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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.

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[Arabs Shouldn't Look to US / Fawaz Turki](#)

The solution to the Palestinian peace process will not come from Obama or any other American president. I blame ourselves, the Arabs, for having become a weak and dependent people relying not on our resources to solve our own problems, in our own part of the world, but on Washington's big power whimsies.

Source: *Gulf News (Dubai)*, December 5, 2009

[A Very Lebanese Resistance/ Editorial](#)

Hizbullah's new political manifesto, unveiled earlier this week by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has been recently "making the rounds" in the media. Politicians and analysts debating whether the document represents something new are tackling a seemingly age-old question. Is Hizbullah a truly Lebanese party (assumed to be something positive), or is the Islamic resistance a mere appendage of Iran (assumed to be something negative)?

Source: *Daily Star (Beirut)*, December 4 2009

[Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah and a New Round / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



In just one week, representatives of Hamas met with the Hezbollah leadership in Beirut, whilst in Damascus on Thursday the deputy chief of the Hamas politburo Musa Abu Marzook met with the Iranian nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili. Why are these actions between Iran and its supporters in the region – Hamas and Hezbollah – taking place now?

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

[Needed a Mindset Change in Tehran / Editorial](#)

There are fresh reports of student protests and anti-government demonstrations in Tehran. While some international news agencies have a tendency to exaggerate when it comes to this part of the world – especially if it happens to be Iran – there are clear signs that all is not well in the Islamic republic. Opposition groups managed to turn the anniversary of an anti-US protest into an anti-government and anti-Ahmedinjad rally. And they didn't have to try very hard either!

Source: *Khaleej Times (Dubai)*, December 8, 2009

[Iraq's Future Held Hostage by its Politicians / Editorial](#)

Anyone wanting a window into Iraq's future need only look at its politics. Much of the progress made in the country remains fragile. Security is worsening as militant groups test the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces in the wake of the US withdrawal from urban centres. But it is the political scene that poses the greatest threat to any future recovery. Nothing demonstrates this better than the row over a new election law.

Source: *The National (Dubai)*, December 7, 2009

[Israel Fears Turkey's Changing Stance / Marwan Kaban](#)

Turkey's new regional orientations have been subject to fierce verbal attack by Israel and its friends in Washington. Over the past few years, Israel has been concerned about a possible shift in Turkey's foreign policy orientation. If Ankara drops Tel Aviv in favour of Syria and Iran, Israel's worst nightmare would have come true.

Source: *Gulf News (Dubai)*, December 5, December 2009

[Is Turkey Abandoning the West? / İhsan Dağı](#)

Whenever Turkey increases its diplomatic initiatives in its region, we hear cries from some circles that Turkey is turning its back on the West. In accusing Turkey of turning against the West, I think, they merely look at Turkey's critical position toward Israel. Even if Turkey's recent policies toward Israel are in contrast with that of Europe and the US, why should it mean a departure from Turkey's pro-Western foreign policy orientation?

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