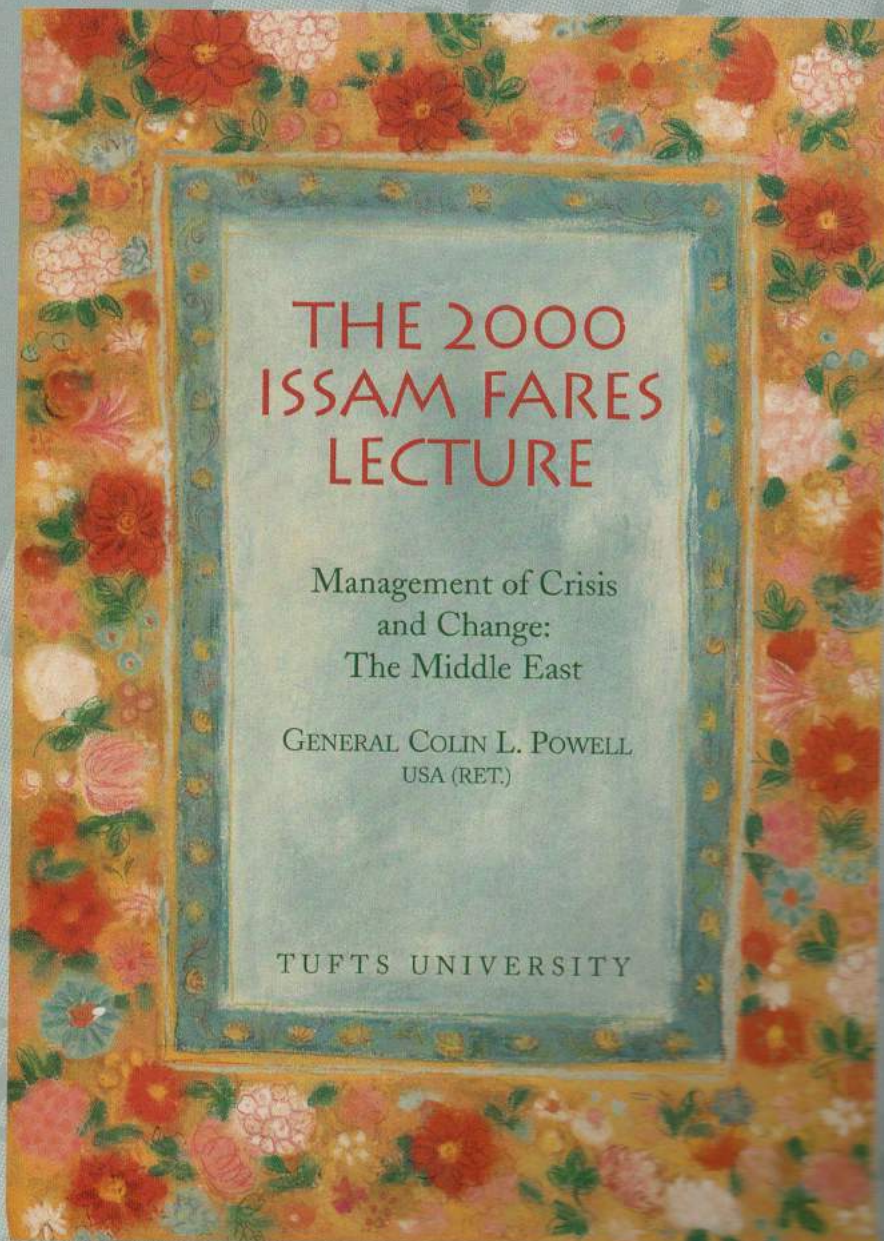


**MANAGEMENT OF CRISIS AND CHANGE: THE MIDDLE EAST**

**COLIN POWELL**, former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000







## **COLIN POWELL**

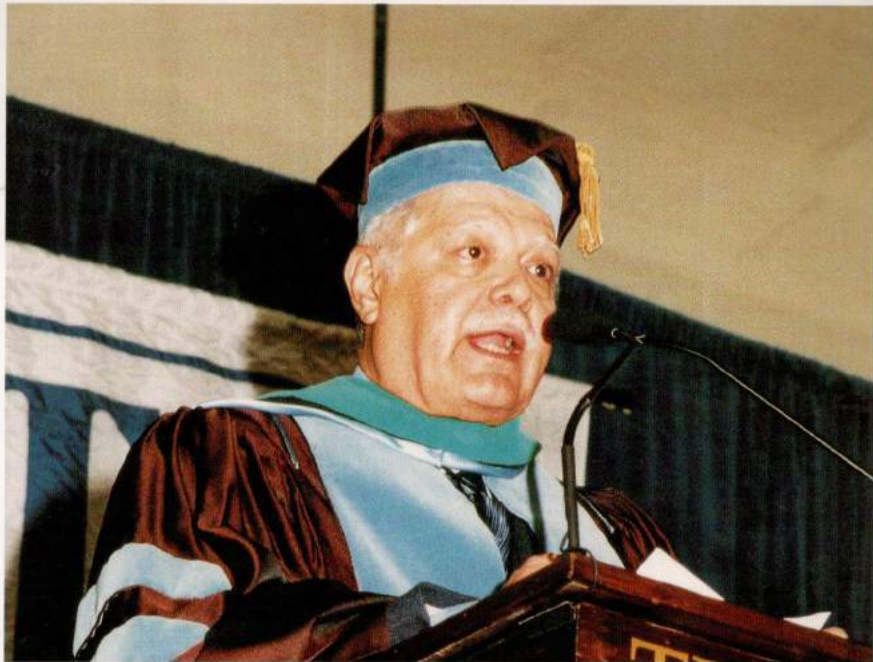
General Colin L. Powell is the author of the best-selling autobiography «My American Journey», which traces his life from his birth to immigrant Jamaican parents in Harlem to his role in advising Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. As a professional soldier for 35 years, he held myriad command and staff positions. His last assignment was as twelfth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1989 to 1993.

Educated in New York City public schools, General Powell graduated from the City College of New York with a bachelor's degree in geology. He participated in ROTC and upon graduation received a commission as an Army second lieutenant. Further academic achievements include an M.B.A. degree from George Washington University.

General Powell is the recipient of numerous US military awards and decorations, including the Defense Distinguished Service medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart. Numerous world governments have also decorated him. Civilian awards include two Presidential Medals of Freedom, the President's Citizens Medal, the Congressional Gold Medal, the Secretary of State Distinguished Service Medal, and the Secretary of Energy Distinguished Service Medal. He is the recipient of an honorary knighthood (Knight Commander of the Bath) bestowed by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

General Powell serves as chairman of America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, a national crusade to improve the lives of our nation's young people. He is a member of the board of trustees of Howard University, a member of the board of directors of the United Negro College Fund, and a member of the advisory board of the Children's Health Fund.





