

## RADOSHES' "A SAFE HAVEN" WINS 2009 WASHINGTON INSTITUTE BOOK PRIZE

### Outstanding New Books on Middle East Celebrated at Weinberg Founders Conference

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(LEESBURG, VA) -- *A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*, Allis and Ronald Radosh's suspenseful, meticulously documented account of Truman's controversial decision to recognize the new state of Israel, has won the Gold Prize -- including a cash award of \$30,000 -- in The Washington Institute's 2009 Book Prize competition, the research institution

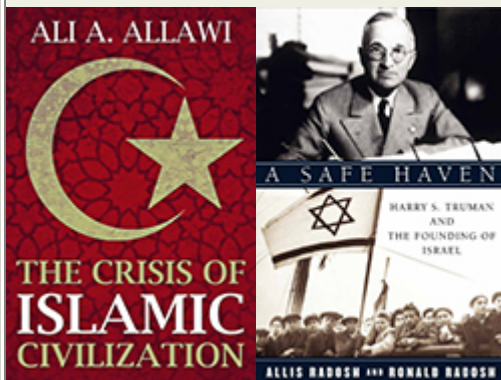
announced today.

The Book Prize, established to highlight new nonfiction books on the Middle East, is among the world's most lucrative literary awards. Winners were announced before an audience of more than 300 journalists, diplomats, scholars, and members of the Institute's Board of Trustees at the organization's annual Weinberg Founders Conference in Leesburg, Virginia.

The Institute also awarded the 2009 Silver Prize (\$15,000) to Ali A. Allawi, a former defense and finance minister in postwar Iraq, for *The Crisis of Islamic Civilization*, a compelling insider's plea for the resurgence of Islam as a civilizing force that can meet the challenges of modernity and globalization. The Bronze Prize (\$5,000) recipient is Amb. Martin Indyk for *Innocent Abroad*, an honest and personal account of Middle East statecraft during the Clinton administration.

"This year's award winners exemplify the very best principles of our prize," said Institute executive director Dr. Robert Satloff. "We have in these three books an outstanding collection of compelling scholarship, provocative argument, and powerful narrative."

Winners were chosen by a three-person jury that included Eliot Cohen, former State Department official and professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS); Kenneth Stein, director of Emory University's Institute for the Study of Modern Israel; and Lally Weymouth, senior editor of *Newsweek* magazine.



### **Winners of the 2009 Washington Institute Book Prize**

**Gold Prize: \$30,000**

*A Safe Haven*

Allis and Ronald Radosh (HarperCollins)

**Prize Jury Commendation:**

**"To a past generation, Harry S. Truman was the American hero in the story of the birth of Israel; in more recent times, some have pointed to his ambivalence and even allege the presence of a casual antisemitism. Ronald and Allis Radosh restore balance to the historical record in this splendidly written and exhaustively researched page-turner. Without smoothing over Truman's flaws, the Radoshes demonstrate how this accidental president became Israel's indispensable friend and benefactor at a crucial moment. *A Safe Haven* should be read not only as history, but as a practical primer in presidential calculation and courage."**

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**Silver Prize: \$15,000**

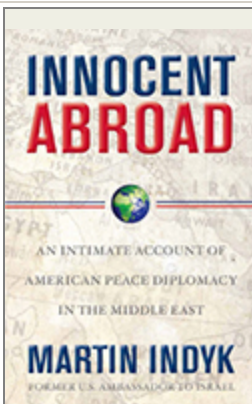
*The Crisis of Islamic Civilization*

Ali A. Allawi (Yale)

**Prize Jury Commendation:**

**"*The Crisis of Islamic Civilization* is an agonized and unsparing dissection of the present malaise that characterizes the Muslim world. Ali Allawi writes as a sympathetic but heartbroken insider who warns of the long-term consequences of Islam's failure to cope with modernity. Allawi predicts that further decay will be accompanied by more disruption and violence but sees portents of a recovery. This masterful work succeeds in combining a dignified respect for Islamic and Arab traditions with searing honesty and moral clarity."**

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**Bronze Prize: \$5,000**  
*Worlds at War*  
Martin Indyk (Simon & Schuster)

**Prize Jury Commendation:**

**"Martin Indyk breaks dramatically with the tradition of the self-serving Washington memoir in this vivid and in-depth account of his years in the White House, State Department, and service in the Middle East. Although *Innocent Abroad* painstakingly uncovers the conceptual and bureaucratic flaws in America's Middle East and Arab-Israeli diplomacy, it reaches a timelessly valid conclusion: there is only so much that the United States can accomplish in pursuit of Middle East peace in the absence of Arab, Palestinian, and Israeli leaders possessed of will and courage."**

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**About the Prize**

The Washington Institute Book Prize is awarded annually to three outstanding new books that have illuminated the Middle East for American readers. With this prize, The Washington Institute seeks to acknowledge the very best new works on the region and encourage authors and publishers to produce books of unique quality and insight. Gold, Silver, and Bronze prizes are awarded annually to the three new books determined to have best broadened American understanding of the modern Middle East.

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**About The Washington Institute**

The Washington Institute is an independent, nonpartisan research institution generating recommendations that advance a balanced and realistic understanding of U.S. interests in the Middle East. Under the guidance of a distinguished board of advisors and through active engagement with decisionmakers, the Institute seeks to impact the policymaking process with ideas that make a difference in the way

Washington thinks about this vital region.

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For information about the 2010 prize, please visit [The Washington Institute Book Prize page](#).

Please direct questions or requests for more information to:

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