No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites listed

New Doha Summit: Arab Summit to Discuss Regional Issues March 30, 2009.

The Middle East Partnership Initiative

Background Notes. U.S. Dept. of State. Most Recent: Bahrain / Iran / Iraq

Israel Jordan / Lebanon / Oman Kuwait / Qatar / Saudi Arabia / Syria / UAE

World Factbook CIA, 2009: Bahrain / Iran / Iraq / Israel / Jordan / Lebanon

Kuwait / Oman / Qatar / Saudi Arabia / Syria / UAE


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Europe, the United States, and Middle Eastern Democracy: Repairing the Breach by Tamara Cofman Wittes & Richard Youngs. Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings, January’09.


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The Situation in Iraq and Afghanistan Hearing, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, September 23, 2008. (witnesses - U.S. Sec. of Defense R. Gates & Vice-Chair,Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. James Cartwright USMC).


Fighting on Two Fronts: Secular Parties in the Arab World by Marina Ottoway & Amr Hamzawy. CEIP, May’07.
• **Iran: U.S. Concerns and Policy Responses** March 13, 2009.
• **Israeli-Arab Negotiations: Background, Conflicts, and U.S. Policy** March 9, 2009.
• **Iraq: Politics, Elections, and Benchmarks** February 26, 2009.
• **Bahrain: Reform, Security, and U.S. Policy** February 24, 2009.
• **U.S. Foreign Aid to the Palestinians** February 20, 2009.
• **Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: A Deepening Humanitarian Crisis?** February 13’09.
• **Iran’s Activities and Influence in Iraq** February 13, 2009.
• **Saudi Arabia: Current Issues and U.S. Relations** February 9, 2009.
• **Iraq: Map Sources** February 6, 2009.
• **Iraq: Post-Saddam Governance and Security** February 5, 2009.
• **The Iran Sanctions Act (ISA)** February 2, 2009.
• **U.S. Foreign Aid to the Palestinians** January 30, 2009.
• **Iraq’s Debt Relief: Procedure and Implications for International Debt Relief** January 26’09.
• **Israel and the Palestinians: Prospects for a Two-State Solution** December 10, 2008.
• **The United Arab Emirates (UAE): Issues for U.S. Policy** December 8, 2008.
• **Kuwait: Security, Reform, and U.S. Policy** December 6, 2008.
• **Iran's Nuclear Program: Tehran's Compliance with International Obligations** December 4, 2008.
• **Iraq: Regional Perspectives and U.S. Policy** December 1, 2008.
• **Iran: Ethnic and Religious Minorities** November 25, 2008.
• **Iran’s Nuclear Program: Status** November 20, 2008.
• **Iraq: Reconstruction Assistance** November 14, 2008.
• **The Kurds in Post-Saddam Iraq** September 25, 2008.
• **Israel: Background and Relations with the United States** September 8, 2008.
• **Turkey: Update on Crisis of Identity and Power** September 2, 2008.
• **Turkey: Selected Foreign Policy Issues and U.S. Views** August 29, 2008.
• **Iraqi Civilian Deaths Estimates** August 27, 2008.
• **Arab League Boycott of Israel** August 27, 2008.
• **Al Qaeda in Iraq: Assessment and Outside Links** August 15, 2008.
• **Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations** August 12, 2008.
• **U.S. Forces in Iraq** July 24, 2008.
• **Iran: Profile of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** July 9, 2008.
• **Syria: Background and U.S. Relations** May 1, 2008.
• **Iraq: Foreign Contributions to Stabilization and Reconstruction** December 26, 2007.
• **Post-War Iraq: Foreign Contributions to Training, Peacekeeping and Reconstruction** Sept. 25’07.
• **Lebanon** November 23, 2007.
March 2009

Obama Seeks Renewed U.S.-Iran Relations

In a special video message to the people of Iran, President Obama calls for a “new day” in relations between Washington and Tehran and a future rooted in honest engagement and mutual respect. The March 20 message comes at the beginning of Nowruz, the traditional Persian new year holiday.

