BEYOND SUNNI AND SHIITES:

UNDERSTANDING THE VIOLENT RECALIBRATION OF ARAB STATE, SECT, TRIBE AND CITIZEN



A BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH

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AP photo Shiite men assemble in June 2014 outside Baghdad's main recruiting station to join the Iraqi army after the Sunni militant group the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria vowed to invade the capital.

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The current upheavals across the Arab world are violent and messy, but they are far more complex than the facile picture of Sunni-Shiite clashes that is often depicted in the West as the main dynamic that drives the upheavals. After half a century of autocratic governance, chronic corruption, and failed developmental policies, we are witnessing a long overdue recalibration of the fundamental building blocks of Arab statehood that have never been properly configured by the will of their own people.

