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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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[New Guard Replaces Old in Fateh / Daoud Kuttab](#)

It has taken 20 years, but the Palestinian Liberation Movement (Fateh) has finally held its sixth general conference, allowing for a much-needed influx of new blood into the movement. The conference, which opened in Bethlehem on August 4, registers many historic firsts.

Source: **The Jordan Times (Amman), August 6, 2009**

[The Emerging Fateh / Ziad Abu Zayyad](#)

Maybe Fateh will become a sort of a political party in the occupied territories, but the lack of progress toward a political solution will inspire some of its members to long for the old days of underground struggle against occupation. Everything lies in the hands of Israel and the international community. But one fact should not be ignored: The new Fateh emerging from the Bethlehem conference will pull the carpet from under the feet of Hamas.

Source: **Bitterlemons.org, August 10, 2009**

[Palestine and World Peace: Where Terror Has Reigned for a Century / Hassan Al-Haifi](#)

It is no mystery to the observer that the stability of the world and the hopes for international peace hinge on the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land. This would mean dispelling the notion that Israel is a bastion of peace, harmony and regional cohesion.

Source: **Yemen Times (Sana'a), August 9, 2009**

[Why is Iraq Ablaze? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



An entire village in Iraq, the residents of which belong to the Shia school of thought, was destroyed. Is this the dark, depressing side of the current picture in Iraq? Of course not. The scene is more frightening than what the Iraqis or those following events in Iraq think. The real reason behind the current blazing fire in Iraq is attributed to two things; the withdrawal of US troops and the upcoming Iraqi elections.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), August 12, 2009**

[Why Are We So Far Behind? / Abdel-Moneim Said](#)

When I wrote an article recently wondering why the Arabs didn't land on the moon, I wasn't aware that Robert Fisk wrote something very similar in a UK newspaper, which appeared in *The Independent* on 28 August and was only one of many that dealt with the same topic of why the Arabs remain so far behind other nations.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 959, 6 - 12 August 2009**

[Lebanon: Who Turned on Who? / Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed](#)

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt should not be blamed for leaving the coalition. There is a difference in politics between the "brotherhood of a party" and the "partnership of a coalition." The March 14 Coalition is a coalition, not a party, and just like all coalitions around the world, members change according to the circumstances, and circumstances are subject to drastic changes on all levels. The Lebanon of today is not the Lebanon of 2005. It is only natural that alliances break up.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), August 6, 2009**

[Kurdish Issue Needs More than Democratic Reforms / Kerim Balci](#)

Democratization is about the future. It does not undo the wrongs of the past. It will certainly prevent further Kurdish youth from going to the mountains and joining the ranks of the separatist terrorist organization. It will sow seeds of hope among the Kurds about their future, their cultural rights and their economic welfare. But it won't let mothers whose beloved ones are still missing deal with their grief.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), August 4, 2009**