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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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[Ghanem Nuseibeh / An Independent Palestine Might Upset the Status-quo: Regional Engagement is Critical to Success](#)

Many people view the prospect of creating an Arab state in Palestine as no less than a political earthquake. In the absence of strong Palestinian leadership, a peace deal that would create an independent Palestine would be anything but permanent, unless the various Arab states contribute more substantially to a long-lasting settlement.

Source: **Common Ground News Service (Washington), November 11, 2010**

[Marwan Al Kabalan / Syria Moves into Regional Spotlight](#)

Over the past couple of years, Syria's regional role has transformed. Its approach to dealing with a range of Middle Eastern problems has made it a key player in regional politics. Developing ties with the key non-Arab neighbors—within the context of its conflict with Israel and the lack of progress in the peace process—did not stop Syria from trying to heal the rift with the Arab world, and relations with Arab countries are beginning to improve.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), November 12, 2010**

[Hanin Ghaddar/ Hezbollah and its Sacred Challenge](#)

No amount of wishful thinking can make us believe that Hezbollah might resort to dialogue or respect Lebanese institutions. The Saudi-Syrian deal, the Doha agreement and Hezbollah's reassurances that it will not resort to street violence, are all meaningless as far as the Party of God is concerned. The ideology has turned all their deeds and beliefs into sacred entities that are above criticism; ergo, there is no need for dialogue.

Source: **NOW Lebanon (Beirut), November 13, 2010**

[Daoud Kuttab / Was the Jordanian Public Wiser this Time?](#)

The elections of the 16th Parliament held a number of surprises which point to the simple fact that Jordanians are wiser than many people give them credit for. This growing wisdom can be seen in both the decision by opposition parties, such as the Islamic Action Front, to boycott the poll, as well as in the choices made by the people who voted.

Source: **Jordan Times (Amman), November 11, 2010**

[Abdul Rahman Al-Rashid / The Exodus of Moderates from Iraq](#)

The fact that the Iraqis have ultimately agreed to resolve their government formation crisis is a historical achievement that merits praise. However, we were hoping that the most moderate political bloc of all, the al-Iraqiya List, would rule the country in order to reinforce the concept of a cosmopolitan Iraq. Unfortunately, the bloc that lost the elections has managed to win the leadership posts. Iraqis, Americans, and regional forces with interests in Iraq's stability and future are all to blame for this.

Source: **Asharq Alawsat (London), November 14, 2010**

[Arshin Adib-Moghaddam / Europe Still Vital in Talks with Iran](#)

Iran has proposed a new round of talks with the P5+1 (the permanent members of the UN security council, plus Germany) to move the nuclear enrichment negotiations along. Britain and the EU have a pivotal role to play in these negotiations if they revert to proactive, positive diplomacy vis-à-vis Iran on the one side and the US on the other. The success of EU diplomacy in 2004 in suspending nuclear enrichment shows that positive mediation produces tangible results.

Source: **The Guardian (London), November 13, 2010**

[Hüseyin Gülerce / What Actually Happened Inside the CHP?](#)

On June 12, 2011, Turkey will hold a general election. This will be, from the perspective of the CHP (The Republican People's Party), a historical turning point, since it will be forced for the first time to turn to the people for their votes. As we all know, the formula since the era of single party rule has been as follows: CHP + military = power. Now it can no longer be implemented. Can the CHP shift from being a party of the state to being a party of the people?

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), November 12, 2010**

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