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אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה
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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.

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[On the Fatah Convention and on Palestine / Mazin Qumsiyeh](#)

We Palestinians can indeed shape our future with choices we make every day, even in the context of existing power structures (and those are changing). Neither reckless bravado and useless 1960s rhetoric, nor supine begging for endless negotiations, will help us at this critical junction. These are times that demand new ways of thinking.

Source: **Ma'an News Agency (Bethlehem), August 1, 2009**

[The Path Out of Palestinian Irrelevance / Rami G. Khouri](#)

The pitiful tug-of-war between the two leading Palestinian political groups, Fatah and Hamas, illustrates the depths of incompetence, mediocrity and irresponsibility to which the Palestinian national movement has plunged in recent years. This is a far cry from its heyday in the 1970s and 1980s, when the Palestinian resistance movement resonated loudly throughout the region, even as it also triggered the anger and opposition of many others, including Arab governments.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), August 1, 2009**

["Down with the Dictator" / Ataollah Mohajerani](#)

On the eve of the revolution in Iran in 1978 and 1979, the national slogan was: 'Down with the Shah!' Nowadays, Iranians have chosen a new slogan: 'Down with the dictator.' What is the difference between these two slogans and these two eras? Does it mean that the Shah has gone but the dictator has remained?

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), August 5, 2009**

[Iran at the Crossroads / Abolhassan Bani-Sadr](#)

In the weeks since the Iranian election, the government of the Islamic Republic has been publicly divided, delegitimized and grown increasingly more weak. The current situation offers parallels with the political unrest leading up to the 1979 Islamic Revolution that ended the rule of the Shah.

Source: **Khaleej Times Online (UAE), June 3, 2009**

[The Change Sweeping Kurdistan / Zeki Amedi](#)

My first visit to the Kurdistan region after the liberation of Iraq coincided with the Kurdish elections. I had the opportunity to get a sense of public opinion, and I was surprised that despite improvement in their economic situation, many people are now disgusted by the present situation. Although they lack basic knowledge about the Change List led by Mr. Nawshirwan Mustafa, they were enthusiastic about it because it promised changes and anti-corruption measures.

Source: **KurdishMedia.com, July 22, 2009**

[Owing Turkish Democracy to Kurds / Doğu Ergil](#)

The reason Turkey is a lame duck democracy and still a "developing" country, run by authoritarian laws disregarding the rule of law and international legal standards and inhibited by a poorly educated population toiling in an inefficient economy is the "Kurdish problem": it is used as an alibi to maintain this dysfunctional and anachronistic system that has no accountability and provides limitless social and economic privileges to a ruling cadre.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), August 2, 2009**

[The Tragedy of Four Egyptian Women / Rania Al Malky](#)

Is Egyptian society inherently sexist? Are women in Egypt seen as somehow lesser humans than men and treated as such? A yes or no answer to any of those questions would clearly be a gross generalization. Depending on where you are on the broad social spectrum you would have completely convergent views on the subject.

Source: **Daily News Egypt (Cairo), July 31, 2009**