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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 Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University. **To see full article, click on title.**

Libya – Abdul Rahman Al-Rashid: The Crisis of the Three Revolutions

Despite the resounding success and speedy victories of protestors in Tunisia and Egypt, they are unable to agree on a rule mechanism or decide on interim leadership. In Libya, the past two weeks have been the bloodiest so far in the wave of revolutions in the Middle East. It is clear that the common denominator between the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya is a desire to overthrow the existing regimes, but what can Libyans learn from the difficulties Tunisians and Egyptians are experiencing in the aftermath of their initial success?

Source: Asharq Alawsat (London), February 28, 2011

Egypt – Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor: Even a Corner Shop Needs a Manager

While I heartily congratulate the Egyptian people on achieving the impossible, I'm also a realist. There are many aspects to this revolution that may have negative implications for the entire region. Looking beyond the current euphoria, following the ousting of an out-of-touch leader and his corrupt capitalist cronies, I fear a rough road lies ahead. Unless we become masters of our own destiny soon, the malevolent elements, burning to become our masters, will prevail. It's ironic that while people in city squares are calling for freedom, we have never been this close to being enslaved.

Source: Egyptian Gazette (Cairo), February 28, 2011

Libya – George Semaan: Will Gaddafi Clear Out Tripoli Before He Leaves?

The international community did not place any conditions on renormalization of relations with Libya following Libya's handing over of the accused Lockerbie bombers two decades ago. With the violence in Libya today, although Libyans are refusing any foreign military interference – whether American or European – to help topple the regime and stop the bloodbath, this position does not spare the international community from its responsibilities. Sanctions are not enough and never will be. What is required is a no-fly zone over Tripoli, and the prevention of foreign mercenaries from entering the country and fueling civil war.

Source: Dar Al Hayat (Beirut), February 28, 2011

Egypt – Naomi Wolf: The Middle East Sees a Feminist Revolution

The women who were active in the recent wave of protests in the Middle East were nothing like the Western stereotype of Muslim women: they were front and centre, in news clips and on Facebook forums, and even in the leadership. However, the role of women in the great upheaval in the Middle East has been woefully under-analysed. Women in Egypt did not just "join" the protests – they were a leading force behind the cultural evolution that made the protests inevitable.

Source: Gulf Times (Doha), March 1, 2011

Egypt – Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed: The Arab World's Triple Crisis

It is, of course, to be hoped that new governments in Tunisia and Egypt, and other Arab leaders, will better address ordinary people's grievances than has happened in the past. However, a mere change of government will not make the economic problems of countries such as Egypt and Tunisia go away. The converging effects of population growth, climate change, and energy depletion are setting the stage for a looming triple crisis in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Source: Jordan Times (Amman), March 1, 2011

Turkey – Yusuf Kanlı: Farewell to Hoca...

One of the greatest personalities of modern Turkish political history, the "spiritual leader" of the "national view" political movement, the oldest active political figure of Turkey, and the first-ever Islamist prime minister of Turkey, Necmettin Erbakan passed away on Sunday. Whereas the Justice and Development Party (AKP) long abandoned nationalist sensitivities in policy making, only to recently rediscover it, Necmettin Hoca was an Islamist thoroughly devoted to nationalist ideals and interests.

Source: Hürriyet (Istanbul), February 27, 2011

Turkey – Abdülhamit Bilici : Big Nose, Dwarf Politics

On his five-hour visit to Turkey, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Turkey's EU membership would benefit neither Europe nor Turkey. He asserted that Turkey's place is in the Middle East, not in Europe and added that Turkey should not expect to become a member, but negotiations should be maintained. With this approach, the loser won't be Turkey, but France and the near sacred notion of Europe. Just as it is wrong to belittle France and the French people, it is equally wrong to underestimate Turkey and the Turkish people and to make a fool of them so openly.

Source: Today's Zaman (Istanbul), February 28, 2011

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