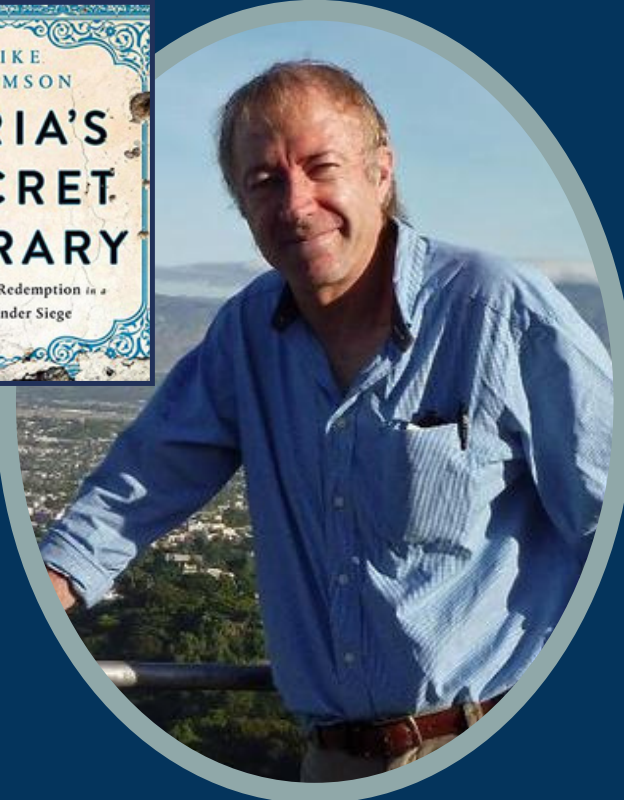


A fantastic, timely story, beautifully told, of a civilization's refusal to die.
-Kirkus Reviews



30TH ANNUAL MORTENSON DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

with BBC World Affairs Correspondent, Presenter and Author

Mike Thomson

November 16, 2020; 12:00-1:30pm CT

FREE Online Event - Register at: <https://go.illinois.edu/distinguishedlecture>

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Center for Global Studies through support from the US Department of Education's Title VI NRC Program
Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Department of Journalism, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Mortenson Center for International Library Programs
School of Information Sciences
University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mortenson Center for International Library Programs
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1402 W. Gregory Dr., Room 142
Urbana, IL 61801 USA
Phone 217.333.3085
Email mortenson@illinois.edu
Website <https://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/lectures/>

BIOGRAPHY:

Mike Thomson is one of the BBC's most distinguished and experienced World Affairs correspondents. During his career, he has interviewed many military and political leaders including Margaret Thatcher, George Bush, Joseph Kabila, King Hussein, Meles Zenawi and most recently the Liberian President, George Weah. His agenda-setting reporting has taken him to many of the world's biggest trouble spots. These range from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to Somalia, Eastern DR Congo, Darfur and the FARC controlled jungles of Colombia.

Mike has won more than twenty major awards for his work. These include: News Journalist of the Year (Sony Radio Academy 2012); Broadcast Journalist of the Year (One World Media Awards 2008) and War Correspondent of the Year (Prix Bayeux Calvados Awards 2008-Radio) These prestigious prizes are in addition to four Amnesty International Media Awards (three of them in consecutive years), five Sony Radio Academy Awards and four Foreign Press Association Awards.

Mike is also a renowned BBC presenter, Editor of: The Raqqa Diaries: Escape from 'Islamic State' (Hutchinson 2017) and author of Syria's Secret Library (Orion 2017 and 2019; Public Affairs 2019)