## Issam Fares

It is an honor and a privilege to welcome General Colin Powell to the Issam M. Fares Lecture Series at Tufts University.

Your participation, General Powell, as a man who rose in the ranks of the US Army, held its top military posts, and dealt directly with the question of war and peace in the Middle East, acquires special importance at this time.

The objective of the Issam M. Fares Lecture Series is to further the cause of peace on the foundations of justice. Peace that does not take into account the principles of justice or the larger issues of human rights will not last.

Without justice, one can impose peace but cannot maintain it. We should all keep this in mind as we search for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

As a Lebanese, I have a special interest in the Middle East, and in the role of the US in helping us attain peace in our region.

The destiny of Lebanon is part of the destiny of its region. If there is no peace in the region, there will be no real peace in Lebanon, and vice versa.

We suffered war in Lebanon for some two decades, and we experienced the dislocation, the destruction, and the misery that come with it. Only those who experience war fully appreciate the blessings of peace.

We have learned in Lebanon that peace cannot be achieved without taking the interests of all parties into account. We have learned that there are parties, small and large, but that they all have a role to play in building peace.

Of course, of all the capitals engaged in the Middle East peace process, Washington exercises the greatest influence. Washington however cannot do it alone.

It can orchestrate and encourage; it can point out other courses of action. But the objective must always be to realize a comprehensive and durable peace in which the rights of all parties are recognized.

Peace «by pieces» does not work. Despite agreements with Egypt and Jordan, and in part with the Palestinian Authority, we still do not have peace. Indeed, peace may be slipping into a state of violence and war.

