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Williamson Murray

"Saddam's World View: The Iran-Iraq War and the Shaping of the Modern Middle East"

Monday, April 30, 2012

3:30 p.m.

Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

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Williamson Murray is a Minerva Fellow at the Naval War College and professor emeritus of history at The Ohio State University. He studies military and diplomatic history and is currently working on a number projects related to operational history of the Civil War, study of the Iran-Iraq War, and hybrid warfare.

Murray has taught at several academic and military institutions, including the United States Military Academy, the Air War College, and Yale University, where he received his Ph.D. in military-diplomatic history, working under Hans Gatzke and Donald Kagan. He joined The Ohio State University in 1977 as a military and diplomatic historian, and received the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award in 1987. He took early retirement from Ohio State in 1995 as professor emeritus of history.

Throughout his career, he has held the positions of Secretary of the Navy Fellow at Navy War College, Centennial Visiting Professor at London School of Economics, Matthew C. Horner Professor of Military Theory at Marine Corps University, Charles Lindbergh Chair at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, and Harold K. Johnson Professor of Military History at the Army War College. He was also a consultant at the Institute of Defense Analyses, where he worked on the Iraqi Perspectives Project, and completed two years as the 1957 Distinguished Chair of Naval Heritage and History at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. In addition, Murray served five years as an



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officer in the U.S. Air Force, including a tour in Southeast Asia with the 314th Tactical Airlift Wing.

Murray has written a wide selection of articles and books. He is author of *The Change in the European Balance of Power, 1938-1939, The Path to Ruin* (Princeton University Press, 1984); *Air War, 1914-1945* (Weidendeld and Nicholson: London, 1999); and [The Iraq War: A Military History](#) (Harvard University Press, 2003), written with Major General Robert Scales Jr.

Murray has also co-edited a number of books that explore historical implications for current military thinking, including: *Military Effectiveness* (Allen and Unwin, 1988; reissued by Cambridge University Press, 2010); *Calculations, Net Assessment and the Coming of World War II* (Free Press, 1992); [Military Innovations in the Interwar Period](#) (Cambridge University Press, 1998); [The Making of Strategy: Rulers, States, and War](#) (Cambridge University Press, 1996); [The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300-2050](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2001); [The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2006); [The Making of Peace: Rulers, States, and the Aftermath of War](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2009); *Conflicting Currents: Japan and the United States* (Praeger, 2009); [The Shaping of Strategy: Policy, Diplomacy, and War](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2011); [War, Strategy, and Military Effectiveness](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2011); and [Military Adaptation in War: With Fear of Change](#) (2012).

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