



**His Excellency Mr. Fouad Siniora**  
Former Prime Minister of Lebanon

# Possibilities of War and Prospects of Peace in the Middle East

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O.P. Jindal Global University

# Speaker Bio

His Excellency Mr. Fouad Siniora

Fuad Abdel Basset Siniora, was a Lebanese business leader and later a Lebanese political leader. He is a former Prime Minister of Lebanon, a position he held from July 2005 until May 2008; he was re-nominated to be a Prime Minister once more on May 2008, and stepped down on November 2009 upon the election of a new Parliament. He later served as a Member of the Lebanese Parliament from Saida, and served as the Head of the Al-Mustakbal Parliamentary Block (the largest Parliamentary block in Lebanon from June 2009- June 2018).

Mr. Siniora was born on July 18, 1943. He earned a Masters degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut. He then pursued a career in banking and finance, first as a commercial banker then as an investment banker, and afterwards as a central banker where he held the position of the Chairman of the Banking Control Commission in Lebanon (the Lebanese Banking Supervisory Authority) from 1977- 1982. After that, he became the Chairman- General manager of the Mediterranean Banking Group operating in several countries in Lebanon and Europe. At that time, it was one of the top largest five banking groups in Lebanon from 1982 until 1992. Later he served as the Finance Minister in Lebanon from October 1992 to October 1998 and later from November 2000 to November 2004. At the present, Mr. Siniora is still active on the political scene in Lebanon and the Arab World. During the 1970's he also was a part time lecturer in Business Administration at the American University of Beirut and at the Lebanese University.

# Synopsis of the Talk

This distinguished public lecture was conducted in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon and the Centre of Middle East Studies. It was attended by a wide ranging audience from all schools across the college, students and faculty alike.

The speaker elaborated on the nature and causes for most armed conflicts specifically ones in pluralistic societies with a complex multi-ethnic social fabric. The stormy winter after the Arab Spring and the ingredients that brewed the disorder in the region we live with today.

His excellency elaborated on the “Arab Void” wherein absence of Arab countries taking the lead in determining a future for their people has caused a serious infractions in state powers wherein external players have undermined sovereignty and peace of the region.

He concluded by stating ‘with the current nature of wars and the status quo in the region the prospects for a sustainable peace seem grim.’

The students tabled a number of challenge and relevant questions after the talk. Most of them regarding the internal situation in Lebanese politics with the ongoing protests and the future of conflict and peace in the Middle East. His Excellency provided the students with deep insight to the current Lebanese political frictions and also answered regarding the future of peace in an era of growing authoritarianism and populism.

Professor Ammourah, in his informative concluding remarks, deliberated on the nature of peace that the region requires and the kind that is being manufactured by external powers, a sustainable and substantive peace as opposed to the piecemeal concessions offered by the western powers. In relation to this examples of the intractable Israel-Palestine conflict and the failure of peace deliberations from Oslo to Madrid were discussed. Furthermore, a discussion regarding the Trump peace plan and its justness from a non-western point of view was also put across to the audience.