Peace will be effective only when the fundamental issues inherent in the Palestinian question are adequately addressed, and when the interests of Syria and Lebanon are addressed as well.

When one thinks of purely short-term gains, one is likely to shoot from the hip, to act in anger, and to react in anger. In such an atmosphere, the strong is tempted to dictate, and the weak is tempted to react violently.

Either course is a sure way to failure. The October events in Jerusalem and the West Bank are a vivid example of that.





In addition, in the Middle East, it is impossible to separate between religion and politics. With us, the religious symbol is a fact – a hard, concrete, stubborn fact. It tends to mobilize masses, generate violence, and overturn regimes.

In the peace process there are Jewish symbols, Christian symbols, and Islamic symbols, and they all converge in Jerusalem.

Given the religious complexity of Jerusalem, the strategic importance of the region, and its economic place in world trade, the peace effort must engage not only the US, but also the UN, Russia, Europe, and the Arab world.

The key to a just peace is to recognize the basic resolutions of the United Nations and to proceed from them. Agreements on land, on water, and on trade are important and perhaps, necessary steps to an enduring peace. But what we need ultimately is the readiness of the parties to recognize each other, to learn to accept the plurality that exists, and to have the wisdom and the will to live together.

We have a long way to go before we reach this goal. Peace in our region is a long process. It faces major dangers and challenges, but we should persist.

Again, I welcome General Powell to our Forum, and I thank him for his readiness to take time off from his busy schedule to share his thoughts with us.

In his life the general has overcome many hurdles; hence, he can appreciate the hurdles that stand in the way of peace in our region, and he might be able to help us in overcoming them.





## Colin Powell

In its sixth year, the Issam M. Fares Lecture Series at Tufts University hosted General Colin Powell, who addressed the subject of «A Permanent Peace in the Middle East.» More than 3,000 students and graduates of Tufts University attended Powell's address. In addition, a large number of academics, diplomats, journalists, as well as leaders of the Boston area Lebanese community and representatives from American universities participated in the event. The lecture took place on the eve of Powell's nomination to the position of Secretary of State, and for that reason the lecture was not recorded. The following is a general framework of what it encompassed.

General Colin Powell started his lecture by highlighting the common values he shares with the Deputy Premier of Lebanon, Issam Fares. These included their profound attachment to moral and national values and principles, their efforts to serve society and their commitment to help future generations. Powell congratulated Fares on his new position as the Deputy Premier of Lebanon and wished him success with his new responsibilities. He hoped that Lebanon would soon enjoy permanent peace, prosperity and growth and would recover all of its legitimate rights.

Powell then indicated that he was deeply interested in the current situation in the Middle East and especially in the peace process. He stated that there is no better alternative to negotiations and peace, and that violence does not solve problems but rather complicates the situation. It is only through negotiations that the different parties can reach a common understanding on all related issues.

Powell also indicated that the international environment had changed after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and that nowadays the world adheres to the liberal system, democracy and human rights. In this new era, the United States considers itself responsible, along with the free world, for peace and security in the world, especially in the Middle East and that is why the US has called upon the concerned parties to negotiate for peace following the Madrid Initiative.

Powell agreed totally with Deputy Premier Fares on the positions he so eloquently conveyed with regard to finding adequate solutions leading to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He added that the American administration is committed to the peace process in the Middle East and will not change its position towards that regardless of the results of the presidential election between the Democratic candidate, Vice-President Al Gore, or the Republican candidate Governor George W. Bush.



*«It's my pleasure to stand beside a man who is trying to do what I'm trying to do in this late period of my life, serving young people. A man who received the gifts of the earth and this society is trying to give them back, stretching his arm towards the young people in need.»*

Following the lecture, General Powell held a press conference at Tufts University. When asked why he viewed the coming period as difficult, Powell responded: «After the recent escalation of violence in the region, I think it is about time that all the parties must initiate a dialogue to stop this cycle of violence. But first, let us have a ceasefire and then return to the negotiation table.»

Powell ended his press conference by conveying his congratulations to the Deputy Premier for the Honorary Doctorate he just received. «Dr. Fares rightly earned the degree and it is a modest expression of the University and America's appreciation for his assistance to this edifice and for his contributions towards the goodness and welfare of humanity all around the world. In addition, he has provided great assistance to the Lebanese people, not only through his efforts in the public sector, but also through his contributions to this institution, by helping children receive health care, and by supporting Lebanese youth to reach their dreams through opportunities he provides.

