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*Institute for Korean Studies and Department of History Event*

## Jeremi Suri

“Why the Korean War was the Most Important and Enduring Cold War Conflict: Contemporary Lessons”

Friday, March 8, 2013

12:30 p.m.

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

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Jeremi Suri holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He is also a professor in the Department of History and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

He is the author of [five books](#) on contemporary politics and foreign policy. In September 2011 he published a new book on the past and future of nation-building: *Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation-Building from the Founders to Obama*.

Suri's research and teaching have received numerous prizes. In 2007 Smithsonian Magazine named him one of America's "Top Young Innovators" in the Arts and Sciences. His writings appear widely in blogs and print media. Professor Suri is also a frequent public lecturer and guest on radio and television programs.

He has a PhD from Yale University, an MA from Ohio University, and a BA from Stanford University.

### Abstract

This talk will examine the legacy of the Korean War on the post-1945 international system. The changes the war elicited continue to characterize contemporary international relations. First, the Korean War militarized foreign policy-making, replacing the diplomatic efforts of the late 1940s with a new emphasis on limited war intervention-capabilities as a key measure of international power. Second, the



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conflict hardened animosities on the Korean peninsula and across East Asia. The region remains frozen in these hostilities. Third, and perhaps most important, the Korean War created a vision of "naked aggression" and "liberation" warfare that would dominate American thinking about international conflict thereafter. This lecture will explore these themes, with a focus on new historical scholarship.

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