Approaching its sixth year, the Syria War has evolved from a brutal repression of an uprising to an even worse sectarian bloodletting and extremist anarchy. The gut reaction of the West has been not to get involved, allowing Assad and his Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah allies to continue unimpeded the “Siege, Starve and Shell” tactics aimed at the civilian population in the rebel held areas.

Skillfully usurping ungoverned spaces in Syria and Iraq, ISIS has emerged as arguably the most extreme of all extremist movements in the Middle East. It has attracted at its height as many as two thousand foreign recruits each month.

Where does this leave Syria after the defeat of the moderate rebels in Aleppo in December 2016 and the impending defeat of ISIS in Raqqah and Mosul? What happens to the challenge of ISIS and extremism? And how will the transfer of power in the US to President Trump affect Western policies? The talk will explore these questions, along with emerging perspectives for peace, and elements necessary for a sustainable political solution.

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