«It's my pleasure to stand beside a man who is trying to do what I'm trying to do in this late period of my life, serving young people. A man who received the gifts of the earth and this society is trying to give them back, stretching his arm towards the young people in need. The participating students today will understand the message and receive it within their hearts. A part of being human or an internationally successful citizen includes bringing in other people to share your time, talents and wealth.»

«I know he's very touched by the honor he just received. After giving his first remarks when he received the degree, and while he was getting back to sit in his chair, he whispered to me while applauses rose, «My wife looks happy.» He's a very wise man, and I think it is suitable, since many of Mr. Fares' family members are here today, to ask not only Mr. Fares Fares who founded the Issam Fares Lecture Series, but also Mrs. Fares and all his family members to stand and be recognized.»



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**The board of trustees granted Issam Fares an honorary doctorate in international affairs.**

On the occasion of the opening of the sixth year Fares Lecture Series at the Boston Tufts University with the presence of General Colin Powell, who gave a lecture about «A Permanent Peace in the Middle East,» the University organized a special ceremony in which the board of trustees granted the Deputy Premier an honorary doctorate in international affairs. The Deputy Premier was distinguished for his efforts and contribution to cultural institutions, humanitarian causes and student issues in Lebanon, abroad, and above all in the United States, as well as for his endeavors in international relations as a person, a politician, an economy specialist and family man. The President of the University, Mr. John Di Baggio, opened the ceremony with a speech in which he praised the efforts made by Mr. Issam Fares, named as the Deputy Premier the night of the ceremony, in the humanitarian, cultural, economic and social fields, whether in his country Lebanon or in European and American countries. These efforts are a source of pride and an honor for all the workers in these fields and on the top of them the Tufts University and its Board of Trustees, which granted him the doctorate. Following the speech delivered by the President of the Board of Trustees, the President of the university handed him the certificate and offered his profound congratulations, prayers and wishes of success in his mission, particularly in his new national responsibilities as the Lebanese Deputy Premier. After the speech of Mrs. Leila Fawaz in the name of the university's professors, the Deputy Premier, Mr. Issam Fares, delivered the following speech: «Of all the honors and awards that a person might receive in his public life, there is always one that stands out. For me, this doctorate from Tufts University is the one. I shall cherish this honor throughout my life. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Board of Trustees of Tufts University for granting me this great honor. Also I would like to thank President John Di Baggio and the Faculty and Administration of this great university for the privilege of working with you in the interest of Tufts. From the early decades of its birth, America was challenged to explore new frontiers. In only the last few decades, man set foot on the moon. Spaceships traveled beyond it into the planets and the far reaches of outer space. Exploring new frontiers was the defining challenge of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. What shall be the defining challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Certainly, progress will continue in science, in space, in communication, and in the world of computer technology. But the new challenges that will face us in the future are outside the physical realm.



They are mostly in the realms of human relations, and the art of living together.

The new challenges are: How to tear down the walls that separate race from race, religion from religion, nation from nation, and civilization from civilization; how to build bridges, not from one river bank to the other, but from nation to nation. We are here governed by fear, by suspicion, by pride, and by the will to exploit and dominate. The world is still a plurality of families, tribes, nations, and civilizations. It will always be. The challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is how to achieve community while maintaining this diversity; how to create a harmonious world while preserving the values of the existing civilizations. The challenge indeed is how to acquire the gift of tolerance, the wisdom of humility, and the intelligence to see our higher interests in the context of conflicting immediate interests. Tufts University is ideally placed to blaze a new trail in this important domain. It has already taken the lead in programs on international relations and in providing a forum for the promotion of peace and justice. I am sure Tufts, together with other universities, will continue to broaden their contribution to pushing this frontier forward. Indeed, there are obstacles to remove, and peaks to climb. We have done it before for science; we can do it again for mankind. In closing, I express, again my gratitude to Tufts University for bestowing upon me this honor, and I wish for Tufts to retain the honor and distinction that it now holds as a leader in higher education and research in the United States and around the world.»