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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.

To see full article, click on title.

## [Defending Egypt / Abdel-Moneim Said](#)

There is no cause to give Egypt, a country that has spent decades fighting Israel and negotiating with it, and that knows Israel inside and out, lessons in how to manage international relations and questions of national security. Egypt will not allow itself to be dragged into battles against its will; it will not be inveigled by others that exploit the banners of Arabism or Islam, or the fight against Israel, to advance the agendas of other countries.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 980, 7 - 13 January 2010**

## [Jerusalem Should Be at the Center of Peace Efforts / Daoud Kuttab](#)

Whether their hard work bears any fruit depends on the political will to find non-violent solutions to the conflict. Because whether it is borders, Jerusalem, or other 'core issues', all parties to the conflict must know that there are no military or violent solutions. Non-violent solutions require empathy and sympathy as well as justice and fairness. If we have learned anything in this past bloody decade in Palestine and Israel, it is that violence only begets violence.

Source: [bitterlemons.org](http://bitterlemons.org), January 4, 2010

## [Is the War on Terror Over? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



The title of this article may cause a shock; this is what is required as whoever is following up on the recent terrorist attacks attributed to Al Qaeda, or claimed by the organization itself, will find that he has more questions than answers. There are no answers of course. For that reason more discussion is necessary because some people have begun to believe that the threat of terrorism has disappeared.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), January 9, 2010**

## [Where We Are in 2010 / Amr Hamzawi](#)

The crisis of the nation state weighs heavily on the Arab world. At best it hampers the ability of the state to perform its primary functions and it obstructs the prospects of sustained development and democratic transformation. At worst, it lends itself to forces propelling towards the disintegration of the state and the fragmentation of society. The big question remains whether Arab political culture and structures for public discussion can cope with the dangers ahead.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 980, 7 - 13 January 2010**

## [An Arab World without Borders / Editorial](#)

Late last week Saudi Arabia and Qatar signed an agreement to demarcate more of their land and marine borders, but this new line in the sand will stand out more for all the absences its presence will reveal. Marking a common border decades after achieving statehood begs the question, what took so long? Looking around at relations between the countries in the rest of the Arab world, the same question arises again and again.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), January 11, 2010**

## [Al Maliki Is Looking Vulnerable / Sami Moubayed](#)

Al Maliki cannot go on ignoring countries that back him, be it Syria or Iran. Nor can he function if heavyweights in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, do not support him because of his sectarian agenda and weak leadership. With no Tehran, Riyadh, Damascus or Washington behind him and a popularity level that has declined to comically low levels thanks to consecutive terrorist attacks, it is doubtful that Al Maliki will survive the elections in March.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 5, 2010**

## [Democratic Test for Kurdish Politics / Bejan Matur](#)

The democratic initiative, a much-debated topic in Turkey, has elicited an image that aptly portrays the nation in much detail. Since the very first day the subject of the initiative made it onto the national agenda, it has been apparent just who has adopted what sort of stance toward the initiative. The Kemalists, the nationalists and the Kurdish politicians immediately stood out as those who have refused to play the game.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), January 10, 2010**