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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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[Tariq Alhomayed / Tunisia: Was It a Revolution?](#)

What is currently taking place in Tunisia is not a popular revolution. There were no clear demands from the demonstrators, there was no organized opposition leading the masses; even Islamic voices have so far been silent. This appears to have been more of a palace coup, and Ben Ali's exile an agreed settlement.

Source: **Asharq Al-Awsat (London), January 16, 2011**

[Adel Safty / Return of the Kissinger Model](#)

Obama's endeavor to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute has been reduced to Cold War-era conflict management. The peace process no longer commands the Arab press coverage it initially did, and even Washington seems more preoccupied with issues of Arab governance than with the Palestine conflict. This removal of urgency and restoration of the Kissingerian approach are the successes of Israel and its American friends.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 17, 2011**

[Rami G. Khouri / Three Arab Models Are Worth Watching](#)

The Arab world this week is experiencing three extraordinarily interesting models of political action and change in Sudan, Lebanon and Tunisia. The three states share a common problem: their existing political and economic order is unstable and unsustainable, because it is unsatisfying to a majority of citizens. These three are following very different transformational paths in the attempt to narrow the gap between state and citizen.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), January 15, 2011**

[Maher Abukhater / Europe Should Play a Political Role in the Middle East Conflict](#)

Are the Europeans doing enough for the Middle East peace process? If the question has to do with financial support, the answer is obviously "yes". But if the question is about political involvement, the answer is clearly a big "NO". Israel does not want Europe to have any active political role and Palestinians mistakenly believe that only the U.S. can deliver Israel. But Europe can and should play a political role because the Middle East is in its backyard.

Source: **bitterlemons-international.org , January 13, 2011**

[Hanin Ghaddar / Hezbollah's Coup and How to Face It](#)

The Hezbollah-led opposition has succeeded in toppling PM Saad Hariri's government through constitutional means, but will it succeed in derailing the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)? We can only hope for a new government, with a Sunni leader as prime minister, that will keep the STL and its indictments outside Lebanon's borders. If not, this crisis will continue for a very long time.

Source: **NOW Lebanon (Beirut), January 15, 2011**

[Mohamed Anis Salem / The Arabs and Sudan](#)

As Sudan approaches division, there is much criticism of Arab -- particularly Egyptian -- policies towards that country. These policies are portrayed as lacking vision, confused in their priorities, and implemented through inefficient diplomacy. Arab reticence can be traced to deep structural changes that occurred over the last two centuries, including the waning concept of empire and unity, structural changes in the regional order, and international interventionism.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), January 13 - 19, 2011**

[Ergun Babaham / Turkey's Foreign Policy and Mistakes](#)

Turkey has made substantial progress towards becoming a regional actor thanks to the political stability it has maintained in recent years and its radical change in attitude toward its neighbors. Erdoğan's charisma, particularly in the Muslim world, cannot be ignored in this progress. Yet Turkey has had several foreign policy failures, including its support of the now-ousted Lebanese government, and still lags behind the main actors in the international arena.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), January 15, 2011**

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