25 March 2009 United States Committed to Free, Democratic Lebanon

Renewed engagement with Syria will not supplant America's unwavering support for a free, democratic Lebanon, says a top U.S. diplomat. Such support is a key component to lasting peace and security in the Middle East, adds acting Assistant Secretary of State Jeffrey Feltman.

09 March 2009 US Envoy Meet with Syrian Officials

Representatives of the United States and Syria held comprehensive and constructive talks in Damascus, Syria, and found considerable common ground on an array of issues, a senior U.S. diplomat says.

04 March 2009 Time Is of the Essence for Palestinian State, Says Clinton

America strongly supports the creation of a future Palestinian state, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says, pledging to work for peace by engaging a new Israeli government on halting settlement expansion and easing border restrictions.

02 March 2009 United States Pledges $900 Million for Palestinians

Saying time is of the essence, the United States pledged $900 million in humanitarian aid for the Palestinians at an international conference in Egypt.

February 2009

27 February 2009 Clinton Leaves for Middle East, Europe for Extended Talks

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is beginning a series of official visits to the Middle East and to Europe aimed at restarting Mideast peace talks and boosting trans-Atlantic relations. Clinton begins the trip March 2 at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh at a donors conference for Gaza.

09 February 2009 Biden Says Finding Lasting Mideast Peace Requires Collaboration

Vice President Biden says it will take close collaboration among Arab and European partners and the United States to find a resolution to the vexing challenges of creating a lasting Middle East peace.

03 February 2009 Special Envoy Mitchell to Return to Middle East This Month

Middle East special envoy George Mitchell is beginning what will become high-level engagement by the United States in trying to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, says Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

02 February 2009 Gaza Truce Remains Fragile, Say US Officials

As President Obama's Middle East envoy completes his first round of regional consultations, continued violence in the Gaza Strip threatens international peacemaking efforts, says State Department acting spokesman Robert Wood.

January 2009

30 January 2009 Statement on US Humanitarian Support to Palestinians

Fact Sheet

29 January 2009 US Envoy Expresses Concern for Loss of Palestinian Lives

The United States is concerned about the loss of Palestinian lives and the pressing humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of a 22-day conflict between Israeli and Hamas forces, U.S. Middle East special envoy George Mitchell says.

29 January 2009 Statement by Middle East Peace Envoy George Mitchell in Ramallah

Envoy urges sustainable, durable cease-fire to achieve two-state solution.

28 January 2009 Middle East Envoy Calls for Strengthened Gaza Cease-Fire

A lasting Gaza cease-fire must be based on an end to arms smuggling to Hamas and a reopening of blockaded borders, says George Mitchell, U.S. special envoy for Middle East peace.

27 January 2009 Obama Pledges New American Partnership in Middle East

President Obama says that the United States "offers a hand of friendship" to the Middle East and broader Muslim world and wants a new relationship firmly rooted in mutual respect and mutual interests. "What you'll see is someone who is listening."

26 January 2009 President Obama's Interview with Hisham Melhem of Al Arabiya

26 January 2009 President Sends Special Envoy Mitchell to Middle East

One of the key missions of Middle East special envoy George Mitchell's trip to the region will be to consolidate the cease-fire after the three-week-old Gaza conflict, a State Department spokesman says, and to ensure progress toward Middle East peace.

22 January 2009 Obama Pledges “Active Engagement” on Middle East Peace

President Obama has reached out to Middle East leaders to emphasize that progress toward peace in the region will be among his administration’s top foreign policy priorities. “He used this
opportunity on his first day in office to communicate his commitment to active engagement in pursuit of Arab-Israeli peace from the beginning of his term,” said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

22 January 2009 **Obama Names Special Envoys for Middle East, Afghanistan-Pakistan** President Obama joined Secretary of State Hillary Clinton January 22 to announce former Senator George Mitchell as his special envoy to the Middle East peace process and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke as his special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan — moves that underscore the new administration’s commitment to renewing America’s leadership through reinvigorated diplomacy.

