic government embodied in the ‘despotism’ of the Ottoman state? Or perhaps the region’s dizzying religious and ethnic diversity, which always threatened to spill over into conflict? How could this disorder be contained, preventing it from affecting Europe’s stability and peace? Was reform of indigenous institutions the solution, or perhaps direct European rule? And how could the ambitions of states such as Russia or Germany in the region be kept in check, ensuring that the European balance of power did not tip too far one way or another?

These questions were addressed in a series of conferences, congresses, and joint commissions and international bodies, from the 1856 Congress of Paris, held after the Crimean War, to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which led to the establishment of the League of Nations Mandates to govern the Middle East, and the debates on Palestine at the UN in 1948-9. Out of these debates emerged a host of mechanisms of international rule: new methods of humanitarian, financial, and political intervention; new understandings of sovereignty and international governance; and new ways of governing minorities and providing assistance to refugees. Exposing students to some of the newest and most exciting work in international history, this course will argue that efforts to preserve the peace and stability of Europe led in the long run not just to European integration but also to the system of global governance which we now inhabit.

Course Schedule

**Monday 20 March**, 10 am -12 am, Room H1309
“Beginnings: Napoleon’s Expedition to Egypt and the Birth of the Eastern Question, 1798-1815”

**Tuesday 21 March**, 6 pm - 8 pm, Room AZ1.101
“Integration and Intervention: Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East, c.1815-2016”

**Wednesday 22 March**, 4 pm - 6 pm, Room H1302

**Wednesday 22 March**, 6 pm - 8 pm, Room H1301
“The Crimean War and the Beginnings of Managed Sovereignty, 1854-1860”

**Thursday 23 March**, 4 pm - 6 pm, Room DC2.206
“Humanitarian Intervention in the Ottoman Empire, c.1860-1898”

**Friday 24 March**, 4 pm - 6 pm, Room H1308
“Debt, Intervention and Sovereignty: European Financial Imperialism in Egypt and the Ottoman Empire, c.1876-1914”

**Monday 27 March**, 10 am -12 am, Room H1309

**Monday 27 March**, 4 pm - 6 pm, Room AY2.107

**Tuesday 28 March**, 4 pm - 6 pm, Room AZ1.101
“Endings: European Integration and the Question of Middle Eastern Disorder, 1956-2016”
Practical Information

“Integration and Intervention: Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East, c. 1815-2016”
Dr Andrew Arsan, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge

When: Tuesday 21st March 2017, 6 pm
Where: Université libre de Bruxelles, Building A, Room AZ1.101
Avenue F. D. Roosevelt 50 - 1050 Brussels

Please register by March 14th at arsan.eventbrite.com
Contact: fwa@ulb.ac.be