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Middle East News & Views

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Editor: Bruce Maddy-Weitzman
Editorial Board: Amir Kulick, Michael Barak and Idan Barir

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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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[Fatah, Hamas Must Reconcile / As'ad Abdul Rahman](#)

Palestinian mistakes should not justify the continued rift between the West Bank and Gaza. Both the Palestinian National Authority and Hamas have erred, but the continued altercation playing out in the media is thwarting any possible reconciliation. Let us agree that everyone is damaging the Palestinian cause. However, when mistakes become sins and are used to deepen the rift, we must never keep silent.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 23, 2010**

[Coherent Arab Statehood Is Inevitable / Rami G. Khouri](#)

The epic story of the modern Arab world has been the quest by ordinary men and women for reforms allowing our societies to break the chains of three dominant trends plaguing us: autocratic political regimes, a seemingly permanent state of post-colonial distortion and dependence, and an inability to tap our human and natural resources to match Western or Asian developmental bursts that have left us coughing in their dust.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), January 16, 2010**

[Iraq...Reconcile, Don't Forget / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



Iraq's problem today is that Iraqis want to take revenge on the Saddam regime whilst forgetting that it was not fair in anything but its oppression. Reconciliation with its past will guarantee Iraq not slipping into an abyss of dictatorship and absurdity because of the Baathists. When we say "don't forget" it means don't allow history to repeat itself and it is not a call for hatred and enmity, as states are not built on revenge.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), January 25, 2010**

[The ElBaradei Effect on Egyptian Politics / Issandr Amrani](#)

The advent of Mohammed ElBaradei as a potential presidential candidate has introduced an unpredictable new element into Egypt's slow-moving succession crisis. For the first time in recent memory, a prominent member of Egypt's establishment has spoken out against the Mubarak regime. It is all the more devastating because the words come from a man who appears eminently more qualified for the presidency than the heir apparent, Gamal Mubarak.

Source: **Carnegie Endowment's Arab Reform Bulletin (Washington DC), September 2009**

[Sectarian Tensions Are Somebody's Fault / Amr Hamzawy](#)

On Orthodox Christmas day, six Copts were killed while coming out of churches in Nagaa Hammadi. The horrific crime, committed by three Egyptian Muslims, is a wakeup call. It should alert us all to the dangers of growing sectarian tensions in this country and to the horror that sectarian hatred can reap. The past few years saw a steady rise in the rate of incidents and sectarian confrontations in Egypt.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 982, 21 - 27 January 2010**

[Turkey's Rising Regional Influence / Marwan Al Kabalan](#)

Turkey's rising regional influence has risen to the top of Obama's agenda. He believes that Ankara could play a vital role in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Iran's nuclear program, the Middle East peace process and in establishing better relations with the Islamic world. Turkey has now become Washington's most useful and most reliable regional ally. As a moderate Islamic state, Turkey is welcomed in many places in the region as a power broker and moderator.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 22, 2010**

[When the Turkish Military Becomes a Threat / Ihsan Dağı](#)

I am now pretty sure that neither democracy nor security is possible with this military. It is a military that staged four military coups, two failed coup attempts and probably hundreds of plans that did not materialize. I think this is an incurable disease. Armed with the weapons entrusted to them by the people, they think they are entitled to rule the country simply because they are more "powerful" and "enlightened" than the people.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), January 25, 2010**