2008

22 October 2008 **Rice Discusses Changes Across the Middle East**

21 October 2008 **Secretary Rice's Interview with Lukman Ahmed on BBC Arabic TV** Rice discusses Palestinian-Israeli peace process, Afghanistan and Iraq.

16 October 2008 **Secretary Rice's Interview with Hisham Melhem on Al Arabiya** Rice updates on current situations in Middle East.

**See Also:**


**Terrorist Ideology** Open hearing before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, June 12, 2007.

**Public Opinion - Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** USIP, June, 2007.

**Democracy Dialogues** "A global conversation about democracy" – America.gov

**Middle East Peace Process: Creating a More Stable World**

- Arab American Institute
- Iraq War Veterans Association
- Muslim Public Affairs Council
- Henry L. Stimson Center – Middle East
- Council on American-Islamic Relations: To enhance the understanding of Islam...

**Washington Quarterly - Middle East:** Israeli-Palestinian Relations / Iran / Iraq / Syria / Turkey / Rest of the Region

- Foreign Affairs: Middle East
- Council on Foreign Relations: Middle East
- New America Foundation
- Saban Center for Middle East Policy
- The Middle East Times
- International Crisis Group – Middle East
- Internat. Online Defense Magazine - Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Carnegie Endowment for Peace – Middle East
- RAND – International Affairs
- USIP – Special Reports
- CRF: Middle East Program
- American Enterprise Institute: Middle East
- CRS Reports: A Compilation

**Being Muslim in America**

**Photo Gallery**
Iraq

The Iraq Study Group Report The bipartisan Iraq Study Group is co-chaired by James A. Baker III, the former secretary of treasury and state who now serves as honorary chairman of the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, and former congressman Lee H. Hamilton, director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Other members are: Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Vernon E. Jordan Jr., Edwin Meese III, Sandra Day O’Connor, Leon E. Panetta, William J. Perry, Charles S. Robb, and Alan K. Simpson. CSIS; 2006.


Responsibly Ending the War in Iraq – The White House, February 27, 2009.


Evaluating Iraq’s Provincial Reconstruction Teams While Drawdown Looms by Rusty Barber & Sam Parker. USIP, December 2008.


Reconciliation Strategies in Iraq Report by David A. Steele. USIP, September 2008. Summary


"Choosing War: The Decision to Invade Iraq and Its Aftermath" by Joseph J. Collins. NDU, April, 2008.


The Iraqi Kurdish Question by Lionel Beehner. CFR, April 23, 2007.

Iraq and the Kurds: Resolving the Kirkuk Crisis International Crisis Group, April 19, 2007.


Syria’s Relations with Iraq by Mona Yacoubian. USIP, April, 2007.


Four Years Later: Arab Opinion Troubled by Consequences of Iraq War Highlights of Zogby International / Arab American Institute poll conducted in February and March 2007.
Iran


U.S. Strategy Regarding Iran Hearing, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, March 5'09.

Iranian Political and Nuclear Realities and U.S. Policy Options Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, March 3, 2009.


Iran Annotated bibliography by Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center, November 2008.


Statement on U.S. Security Council Resolution 1747 Dept. of State, March 24, 2007[re Iran's nuclear program].


Syria's Alliance with Iran by Mona Yakoubian, USIP, May 2007.


Gaza / Palestine / Israel

Reconstructing Gaza: Lessons from Lebanon by Alistair Harris. USIP, March 2009. Summary

The Gordian Knot of Gaza by Tamara Cofman Wittes on YaleGlobal, 6 March, 2009.

Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, West Bank, March 4, 2009.

Intervention at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza Address by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 2, 2009.


Confronting or Engaging Iran: Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities Facing the New Administration USIP, 2008.


International Reaction to the Palestinian Unity Government CRS report, May 9, 2007.


From Rejection to Acceptance: Israeli National Security Thinking & Palestinian Statehood by S. Brom, Feb.’07.

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