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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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## [The Islamic Republic of Gaza/ Galal Nassar](#)

The culture of exclusion and narrow mindedness of the "Islamic Republic of Gaza" is aggravated by an economic stranglehold as well as by an authority that fosters, protects and uses such movements to terrorize the people, intimidate opponents and purge political adversaries. But force is no way to handle internal relations. It breeds greater extremism and spurs fragmentation.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 962, 27 August - 2 September 2009**

## [Hamis: Jihad in Switzerland / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



When Alsharq Al-Awsat revealed news of a workshop that was held in Switzerland attended by Israeli figures and figures from the Hamas movement, the Islamist movement, at first, denied the reports. The next day however, the movement admitted [attending the workshop] but said that those taking part in the talks were expressing the movement's views but did not belong to the movement themselves.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), August 25, 2009**

## [Iraq and Syria Need State-to-State Contact to Solve Their Impasse / Editorial](#)

Exactly a week after Iraq's PM, Nouri al-Maliki, visited Damascus, Baghdad is withdrawing its ambassador from its neighbor, claiming that Syria supports Iraqi Baathists who are accused of the horrific truck bombings in the Iraqi capital. The only way to solve this impasse over Syria's actions vis-à-vis Iraq is by state-to-state contacts. Removing an ambassador as a formal protest is one thing; what's really needed is an intensification of behind-the-scenes discussions.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), August 26, 2009**

## [With Mubarak in Washington / Abdel-Moneim Said](#)

What undermined the relationship between Cairo and Washington was the Bush administration's determination to "tame" Egypt. They wanted Egypt to become one of those countries that would jump to attention whenever Washington snapped its fingers. It took six years for the Bush administration to recognize its blunders and by the time it began to reconsider its attitude in 2007 it was too late. President Obama's recent words to President Mubarak acted as a balm.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 962, 27 August - 2 September 2009**

## [A Lost City / Dalal Mawad](#)

In 1993, the Beirut High Council of Urbanism came up with a "heritage list" of some 1,016 houses. The listing categorized the buildings into A, B, C, D and E, from good condition to worse. This listing infers that only buildings in categories A, B and C will be preserved, whereas D and E can be destroyed. But when you destroy an ancient Lebanese mansion, you destroy part of the country's history and culture, a whole heritage.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), August 29, 2009**

## [Put Off Life for the Sake of Hezbollah / Hanin Ghaddar](#)

The Hezbollah slogans I saw on my way to the South last weekend saying "You are the most honored people," made me realize that, for the time being at least, I am not part of the "chosen people". And yet I was born, raised and lived in the South until I was 18. Today apparently, to be a real southerner, one should blindly support Hezbollah and accept its decisions on war and peace, no matter how much pain and suffering they cause.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), August 26, 2009**

## [Muslim Women, Bright Shoes, New Nazis, New Jews! / Orhan Kemal Cengiz](#)

There is a hot debate in Europe nowadays. In France and Italy, Muslim women wearing "Burkinis" (Islamic swimsuits) have been banned from public swimming pools. Let's be honest; Muslims are the new Jews of Europe, aren't they?

There has been no Muslim holocaust, for sure, but there is a creeping "cultural racism" in many European societies.

One cannot help but recall the way the Nazis saw Jews: untermenschen, or sub-humans.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), August 28, 2009**