



Weekly Newsletter

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Middle East in a Week

Regarding international relations and world politics, the Middle East may be the most controversial region in the current times. On one hand it sits on most of the world's oil reserves, while on the other hand, it inhibits the followers of the most controversial religion in the world, Islam. These matters combined have created a region filled with drastic events. Every day, there are new wars erupting in the region and every day, there are new ways through which the west and the far east try to increase their influence in the region. This region inhibits 411 million people out of which 28 % are under the age of 25 years old. This newsletter tries to give weekly updates on the important issues in the Middle East and combining them with some analysis, hopes to have a role in changing the region's situation to the better.

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CHINA AND PUTIN'S PROPOSED SUMMIT ON IRAN¹

China welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposed summit of world leaders to avoid "confrontation" over a US attempt to trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran. Russia and China opposed extending the weapons ban, which is due to expire in October under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Eleven members abstained, including France, Germany and Britain, while the US and the Dominican Republic were the only two votes in favor.

Since the beginning of his term, Donald Trump has opposed any chance of negotiation and friendship with Iran. According to the current president of the United States, Iran is this big evil which causes all the unease and turmoil in the Middle East. The biggest result of such animosity is simply more and more unease in the region since Iran is one of the key players in the Middle East. This Summit and the rejection of the expansion of the weapons embargo shows the increase in Iran's popularity and the decrease in the US's power in the region.



ISRAEL'S MOSSAD SPY CHIEF VISITS UAE FOR SECURITY TALKS²

The head of Israel's foreign intelligence service has visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for security talks, only days after the countries agreed to establish diplomatic ties in a move that angered Palestinians. Cohen's trip to Abu Dhabi marked the first visit to the UAE by an Israeli official after the announcement last week by United States President Donald Trump that the two countries had agreed to normalize relations.

For decades, Israel in name of stabilizing its role in the Middle East has violated many human rights principles, resulting in the death of many civilians. The beginning of talks between Israel and the Arab World gives the news of a better and more peaceful region in the future which at the moment is quite crucial.



GAZA'S LONE POWER PLANT SHUTS DOWN AMID TENSIONS WITH ISRAEL³

Gaza's lone power plant has shut down, less than a week after Israel suspended fuel shipments to the Palestinian enclave over the launching of incendiary balloons that caused brush fires in southern Israel. "The power feed may now decline to only four hours [per day]," said Mohammad Thabet, an official at Gaza's main power distribution company, after fuel ran out at the plant. Officials in Gaza said the power plant's closure on Tuesday would cause disruptions at vital facilities such as hospitals, which are also equipped with generators.

The Middle East at the moment is filled with animosity and military conflicts which more than the governments, hurt the civilian population. The situation in Gaza is another example of such externalities which some might even think are not as unwanted as the leaders of the region claim in the media. If such disagreements continue, millions of lives, innocent lives, will be lost.



USA, UAE & ISRAEL'S NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT⁵

The superior officers of Israel, United States and United Arab Emirates, jointly claimed that the necessary steps for normalizing the relationship between Israel and UAE have been taken and in the coming weeks, an agreement for developing investment, tourism, direct flights, security, communication, technology, energy, health, culture, environment, embassy building and other issues will be signed. Donald Trump has also claimed his support of such talks in different occasions. First of all, Trump's support for such talks at this time is nothing but a public relations stunt with the hope of getting support from the voters in the coming election. Secondly, given all the human rights violations done by the Israeli government, such talks without any demand of compensations from Israel will result in more instability in the region.



IRAN'S TALK WITH PALESTINE AFTER THE ISRAEL AGREEMENT WITH UAE¹

According to Tasnim News, on August 19, 2020, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister, contacted his peer in Palestine regarding the new agreement between the Arab World (mainly United Arab Emirates) and Israel, which tries to give legitimacy to Israel's existence in the Arab Region. Both Mohammad Javad Zarif and Riad al-Maliki, agree on their contempt for this betrayal by the UAE government. Israel, on numerous occasions has opposed Iran's pursuit of peaceful nuclear energy and claimed it to be a devil's advocate. It is of course natural for Iran's government to oppose any hope of peace between Israel and the Arab World without proper compensations. Given the long history of conflict between Israel and Palestine, it is also expected of Palestine to follow in Iran's footsteps on this matter. As a result, a new wave of instability and turmoil in the region should be expected.



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¹ China welcomes Putin's proposed summit on Iran, 17-AUG-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/china-welcomes-putin-proposed-summit-iran-200817105042278.html>

² Israel's Mossad spy chief visits UAE for security talks, 19-AUG-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/israel-mossad-spy-chief-visits-uae-security-talks-200818161805649.html>

³ Gaza's lone power plant shuts down amid tensions with Israel, 18-AUG-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/gaza-lone-power-plant-shuts-tensions-israel-200818100514633.html>

⁴ گفتگوی تلفنی ظریف و وزیر خارجه فلسطین, 15-AUG-2020, <https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1399/05/25/2328229>

⁵ توافق ننگین» امارات و اسرائیل برای عادی سازی روابط/ گروه های فلسطینی: این توافق خیانت به آرمان ملت «, 13-AUG-2020, <https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1399/05/23/2327000>