



The **Austrian Institute for International Affairs** – oiiip,
the **Ministry of Defence and Sports** and
the **Österreichische Orient-Gesellschaft Hammer-Purgstall**
cordially invite you to a panel on the topic

The Middle East between Disintegration and Realignment

World War I has had a lasting effect in restructuring the Middle East. The secret Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 between Great Britain and France has substantially influenced the post-conflict order in the region and is today widely perceived to be the key underlying reason for the current state order. The 1917 Balfour Declaration by Britain's Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour, a memorandum supporting the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine after its "liberation" from the Ottoman Empire, is seen as an early important step for what was later to become the state of Israel. 2017 also marks the 50 year anniversary of the 6-day-war of 1967, a conflict that immensely affects political tensions in the region until today. On the occasion of these anniversaries the panel discussion aims to address questions of international intervention and its long-term effects, but also question the future of the current state order. The recent independence referendum of Iraqi Kurdistan, the disintegration of the Iraqi state as well as the de-facto collapse of Syria raise questions concerning the emergence of new borders. Besides the Kurds, Palestinians are believed to be the main victims of the developments after the end of the First World War. Is the window of opportunity for a Palestinian state shut? How do regional actors and powers address these circumstances and how stable are they? These questions and many more will be addressed and discussed by the panel discussion.

Date & Time: December 5, 2017, 6-8 pm

Venue: Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiiip), Berggasse 7, 1090 Vienna

Panelists: Richard Schofield, King's College London
Petra Ramsauer, Journalist, Author

Chair: Cengiz Günay, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiiip), Vienna

Registration: Please use the online form at www.oiiip.ac.at, alternatively send an e-mail to info@oiiip.ac.at.