



מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה
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Middle East News & Views

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A weekly sample of news and opinions on current events from around the Middle East collected and brought to you by the Dayan Center.

To see full article, click on title.

[A Symbiotic Death Dance / Rami G. Khouri](#)

A serious American-Iranian rapprochement is eminently achievable if it reflects American and Iranian interests, and is not distorted or held hostage by Israeli fanatics and their wild surrogates in Washington lobbies. If this happens, it would reshuffle the cards in the Arab-Israeli conflict, finally taking us into a new era defined by forces more rational than the frenzy and fear of 1977-79.

Source: **The Jordan Times (Amman), February 23, 2009**

[International Acrobats around Gaza / Ezzedine Choukri Fishere](#)

The recent Israeli attacks on Gaza resuscitated the debate over a possible international role in the besieged Strip. What capacity, if any, can the international community fill in order to help run Gaza's crossings, patrol its borders, ensure equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance and support imminent reconstruction efforts?

Source: **Bitterlemons-International (Jerusalem), February 19, 2009**

[Shifting Sands / Hossam Tamam](#)

Recent events in Gaza have made it clear that Islamism is now the master of the moment. As an idea, as well as a political manifestation, Islamism occupied centre stage. The Gaza war had an impact on the Salafist movement. It pushed their political capacities to the limit and simultaneously triggered a kind of filtering process that brought to the fore different trends within a movement that had until recently been regarded as a monolithic entity.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 935, 19–25 February 2009**

[The Kurds: Love for America is Not Enough / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



It is up to the Kurds to codify their internal conflicts, especially in view of the most serious situation summed up by Mr. Nechirvan Barzani when he warned of an "Arab – Kurdish" war. This is provocative language which will lose the Kurds a lot of sympathy, both internally and externally.

Source: **A-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), February 17, 2009**

[Iraq's Choice: An Iranian or Gulf Model / Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed](#)

In the new era, the Iraqis have not been asked what kind of Iraq they want: do they want a military state or a country that will flourish? Do they want an Iranian or Gulf model?

Source: **A-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), February 18, 2009**

[IRIB Chief Downplays Possible Attack on Iran](#)

Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Ezzatollah Zarghami, currently on a visit to Afghanistan, downplayed any potential attack on Iran.

Source: **Fars News Agency (Tehran), February 22, 2009**

[More Democratic Foreign Policy / Ihsan Yilmaz](#)

The current state of Turkish-Israeli relations shows us once again that in order to be a more powerful and influential country, Turkey needs to make its handling of foreign policy affairs more democratic and transparent.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), February 22, 2009**