

# **Dr. Robert D. Crane**

## **Biographical Sketch**

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Dr. Robert Dickson Crane is a scholar and a prolific writer and expert on subjects ranging from law to economics to international affairs and Islamic jurisprudence. He is a co-founding board member and former Chairman of the Center for Understanding Islam, and Director for Global Strategy at The Abraham Federation: A Global Center for Peace through Compassionate Justice.

Dr. Crane received his B.A. from Northwestern University, summa cum laude, with a 4.0 grade point average, in normative (value based) economics and in Sino-Soviet studies, specialized in the sociology of religion at the University of Munich, and earned his Doctor of Laws (J.D.) in 1959 from Harvard Law School with specialization in comparative legal systems and international investment. At Harvard, Dr. Crane founded the Harvard International Law Journal and became the first president of the Harvard International Law Society. He practiced international communications law in Washington, D.C. with Haley, Wollenberg, and Bader.

In 1962 he co-founded the Center for Strategic and International Studies, while remaining Of Counsel with his law firm until 1965. From 1963 to 1968, he served as Foreign Policy Advisor to Richard Nixon who appointed him as Deputy Director of the National Security Council in 1969. In 1981, President Reagan appointed him to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, responsible also for two-tier diplomacy with the various Muslim Brotherhood movements in the Middle East and North Africa. In 1984, Dr. Crane co-founded the Center for Economic and Social Justice with its President, Norman Kurland, and then was Chairman of the Financial Markets Committee of Ronald Reagan's Presidential Task Force on Economic Justice, which was designed to apply the Just Third Way of expanding capital ownership as a better means than the military to counter Communist terrorism in Central America.

From 1982 to the present Dr. Crane has been a full-time Islamic scholar and activist. He was Principal Da'ii (religious instructor) at the Islamic Center, Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C., from 1983 to 1986, which included a year as Director of the Dialogue Commission of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. He was Director of Publications at the International Institute of Islamic Thought from 1986 to 1988. Dr. Crane was a Founding Member of The American Muslim Council and from 1992 to 1994 served as Director of its Legal Division. In 1993, he was elected president of the Muslim American Bar Association, which he founded in order to organize Muslim participation in the American Bar Association's work on issues of conscience. From 1994 until the present he has headed his own research organizations focusing on paradigm management designed to shape the agendas of think-tanks, which, in turn, direct public policy.

He has authored or co-authored a dozen books and hundreds of professional articles on comparative legal systems, global strategy, and information management. Since September, 2001, he has been an ad hoc weekly columnist for the online journal, [The American Muslim](#). His principal research interest is natural law and the congruence between the teachings of classical Islam on human rights and the principles underlying the Constitution of the United States. His languages, in order of proficiency, include English, German, Russian, Spanish, French, and Arabic. His principal lifelong hobbies are mountaineering and ultra-marathoning, having been the 8th fastest 100-kilometer runner (62 miles) in the history of the United States.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Dr. Crane authored or co-authored a number of books, and published a great many professional articles in such diverse journals as *The American Journal of International Law*; the *Federal Bar Review*; *Law and Contemporary Problems*; the *Arbitration Journal*; *Moral Rearmament*; *Studies in Soviet Thought: A Quarterly Review of Philosophy in Eastern Europe*; and *Orbis: A Quarterly Journal of World Affairs*; as well as professional articles in the house organs of think-tanks around the world, including *Europa Archiv* (in German), *Strategie* (in French), and *The Journal of National Defense* (in Japanese), and *Survival* (organ of the Institute for Strategic Studies in London).

Publications in the Muslim media, numbering in the hundreds, include *Planning the Future of Saudi Arabia: A Model for Achieving National Priorities*, Praeger, CBS, 241 pages, 1978; "A Strategy for Peace", *Islamic Horizons*, September 1985, and "Peace through Justice, February 1986, reprinted in *The Congressional Record*; "Human Rights in Islam", published in

*Orientation Book for the Presidential Task Force on Economic Justice*, 1986; "Civilization: A Generic Perspective", *Eastern Times*, Parts I,II, III, August to December, 1990; "Science and the Spiritual Quest: The Classical Islamic Perspective", The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California, May, 1997; *Shaping the Future: Challenge and Response*, Tapestry, 159 pages, 1997; "The Search for Justice and the Quest for Virtue", in *The Sun is Rising in the West*, Amana, 1999, pp. 141-166; "Muslims in America: Patterns of the Past, Choices for the Future", pp. 1-12, Summer-Fall 1999, editorial as Managing Editor of *The Middle East Affairs Journal*; "Taproot to Terrorism: The Loss of Transcendent Law in America and the World", *The Muslim World Book Review*, Summer 2005, pp. 6-21, and "The Higher Justice of Divine Revelation: Creativity and Dynamism of Islamic Jurisprudence," Spring 2007, pp. 6-21; "From Clashing Civilizations to a Common Vision," pp. 159-178, in *Islam and Global Dialogue: Religious Pluralism and the Pursuit of Peace*, ed. Roger Boase, Foreword by HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Ashgate, 2005; "Human Rights in Traditionalist Islam: Legal, Political, Economic, and Spiritual Perspectives, *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Winter 2008, pp. 82-105; and *The Natural Law of Compassionate Justice*, IIIT, 220 pages, 2008.