

Yemen was known for Frankincense and Myrrh...nowadays, it is crude oil and coffee; and, six years into an armed conflict that has



claimed the lives of a massive number of civilians, Yemen is experiencing a humanitarian crisis of extreme proportions.

Today's armed conflicts are devilishly hard to bring to an end.

Eric Jeunot will address Yemen.



*Prospects for peace in Yemen:
A matter of mediating
historical issues*

Eric Jeunot, who has a Masters degree in International Relations from Victoria University in Wellington, has had extensive practical experience in African and Middle East war zones.

He says: "The prospects for peace in Yemen are nil unless there is an understanding of and attempt to resolve historical issues as the origins of this civil war."

After more than six years of civil war with no concrete signs of peace on the horizon, the Yemen state is shattered. But, Eric Jeunot argues, its people still stand and Yemeni retain a determination to honour their heritage and land.

The country is once more split between North and South, as the Yemens were prior to 1990. North Yemen has fallen back under a theocratic regime of Huthi governance, while South Yemen is divided between several ideologies all striving for power.

Many have advocated for the regional powers to contribute to the peace negotiations between the warring parties in Yemen. Eric Jeunot argues that such approaches misplace the prospects for peace negotiations. He believes it is counter-productive to understand the Yemen civil war as proxy wars of regional powers.

Between 2008-13 Eric Jeunot was a project co-ordinator, working with a staff of 150 in tribal, sectarian, political and terrorism conflict-based environments in Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, Ethiopia and Malawi.

From 2013-17, he was a country head of mission in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, co-ordinating four projects, with more than 800 employees and a 20 million Euro budget.

Eric is currently pursuing a PhD focusing on Yemen tribal governance.



DATE: Wednesday, 16th June 2021

TIME: 8.00 pm - with tea and coffee served from 7.30 pm

WHERE: The Copthorne Hotel and Resort, 246 High Street South, Solway, Masterton

NON-MEMBERS: \$5.00 Door Charge

All are welcome

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