



**Preventing and Rebuilding Failed States Amid Global Economic Crisis:
What are Realistic Options for U.S. Policy?**
A Policy Colloquium

Friday, June 5, 2009, 8:30 am – 5:15pm

Registration: 8:30am. Colloquium starts promptly at 9am.
6th Floor Auditorium, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Ronald Reagan Building

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As the United States copes with huge challenges in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, other fragile states hang in the balance that may pose threats such as global terrorism, civil wars, genocide, economic collapse, humanitarian crisis, criminal networks, and illicit trafficking in arms, drugs, and persons. To address fragile and failed states, it is becoming accepted that sustainable peace and development is achievable only through multi-dimensional “whole of government” strategies that treat underlying as well as immediate drivers of instability and state weakness. However, a global economic crisis is now playing out that, though adding to the urgency of addressing unstable areas of the world, also is straining the U.S. budget to the limit. Moreover, the U.S. foreign policy agenda is already crowded with high priority geopolitical issues such as North Korea, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran, and U.S.-Russian relations.

In view of these competing pressures, what can an effective U.S. strategy toward fragile and failed states look like? So far, the specifics of whole-of-government, integrated, “3-D” (development, diplomacy and defense) strategies and other holistic ideas like “civil-military cooperation,” “smart power,” and “human security” have not been spelled out. This colloquium seeks to advance U.S. government and non-government decision-making on how to identify and address fragile and failed states more coherently and realistically. The colloquium convenes individuals from U.S. civilian and military agencies, Congress, NGOs, think tanks, universities, and the public to discuss with selected specialists ways to achieve more effective policies.

AGENDA (as of May 28, 2009)

8:30am – 9:00am **Registration and Coffee**

9:00am – 9:30am **Introduction**

Welcoming Remarks: **Lee Hamilton**, Director, Wilson Center

Overview of the Colloquium:

Howard Wolpe, Director, Africa Program and Leadership Project

Michael Lund, Woodrow Wilson Center and Management Systems International

9:30am – 10:30am **Global Picture: Extent and Sources of State Fragility and Failure**

What analysts have learned about the incidence, loci, and sources of state fragility and failure.

Speakers:

Jack Goldstone, George Mason University
“Scanning Potential Threats”

David Carment, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
“Core Factors in Fragility and Failure”

Monty Marshall, George Mason University
“Precursors of Failure”

Moderator:

Michael Lund, Woodrow Wilson Center and Management Systems International

10:30am – 10:45am **Coffee Break**

10:45am – 11:45am **Country-Level Strategy: Priorities in Post-Conflict and Potential Conflict Societies**

Speakers:

Ambassador James Dobbins, RAND Corporation
“Prioritizing and Sequencing in Post-Conflict Countries”

Michael Lund, Woodrow Wilson Center and Management Systems International
“Prioritizing and Sequencing in Fragile, Transitioning States”

Moderator:

Lawrence Wocher, USIP

11:45am – 1:15pm **Building Sectoral Capacities within Fragile and Failed States
BREAKOUT SESSIONS: (Please choose one)**

SESSION A

Political Leadership: How Can International Actors Foster Responsible Domestic Leaders So They Pursue a National, Public Interest?

Speakers:

Terrence Lyons, George Mason University

“When have elections and constitution-forming processes stabilized post-conflict countries for state-building?”

William Zartman, Johns Hopkins SAIS

“When can third-party mediation incentivize post-settlement state-building?”

Howard Wolpe, Director, Africa Program and Leadership Project

“How and under what conditions can international envoys and training nurture leadership that governs effectively?”

Moderator: TBA

SESSION B

Fragile

Public Services: How Can Adequate Basic Services Be Established in and Post-Conflict Failed States?

Speakers:

Ken Menkhaus, Davidson College

“Can viable states be built up and out from local *de facto* informal authorities, i.e., “governance without government”?”

Tony Gambino, Independent Consultant

“How can islands of stability and development be expanded?”

Tjip Walker, USAID

“What has the OECD-DAC learned about building capacity to provide basic public services?”

Moderator: Andrew Griminger, Management Systems International

SESSION C

Economic Development: How Can the Political Economies of Fragile and Failed States Be Transformed into National Growth Economies?

Speakers:

Sarah Cliffe, World Bank

“Key lessons in stimulating local enterprise”

Jay Smith, USAID

“Toward sound management of the economy and aid”

TBA

“Can clientelist, patrimonial economic practices be transformed into viable economic enterprises?”

Moderator: TBA

1:15pm – 2:15pm

Lunch Break

2:15pm – 3:15pm

Multilateral Collaboration: Can Meaningful Coherence Be Achieved Among the U.S., the UN, the EU, regional organizations, and bilateral agencies?

Speakers:

Charles Call, American University

“UN progress and obstacles seeking inter-agency coherence and cooperation with regional organizations”

Chantal deJonge Oudraat, USIP

“European capabilities for coherence in fragile and failed states”

Moderator: TBA

3:15pm – 4:15pm

U.S. Government Mechanisms and Resources: What Re-Sorting of U.S. Agency Roles and Resources is Needed in Washington and on the Ground to Address Fragile and Failed States More Efficiently?

Speakers:

Reuben Brigety, Center for American Progress

“Organizing USG national security decision-making to address fragile and failed states”

Gordan Adams, American University

“Re-sorting USG budgetary resources for fragile and failed states”

Dane Smith, CSIS

“Getting a handle on USG programs at the country level”

Moderator:

Lisa Schirch, 3-Ds Initiative and Eastern Mennonite University

4:30pm – 5:15pm
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Open Mic: What are the Most Important Practical Implications from Colloquium Discussions?

Moderators:

Howard Wolpe, Director, Africa Program and Leadership Project

Michael Lund, Woodrow Wilson Center and Management Systems International

