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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 / After Egypt's Political Earthquake](#)

The political situation in Egypt today is akin to an earthquake. Egypt is entering a post-Mubarak era regardless of whether he resigns or remains in office until his term ends. Regional states' foreign policies will depend on what happens in post-Mubarak Egypt, as it is a strategic ally of Saudi Arabia, a number of other Gulf States, Jordan and other regional countries, as well as the West. No party is able to influence the situation in Egypt—or at least influence it in a positive manner—and the only true influence remains in the hands of Egyptian intellectuals.

Source: **Asharq Alawsat (London), February 5, 2011**

[Musa Keilani / Politics at Play in Egypt](#)

The political unrest in Tunis began a domino effect that has hit Cairo and could hit other Arab capitals. The Cairo regime resorted to force and intimidation against the demonstrators and arrests of those suspected of inciting protest. The protesters' awareness of the regime's corruption, and the emptiness of its promises to end it, has strengthened their resolve not to accept anything less than an immediate and meaningful reform process.

Source: **Jordan Times (Amman), February 6, 2011**

[Larbi Sadiki / Egypt's Trove of Potential Leaders](#)

A regime is dying, the second in as many months in the Arab world. How the outside world looks at succession and how local people approach it will differ. The citizens of Tunisia and Egypt are not beholden to the West. These home-grown popular uprisings revitalized popular sovereignty and the will to choose. To aid this birthing, Western governments should do one thing: nothing at all, leaving dictators to face their moment of doom and leaving self-governing people to their own devices. Thus, democratic futures will ensue. Fortunately, Egypt has a large pool of leaders, institutions, civic bodies and parties to facilitate a smooth and democratic transition.

Source: **Al-Jazeera (Doha), February 9, 2011**

[Khalaf Al Habtoor / Egypt's Youth Uprising has been Hijacked](#)

The sight of young men and women demonstrating in Cairo's Tahrir Square for a better future is moving. So many Arab republics allow their presidents to hold their positions indefinitely and groom their sons to take over as though they were monarchs: it's no wonder that people all over North Africa and the Mideast are demanding change. But there is a fine line between freedom and anarchy and, frankly, the images on our television screens point to the latter.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), February 6, 2011**

[Ihsan Daği / Is the AK Party Experience Relevant for the Middle East?](#)

Political unrest in the Middle East has reignited debate over the value of the Turkish political system as a secular-democratic model for other regional Muslim states. The problem was always that Turkey's secularism was authoritarian, leaving no autonomous space for religion, and significantly limiting freedom of conscience. If studied properly, the ruling AK Party, which offers a new way of thinking about Islam, democracy and the West, can serve as a model for the new Middle East.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), February 7, 2011**

[Oraib al-Rantawi / Between the Hammer and the Anvil](#)

Over the last decade, Jordan's policies have centered on a single assumption: that the creation of a viable Palestinian state is a major pillar of Jordan's security and stability. Even more so, it is vital to Jordan's existence and identity. From Jordan's perspective, the failure of the peace process would lead to regional chaos, the spread of fundamentalism, violence and extremism and would endanger the moderate camp in the Middle East.

Source: **bitterlemons-international.org, February 3, 2011**

[Hemen Abdullah / The Opposition's Impatience](#)

Iraqi Kurdistan's political opposition is about to destroy itself through its shortsightedness. Two years ago, the opposition revived democracy in Kurdistan, but this very same opposition wants to undo the work it has done over the past two years with some fundamental mistakes. Government leaders must be farsighted and intelligent; opposition leaders even more so. Attempts from the opposition to change Kurdistan's political situation according to the expectations of other countries is not the right way of going about it, and hurts the credibility of the opposition in Kurdistan.

Source: **Rudaw (Irbil), February 5, 2011**

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