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Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies
מركز موشيه ديان لدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

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No 054
March 4, 2010

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 Arab Reform Process / Galal Nassar](#)

Democracy is founded upon the principle of full equality between free citizens. It is the manifestation of a social contract between citizens and their government that is committed to the equal right of all to freedom, dignity and justice and opposed to the exercise of tyranny and the subjugation of others. But can we simply import such concepts and systems, like cars or ready-made clothes, in order to solve the problem of dictatorship in the Arab world?

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 987, 25 February - 3 March 2010**

[Iraq Key to US-Syria Rapprochement / Marwan Al Kabalan](#)

When the US decided to invade Iraq, Syria openly opposed the idea. When US tanks rolled into Baghdad in April 2003, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad, in an interview with the Arab media, stated that he hoped the invasion of Iraq would fail. But from mid-2007, Syria and the US started to speak the same language on Iraq with Syria starting to show genuine interest in the establishment of a strong central government in Baghdad.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), February 26, 2010**

[Tehran... A Photo Op / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



The images that we saw yesterday coming out of Tehran of what was described as the conference of "National and Islamic Solidarity for the Future of Palestine" represented nothing but a photo op to serve Iran's goals of propaganda in the region, and a review of Iran's tools to confront the US against the backdrop of the Iranian nuclear file, or the Israelis, in light of the current escalation in the region.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), March 1, 2010**

[Resistance Culture / New Opinion](#)

Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel that any attack on Lebanon would be met with a mirrored response. This thundering sermon, and the famous antics of the alleged Israeli hit squad in Dubai, inspired his No 2, Naim Qassem, to launch a holier-than-thou sermon on Israel's violations of international law. This was more amusing than anything else, because of course Hezbollah would never resort to using falsified documents on any of its missions.

Source: **Now Lebanon (London), February 25, 2010**

[On the Road to Better Lebanese-Turkish Relations / Mohammad Nouredine](#)

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri's recent visit to Turkey was a milestone in Lebanese-Turkish affairs. Aside from a brief period in the 1950s when Lebanon and Turkey shared similar interests against Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's pan-Arab movement and a common political affiliation with the United States, there has been very little positive interaction between the two countries at the government level.

Source: **Common Ground News Service (Washington), February 23, 2010**

[Syria Will Not Leave Iran / Hanin Ghaddar](#)

Bashar al-Assad's Syria will never break with Iran. No matter how hard the West tries to cajole or compel Damascus, the regime will continue to prize its regional role, bolstered by its alliance with Tehran over any improved relationship with regional and Western powers. Indeed it is an alliance worth more to Syria than even the Golan Heights.

Source: **Now Lebanon (London), February 27, 2010**

[Others' Violations and Genocides / Orhan Kemal Cengiz](#)

US congressmen who will vote on the hot issue of the "Armenian genocide resolution" would possibly reject any resolution for a similar declaration regarding the massacres of Native Americans or slaves who lived and were killed on US soil a century and a half ago. This resolution will be supported by certain interest groups who just want to hurt Turkey. But under different circumstances they may be taking a completely different course of action. So we all talk about politics.