



**Eminent Speaker Series: Talk by John B. Alterman on
"The Saudi-Iranian Cold War: Implications for Friends and Foes"
September 4, 2012**

In his talk, Dr. Jon B. Alterman provided a historical perspective on the broad "pathology of conflict" behind the growing Saudi-Iranian rivalry today, describing this as fundamentally a nationalist battle in which the sectarian issue is only part of the narrative. Looking ahead, he shared his assessment that in the near term, regional volatility will persist. The interactive discussion following Dr. Alterman's remarks covered, inter alia, the future of the Arab Spring phenomenon and prospects for internal change in various countries.