

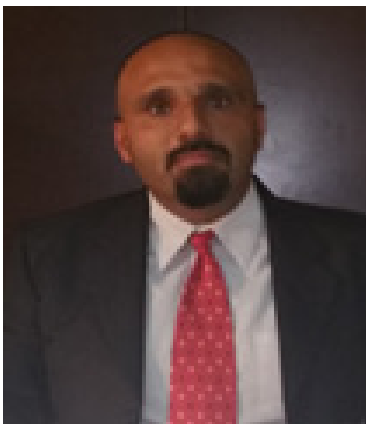
# "The First Power Sharing in the Middle East: Lebanon in 1845"

Dr. Saïd Chaaya, UCLA

May 24 - 4:00 P.M.  
6275 Bunche Hall

The end of the Ottoman Empire and the fragmentation of its territories led to a struggle for power throughout the Middle East. Since then, the region has remained in turmoil leading us to ask: is a lasting peace and respectful coexistence of the different groups purely a utopian dream?

An unpublished manuscript written in the heart of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century suggests a way forward. While Lebanon was, at the time, a part of the Ottoman Empire, it was already laying the foundations of a democracy, founded on the respect of pluralism and the pledge of freedom. Can the real sharing of power instituted in this text for Lebanon in the 19th century be a political and social paradigm for the whole Middle East in our days?



Dr. Saïd Chaaya is a historian of the Modern Middle East. His research is situated at the crossroads of Intellectual and Political History in the Ottoman Empire and the Modern Arab world. He is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the History Department at UCLA and a Fellow at the CNRS-GSRL, the French National Center for Scientific Research in Paris.

