

For Immediate Release

Lawrence Freedman's *A Choice of Enemies* Wins 2009 Lionel Gelber Prize

March 10, 2009 (Toronto and Washington, D.C.) — **Sir Lawrence Freedman**, one of Britain's most distinguished historians, has won the **2009 Lionel Gelber Prize** for his book *A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East*, published in Canada by Doubleday Canada.

"If you were to select only one book to understand the turmoil and confusion of events in the Middle East over the past 30 years, this is a perfect choice," said Noah Rubin, Chair of the Lionel Gelber Prize, in announcing the winner today. Rubin is grandnephew of Lionel Gelber, the Canadian scholar, author and diplomat renowned for his work in international relations.

Now in its 19th year, the \$15,000 prize is presented by the Lionel Gelber Foundation in partnership with the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto and FOREIGN POLICY magazine.

Lawrence Freedman will accept the award in Toronto on Tuesday March 31, 2009 at 6 p.m. at the Munk Centre where he will deliver the annual Lionel Gelber Lecture. See www.utoronto.ca/mcis/gelber/ .

FOREIGN POLICY magazine and The Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University will co-host an event the evening of April 2 in Washington.

Freedman's book examines three decades of U.S. involvement in the Middle East, reaching back to the presidency of Jimmy Carter. "*A Choice of Enemies* is an epic work of scholarship and analysis, covering a huge swath of U.S. foreign policy engagement in revelatory detail," said Jury Chair George Russell. "Lawrence Freedman depicts America's Middle East entanglements in lucid, magisterial prose as an absorbing mixture of accident, personality, idealistic intentions and realpolitik, mostly purposeful and sometimes gone awry. This book is an indispensable guide to the most strategically contested and volatile region in the world."

In *A Choice of Enemies* Freedman writes: "The events of the last decade have taken their toll, and the United States does not enjoy the prestige and influence in the Middle East that it did as recently as the early 1990s. Nonetheless, no other external actor has so much power or applies it so regularly to Middle Eastern affairs."

Freedman has been professor of War Studies at King's College in London since 1982. He is the official historian of the Falklands War and author of the prize-winning *Kennedy's Wars*. Before joining King's College he held research appointments at Nuffield College at Oxford and The Royal Institute for International Affairs. He was awarded the CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 1996.

Gideon Rachman's review in *The Financial Times* of London says the book is "a linked narrative of all the problems confronting the US" and gives "an unrivalled sense of all the pressures and trade-offs facing American presidents." He also praises the book as "both a fast-paced introduction for lay readers and a fresh analysis that will appeal to experts."

The Economist Magazine has called the Lionel Gelber Prize "the world's most important award for non-fiction."

Other finalists for the 2009 Lionel Gelber prize included:

Bill Emmott for *Rivals: How the Power Struggle between China, India and Japan Will Shape Our Next Decade* (Allen Lane)

Misha Glenny for *McMafia: A Journey through the Global Criminal Underworld* (Anansi)

Ahmed Rashid for *Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia* (Viking)

Fareed Zakaria for *The Post-American World* (W. W. Norton)

Members of the 2009 Lionel Gelber Prize Jury:

George Russell, chair, is executive editor of Fox News. He was the president and editor of *Time* magazine in Canada.

William Drozdiak has been president of the American Council on Germany since 2005. He worked for *The Washington Post* for 20 years.

David M. Malone was named president of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in July 2008, after serving as Canada's High Commissioner to India.

Walter Russell Mead is the Henry A. Kissinger senior fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. His book *Special Providence* won the Lionel Gelber Prize in 2002.

Amity Shlaes is a senior fellow in economic history at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of *The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression*.

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Further information on the Lionel Gelber Prize:

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The Lionel Gelber Prize website www.utoronto.ca/mcis/gelber/ contains the winning book cover, photograph of the author, background information on the Prize, list of previous winners and a biography of Lionel Gelber.