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# Egypt – Amr Abdel Ati: US-Egyptian Relations: Tantrums Will Happen

Western nations, including the US, are encouraging Egypt to become a liberal democratic country. Ironically, democracy may turn out to be a tougher nut to crack than a dictatorship. In Mubarak's case, the regime often buckled to US demands without much resistance. In post-revolution Egypt, this is unlikely to happen.

Source: Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), November 17, 2011

### **Egypt** — Tariq Alhomayed: Egypt: The Delayed Conflict

What we see today in Tahrir Square is a delayed conflict brewing since the overthrow of the Mubarak regime. It is a conflict between three parties: the military establishment, the Muslim Brotherhood and with them the Salafis, and the third party being the youth of the revolution. Whereas this battle was expected, it was long overdue.

Source: Asharq Alawsat (London), November 22, 2011

## Libya – Tarak Barkawi: Intervention Without Responsibility

The NATO intervention in Libya is less a model for the enlightened use of force than a step on the way to a world in which armed intervention is more common and shorn of the "social work" that has characterized both counterinsurgency and UN peacekeeping operations. We may return to an era in which it is thought that military power can be used "surgically" to deal with problems that are ultimately political, social and economic in nature.

Source: Al-Jazeera (Doha), November 23, 2011

## Syria – Amal Al-Hazzani: The Syrian Blood Guardians

The Arab League, having put forth a commendable initiative to resolve the crisis in Syria, is now dealing with the Syrian regime with sincere, diplomatic language. The Arab Initiative is an opportunity to protect the Syrian revolutionaries from the regime's unbridled brutality, and a means to revive the Arab League's deteriorating reputation, having grown into a soulless establishment; hesitant, weak and ostracized by the Arab street.

Source: Asharq Alawsat (London), November 22, 2011

### Palestine/Israel - Ghassan Khatib: The Problem is Not Reconciliation

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced his plans to meet Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal to discuss reconciliation. While Abbas appears enthusiastic, Hamas has two reasons not to make haste. First, its leaders feel that Fatah is in a position of weakness resulting from Israel's treatment of it (i.e., neglecting the peace process to which Fatah is committed) and because the practical outcome of Abbas' UN bid has been negligible. Second, developments from the "Arab Spring" may give Hamas a boost, especially if Egypt's upcoming elections bring the Islamic movement to power.

Source: Bitterlemons.org (Jerusalem), November 21, 2011

### Turkey – Murat Yetkin: Turkey Against Military Intervention in Syria

Turkey will not take part in any military intervention aiming to change the regime in Syria, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said this week. Diplomats underline that Turkey wants to prevent the eruption of an ethnic and sectarian civil war that could cause further instability in the region.

Source: Hurriyet (Istanbul), November 18, 2011

#### Turkey – Lale Kemal: The Turkish Military Resists Professionalism

PM Erdoğan disclosed on Tuesday a long-awaited decision on conscription. Now, conscripts aged 30 and over can be exempt from military service if they pay TL 30,000 — an impossibly high price for low-income conscripts. As the public grows increasingly aware of democratic principles, decision makers should take calls for military reform and ending conscription more seriously.

Source: Today's Zaman (Istanbul), November 23, 2011

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