

Introduction for Daniel Pipes

Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum, is a historian and an analyst of the Middle East and Islamism.

- A graduate of Harvard University, with both a BA and PhD, he has been recognized as one of the university's 100 most influential living graduates.
- Taught at Harvard, Princeton, Chicago, the U.S. Naval War College, and Pepperdine.
- Worked at the State and Defense departments, held two presidential-appointed positions, testified before Congress, and worked for five presidential campaigns.
- Prize-winning columnist, formerly for the *New York Times* Syndicate and now writing independently; his writings have been translated into 38 languages.
- Author of 16 books.
- DanielPipes.org is his website; he tweets at @DanielPipes.
- Founded the Middle East Forum in 1994, whose slogan is "Promoting American Interests," and built it into a \$4.5 million-a-year organization.
- His influence on the public debate is widely acknowledged.
 - *Boston Globe*: "If Pipes' admonitions had been heeded, there might never have been a 9/11."
 - *Wall Street Journal*: "an authoritative commentator on the Middle East."
 - *CBS Sunday Morning*: "years ahead of the curve in identifying the threat of radical Islam."
 - *Washington Post*: "perhaps the most prominent U.S. scholar on radical Islam."
- A record of anticipating problems. Some examples:
 - In 1991, writing about the prospect of U.S. forces occupying Iraq, he predicted that "American troops would find themselves quickly hated, with Shi'is taking up suicide bombing, Kurds resuming their rebellion, and the Syrian and Iranian governments plotting new ways to sabotage American rule. Staying in place would become too painful, leaving too humiliating."
 - In 1993, within days of the signing of the Oslo accord, he wrote: "Arafat has merely adopted a flexible approach to fit circumstances, saying whatever needed to be said to survive. The PLO has not had a change of heart — merely a change of policy ... enabling it to stay in business until Israel falters, when it can deal a death blow."
 - In 1995, he wrote about radical Islam: "Unnoticed by most Westerners, war has been unilaterally declared on Europe and the United States."
- He has the right critics, from Edward Kennedy to Edward Said, from Lyndon LaRouche to Walt/Mearsheimer, and from Tariq Ramadan to the Council on American-Islamic Relations.
- Al-Qaeda invited him by name, in a September 2006 video, to "repent and enter into the light of Islam." He declined, saying, "I am faithful to my own religion, to my own country, and to my civilization."

It is now my great pleasure to Daniel Pipes to speak.