



Kenneth M. Pollack

Pollack began his career as an Iran-Iraq military analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency, where he was an employee from 1988 until 1995. During that time, he was the principal author of the CIA's classified post-mortem on Iraqi strategy and military operations during the Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991. Pollack received the CIA's Certificate of Distinction for Outstanding Performance of Duty for work before and during the Persian Gulf War. He also twice received the CIA's Exceptional Performance Award, also for work related to the Persian Gulf War.

Pollack has twice served on the staff of the National Security Council. In 1995-1996, he was director for Near East and South Asian affairs, and in 1999-2001 he served as director for Persian Gulf Affairs. In this latter capacity, he was the principal working-level official for U.S. policy toward Iraq, Iran, Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council States at the White House.

In addition to these positions, Pollack has been a senior research professor at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University where he principally worked on long-term issues related to Middle Eastern political and military affairs for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has been the director for National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, and a research fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Pollack's latest commercial book, *A Path Out of the Desert: A Grand Strategy for America in the Middle East* was published in July 2008, by Random House. This book warned that the economic, social and political stagnation of the states of the Muslim Middle East had pushed all of these countries into a pre-revolutionary state that could trigger revolutions, civil wars, insurgencies and failed states at any time. It also prescribed a long-term, overarching approach for the United States to pursue to secure its interests by enabling a process of gradual, indigenously-driven reform throughout the Muslim Middle East. It has been a *Washington Post* and *Foreign Affairs* best-seller and was chosen as one of the *Washington Post's* "Best Books of the Year" for 2008 as well as an editor's choice of the *New York Times Book Review*.