



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
 מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה  
 מרכז מوشיה דיאן לدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

# Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה  
 The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies  
 מרכז מوشיה דיאן לدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

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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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## [Hamid Dabashi / The False Anxiety of Influence](#)

Comparisons between Egypt's current uprising and Iran's 1979 revolution are cliché. This is a logically flawed assimilation of a unique historical event that ignited in Tunisia, spread to Egypt and may expand further in the Arab and Muslim world, to the point of even casting aside cliché terms, including the most colonially pernicious of them all: "the Middle East." From Tehran to Tunis to Cairo and beyond, our innate cosmopolitan cultures are being retrieved, our hidden worlds discovered, above and beyond any anxiety of influence. Egyptians are now achieving our collective future.

Source: **Al Jazeera (Doha), February 12, 2011**

## [Patrick Seale / Future of Israel-Egypt Treaty](#)

Israel is unnerved by Egypt's Revolution. It fears for the survival of the 1979 peace treaty, which neutralized Egypt, guaranteeing Israel's regional military dominance for three decades. But for most Arabs it has been a disaster. Far from providing stability, it exposed them to Israeli power. Far from bringing peace, the treaty ensured an absence of peace. Israel urgently needs to rethink its security doctrine. Only peace, not arms, can guarantee Israel's long-term security.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), February 13, 2011**

## [Tariq Alhomayed/ The Collapse of the Theory "They Can Speak, and We Can Ignore"](#)

The Mubarak regime allowed a degree of media freedom: the press had the freedom to criticize, while the state had the freedom to ignore the criticism. The state's disregard of the people's opinions leads to social congestion, consolidates despair amongst citizens, and leaves the country vulnerable to considerable losses. The regime failed to understand its youth, and has suffered the consequences.

Source: **Asharq Alawsat (London), February 13, 2011**

## [Roxane Farmanfarmaian / What Makes a Revolution Succeed?](#)

Thirty-two years ago Iran proclaimed its revolution a success: the Shah was gone, the military decimated, and a new era was dawning. Although what followed turned out very differently than what the Egyptians now hope for, Iran's was one of the great revolutions of the 20th century, and Egyptians might well look to it for inspiration in their effort to oust an entrenched regime and gain new rights. Egypt and Iran are very different, their aspirations and media eons apart, and, one hopes, the future the Egyptians construct will be more democratic and safe for those reaching for popular victory. Still, for those along the Nile experiencing quickly changing events, the Iranian revolution offers some useful lessons.

Source: **Al Jazeera (Doha), February 14, 2011**

## [Hanin Ghaddar / What Can the Lebanese Learn from the Egyptians?](#)

Egypt's revolution and the toppling of President Mubarak have taught us that the people can bring about change without the backing of a political movement or foreign interference. They can even force the world to adapt to their uprising. But in Lebanon, the winds of change have reminded many of us of missed opportunities: Why haven't we been able to protect our own revolution? The Egyptian Revolution has taught us that compromises never get you anywhere, and only unity and the will of the people can lead to change.

Source: **NOW Lebanon (Beirut), February 12, 2011**

## [Osman El-Hassan / When Sudan Supports the Fall of Egypt's Mubarak](#)

The Sudanese government welcomed the fall of Hosni Mubarak's regime. However, Khartoum released statements about the decline of Egypt's regional influence because of its alliance with the US and Israel, which paved the way for the disintegration of the Arab world and the decadence of the region—there was no mention of hunger or oppression. This was clearly an attempt to deflect the impact of the revolution. The Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions have proven that the people can affect change without political parties: this is the main source of fear for Khartoum.

Source: **Sudan Tribune (Roubaix), February 13, 2011**

## [Ali Buluç / Military and Politics](#)

The question of who will assume control lingers in post-Mubarak Egypt. It seems that the military has stepped in as a visible actor in preparing the country for the democratic process. But can an army really establish democracy? The next biggest issue will be how the military positions itself vis-à-vis civilian politics. Will Egypt's experience be similar to Turkey's on May 27, 1960 or will the army remain in the confines of its barracks? Here, Turkey's experiences stand out.

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

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