



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY תל אביב
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies
מركز موشيه ديان لدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

Editor: Bruce Maddy-Weitzman
Editorial Board: Amir Kulick, Michael Barak and Idan Barir

No 022

July 9, 2009

A weekly sample of news and opinions on current events from around the Middle East collected and brought to you by the Dayan Center.

To see full article, click on title.

[The Gulf Can't Deal With Iran until Iran Deals With Itself / Sultan Al Qassemi](#)

Since the 1979 revolution Iran has tried its best to maintain a sense of normality. But it is a classic example of a country that has not come to terms with itself, and that poses a challenge for the Gulf countries in trying to decipher how to deal with its northern neighbour.

Source: **The National (Abu Dhabi), June 27, 2009**

[Hiding Behind Palestine / Hussain Abdul-Hussain](#)

A number of leftists in Lebanon become uneasy when talking about the recent events in Iran. They perceive of Iran as an anti-imperial ally but cannot ignore the images from Tehran showing "the regime of the downtrodden of the earth" ruthlessly cutting down innocent protestors. To overcome their dilemma, they are doing what people in this region have done for decades to hide their hypocrisy: they claim the moral high ground by pointing in the direction of Palestine.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), July 2, 2009**

[For Mousavi: Three Roads Ahead / Amir Taheri](#)

"Where do we go from here?" This must be the question that Mir Hossein Mousavi, the defeated candidate in Iran's election, must be asking himself. Three options are open to Mousavi: He could continue contesting the election results and posing as the winner, organize his supporters into a political party or group and contest elections in two years' time, or to tell his supporters that the system in place cannot be reformed, and must be replaced with a new one.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), July 3, 2009**

[Saddam: 30 Years of Ignorance and Arrogance / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



I can't stop reading the reports on the 20 interviews with Saddam Hussein conducted by the FBI between February 7 and June 28, 2004. I read all the reports, which were also carried by Al-Sharq Al-Awsat. Readers will be shocked by these documents as they show how Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq and his vision of governance.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), July 4, 2009**

[Seize the Day / Amr Hamzawy and Jeffrey Christiansen](#)

When it comes to democratic development in the Arab world, the ball is now squarely in the court of Islamist opposition movements. Obama used his platform at Cairo University to target a specific audience: Islamist opposition movements across the Arab world who have renounced violence, accepted the political process, and currently represent a popular and potential force for pluralism in the region.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 954, 2 - 8 July 2009**

[Foreign Meddling Is No Excuse for the Lebanese To Not Have a Local Agenda/ Editorial](#)

Lebanese politicians spend a lot of time convincing us that the other side has a "foreign agenda", but everyone has a foreign agenda. The question is who really has a local agenda? President Michel Sleiman and Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri have the potential to activate this local agenda.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), July 4, 2009**

[Is A Kurdish Obama Possible? / Gürkan Zengin](#)

Creating a "Kurdish Obama" would be a sign of the success of Turkey's modernization. In an article last November, referring to the election of a black man to the US presidency, Hürriyet Daily journalist Ertuğrul Özkök posed the question if Turks would vote for a man who openly said "I am a Kurd." The answer to this question is, "Absolutely, on the day we have a Kurdish Obama."

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), July 4, 2009**