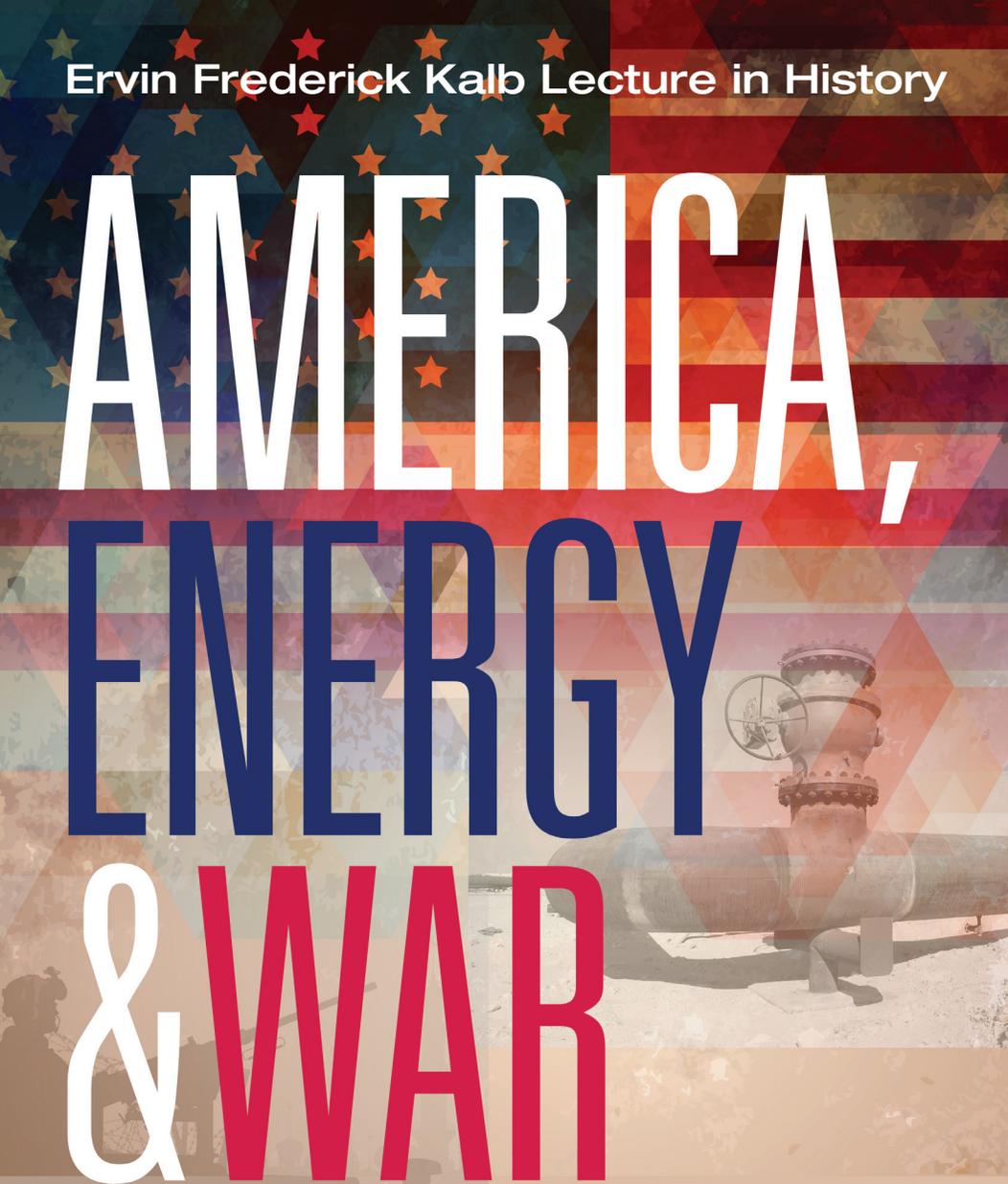


Ervin Frederick Kalb Lecture in History

# AMERICA, ENERGY & WAR



Over the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the United States waged what should reasonably be argued was a long war in the Middle East. At the heart of this history is a complex relationship between energy, American geopolitical anxiety, revolution, radicalism and shifting crises in an embattled region. While it is commonly posited that wars in the region can or should be understood as struggles for direct control over oil or that the militarization of the Middle East only reflects the pursuit of petrodollars, I encourage a new way of thinking. By examining the steady increase of violence in the Persian Gulf that began in the mid-1980s, my talk argues that that the distinction between energy and war were systematically erased, remade in a new material order of militarized-energy networks. The result has been a deeply entangled history of weapons, oil and war ever since.

**Toby C. Jones**  
Associate Professor of History,  
Rutgers University

Tuesday, March 29, 2016  
Rice University  
Farnsworth Pavilion  
7–9 p.m. ([www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps))

Toby C. Jones teaches courses on global environmental history, energy and the modern Middle East. During 2008–2009, Toby was a fellow at Princeton University's Oil, Energy and the Middle East project. From 2004 to early 2006, Jones worked as the Persian Gulf political analyst for the International Crisis Group. His research interests focus on the environment, energy, and the history of science and technology. He is the author of "Desert Kingdom: How Oil and Water Forged Modern Saudi Arabia (Harvard University Press, 2010) and "Running Dry: Essays on Energy, Water and Environmental Crisis" (Rutgers University Press, 2015) and is currently working on "America's Oil Wars" (under contract at Harvard University Press). He has written for the International Journal of Middle East Studies, Journal of American History, Middle East Report, Raritan Quarterly Review, The Nation, The Atlantic, The London Review of Books, The New York Times and elsewhere. In 2015, Jones was recognized as a Rutgers Chancellor's Scholar for distinguished scholarship.

Rice University Department of History

