

Civilizations in Embrace:

Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Ideas, Peace, and World Order

Please join us for a full-day conference on March 21, 2016, to discuss civilizations and their contributions to peace and world order. More information on the program will become available on the Bahá'í Chair's website, bahaichair.umd.edu.

This conference is jointly organized by the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland and the UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance at American University, Washington, DC.



Samuel Huntington's 1993 "Clash of Civilizations" essay provided considerable intellectual justification for the war on terror and blinded many people to its excesses. But this debate often sidesteps the richer and more complex set of questions about civilizations and power. Classical Greece

borrowed from the Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Persian civilizations; China and Southeast Asia from the Indian civilization; and the West borrowed from the Islamic, Chinese, and Indian civilizations. The history of civilizations may thus be told not in terms of blood, treasure, and conflict, but of the convergence of

thought, identity, and mutual benefit. Today, changes to the global distribution of ideas through peaceful encounters among civilizations will increasingly accompany changes to the global distribution of material power in creating the possibility of a truly multi-civilizational and multi-plex world order.



Ambassador Akbar Ahmed

Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies in the School of International Service at American University, Washington, DC.

Keynote: "Dialogue or Clash of Civilizations? The Global Community at the Crossroads"



Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff

Professor and Head of Department of Political and International Studies at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa



Professor Amitav Acharya

UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance in the School of International Service at American University, Washington DC; Former President of the International Studies Association (2014-2015)



Professor Navnita Chadha Behera

Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Delhi in New Delhi, India

More speakers to be Announced

March 21, 2016 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM
Adele H. Stamp Student Union
Juan Ramon Jiménez Room 2208
University of Maryland, College Park



THE BAHÁ'Í CHAIR
FOR WORLD PEACE