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AFGHANISTAN: FROM GREAT GAME TO GRAND BARGAIN

Friday 20 March 2.00 – 3.15pm
Al-Falasi Lecture Theatre, Bldg 127, Ellery Crescent
Australian National University

Seven years after the US-led coalition and the Afghan commanders it supported pushed the leaderships of the Taliban and al Qaeda out of Afghanistan and into Pakistan, an insurgency that includes these and other groups is gaining ground in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. More US troops, more money, and attacks into Pakistan's lawless tribal areas will do little to counter the growing threats or avert chaos. US strategy must seek a diplomatic grand bargain - forging compromise with insurgents while addressing an array of regional rivalries and insecurities. Dr Rubin will outline some of the complexities involved in pursuing such a bargain.



Barnett R. Rubin is Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the Center on International Cooperation of New York University, where he directs the program on the Reconstruction of Afghanistan. He has worked at CIC since July 2000. During 1994-2000 he was Director of the Center for Preventive Action, and Director, Peace and Conflict Studies, at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Rubin was Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Central Asia at Columbia University from 1990 to 1996. Previously, he was a Jennings Randolph Peace Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale University.

Dr Rubin is the author of *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan: State Formation and Collapse in the International System* (2002; first edition 1995); and *Calming the Ferghana Valley: Development and Dialogue in the Heart of Central Asia* (1999).

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