

Salt Lake Committee on Foreign Relations
A Member of the American Committee on Foreign Relations

Wednesday – March 21, 2018

6PM Social – 7PM Dinner – 8PM Presentation

The Alta Club – 100 East South Temple

Complementary parking is available on north side of South Temple, east of the Eagle Gate apartments. Valet service available after 6pm

The Trump Administration and the Middle East



President Trump talked about foreign policy in a way unlike any of his predecessors. But how much has actually changed, and how much remains the same? How have Trump and his team approached the complex and chaotic Middle East? One practitioner turned think tank expert weighs in.

Daniel Benaim is a senior fellow at American Progress, researching U.S. policy in the Middle East, as well as a visiting lecturer at New York University. Previously, he served as a Middle East policy adviser and foreign policy speechwriter at the White House, the Department of State, and the U.S. Senate. He was also an international affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Until June 2015, he was foreign policy speechwriter and Middle East adviser to former Vice President Joe Biden, traveling with the vice president to 25 countries. Before that, he wrote speeches for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Deputy Secretaries Bill Burns and Tom Nides and served as a member of Secretary Clinton's policy planning staff covering Egypt. Benaim also has been a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chief speechwriter to former Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), and a detailee to the National Security Council staff. Additionally, he designed and taught a graduate speechwriting course at George Washington University.

Benaim's writings have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The New Republic*. He received his M.A. in law and diplomacy from The Fletcher School and his B.A. in English literature from Yale University. He is a term member at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Please RSVP by 3pm Monday March 19, by one of the following; reply to this email; phone Kathryn Horvat (801) 502-0708, or email at kbhorvat@comcast.net. Reservations made after deadline will be taken for speaker only. Please leave your name and the number in your party. Vegetarian meal is available, advise with RSVP. **Please cancel reservations by 3pm on Monday March 19, if you know you will not be attending the meeting.** You are responsible for your own and guests fees if you do not attend after making reservations.

Dinner fees; Member \$35, Guests \$40.