

THE SYRIAN WAR AND THE U.S. ROLE IN THE REGION

Presented by
Center For Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Date: Thursday, November 3 6-8 p.m.

Location: SMSU Events Center A & B

Panelists: Dr. As'ad Abukhalil and Dr. Ibrahim Al-Marashi

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Marashi, Associate Professor of Middle East history at California State University, San Marcos.

Dr. As'ad Abukhalil of California State University, Stanislaus. He writes and lectures on Middle East affairs and was a former visiting scholar at UC Berkeley.

The mainstream U.S. media have been covering the war in Syria and its subsequent refugee crisis since 2011, yet most of us lack sufficient understanding regarding what actually caused Syria to be in such "crisis." The dominant discourses employed by the U.S. mainstream media have framed the Syrian War as an extension of the so-called war on terror and focused on either ISIS or the Asad regime as the sole culprits. However, we must also consider two additional factors as contributory to the dire situation and human suffering in Syria: the various ethnic and religious groups involved as key actors, as well as the aspirations of various countries in the world to shape Syria's future and be a dominant power in the region. This panel discussion will provide a critical analysis of the complex crisis in Syria and the multiple parties involved in creating and maintaining it, including the United States.