

**AN URGENT EXCHANGE**

**U.S. EMPIRE, ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM  
BOTH DEADLY –  
IS THERE ANOTHER WAY?**



**Wednesday, April 27 • 6:30 pm  
Tishman Auditorium**

**The New School • 66 W. 12th Street, New York City**

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**PARTICIPANTS: SINAN ATOON • WAFAA BILAL  
LAURA LEE SCHMIDT • SUNSARA TAYLOR**

**“If you are troubled about the state and direction of the world... if you are repelled by both the arrogant assertion of empire by the government and leaders of the U.S. and the fanatical backwardness of Islamic fundamentalism, what should you be doing?”**

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**T**HE U.S. GOVERNMENT has arrogated to itself the right to rain down death on countries in the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa... to continue to hold thousands in prisons all over the world without trial and utilizing torture... to step up repression against those who within the U.S. attempt to organize against this... and, now, under the cover of “humanitarianism,” to carry out military intervention, with European allies, in Libya to reassert its dominance.

**We sense there’s a lid** on response to these crimes from people within the U.S. who don’t want the U.S. endangering the world, but who see the growth of oppressive Islamic fundamentalism, and fear strengthening it.

**The resulting paralysis** is morally unacceptable, as is the support some progressives have given to U.S. military operations in Libya. Meanwhile, Islamic fundamentalism, presenting itself as an “alternative” to Western domination, continues to assert itself, including in the recent popular uprisings in the Middle East. And so in Egypt, we see attempts by fundamentalist forces to put a brake on the radical aspirations of people, especially women.

**Is there an alternative** to both empire and Islamic fundamentalism? At a time when the uprisings in the Middle East have given renewed hope to many, there is a chance to break through this impasse and to explore, debate and frame the possibilities of a different way, adding to the urgently needed political oxygen that the peoples of Egypt, Tunisia, and elsewhere have injected into the atmosphere.

**Through this exchange**, we seek to create space to engage, wrangle, and test the ideas of a diverse panel of prominent artists, scholars, and political thinkers about alternatives to these two unacceptable options – in a world crying out for fundamental change.

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