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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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[Where Next for Palestinians? / Ghada Karmi](#)

Palestinian history is at one of its most serious and important junctures. The peace negotiations that commenced with the Oslo accords in 1993 are at an end. The consensus about the two-state solution, which was nearly universal, has been shaken by the logistical reality of Israeli settlement expansion, but the alternatives have not solidified. The only shared view is that more negotiations with Israel on the current basis are futile.
Source: bitterlemons.org, **November 23, 2009**

[Does Jordan Have an Option? / Hassan A. Barari](#)

Save for the Palestinian territories, nowhere in the Middle East will one find as much frustration as in Jordan, owing to the stalled peace process and the lack of any practical prospects for peace. Unsurprisingly, most think that Jordan and Palestinians should look for other alternatives. Does that mean supporting resistance? Not necessarily!
Source: **Jordan Times (Amman)**, **December 1, 2009**

[Why Should Obama Do Anything for the Peace Process? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the US President "is not doing anything at the present time" to revive the Israeli – Palestinian negotiations for peace. The question that must be asked here is why is it up to Obama to do something for the peace process or for the benefit of the Palestinian people when the Palestinians are not doing anything for themselves?
Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London)**, **November 26, 2009**

[Football and Arab Unity / Abdel-Moneim Said](#)

From primary school through university we regularly used to stage demonstrations, sometimes in support of Palestine and at other times in support of Algeria or other Arab or African countries. Arab countries and peoples stood together in the face of foreign occupation and the Israeli occupation in particular. That legacy inspired the ambition on the part of some political groups to espouse a project for Arab unification. That was the dream; reality was another matter.
Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo)**, **November 26 - December 2, 2009**

[Football and Hate Wars / Diana Mukkaled](#)

Examples of the level that the Egyptian-Algerian crisis has reached are shocking. Reactions have intensified from verbal abuse and violence, to the threat of severing ties and cutting investment. It seems that we will witness, analyze, and talk about the repercussions of this football game that resulted in chaos and violence, and caused a political crisis and vehement media war between Egypt and Algeria, and it does not look like this is something that is going to end soon.
Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London)**, **November 28, 2009**

[What Next for Assad's Syria? / Matein Khalid](#)

Obama's White House has engineered a policy U-turn in its relations with Syria. While Bush made no secret of his desire to see regime change in Damascus, Obama placed his bet on conciliation and a diplomatic rapprochement. The economic rationale for closer Syrian-American relations is compelling.
Source: **Al-Khaleej (Dubai)**, **November 29, 2009**

[Is the AK Party Changing its Orientation? / Etyen Mahçupyan](#)

There is no doubt that foreign policy is the field where the AK Party is at its best. Compared to its performance in domestic politics, the party is more successful in the foreign policy field because it does not have to consider the pressure of the fundamental principles of the republican regime and Atatürkism. Turkey is not changing its orientation. It is utilizing the EU axis, but through the East, and in doing so reinforces the mindset promoted by that axis.
Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul)**, **November 27, 2009**