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Chapter 1: What Are the Primary Concerns About the Middle East?

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America’s Reliance on Oil Funnels Money and Power to the Middle East

Gal Luft
The increasing wealth of oil-producing countries in the Middle East is a serious economic concern for America that needs to be addressed by reducing the use of petroleum.

Palestinian Reluctance to Accept the Jewish State Makes Peace Impossible

David Frum
The attempts at peace between Israel and the Palestinians will fail until the Palestinians recognize the Israeli narrative and the legitimacy of Israel.

The Lack of an Independent Palestinian State Makes Peace Impossible

Mustafa Barghouthi
The only way to have successful negotiations regarding a two-state solution is for the Palestinians to demand recognition of an independent state.

Ethnic Tensions in Iraq Make Long-Term Stability in the Region Unlikely

Ted Galen Carpenter
The uneasy relations between Iraqi Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq, along with Sunni-Shiite tensions, make long-term stability in Iraq and the surrounding region unlikely.

Iran Is Making Progress on the Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons

James Phillips
Contrary to Iran’s claim that its nuclear program is solely for civilian purposes, there is evidence that Iran has deceived the international community and could soon have nuclear weapons.

Yemen Is a Breeding Ground for Terrorists and a Threat to National Security

Christopher Boucek
There is a growing threat to the United States in Yemen, where a variety of problems is making it the perfect place for terrorists and extremists to flourish.

Chapter 2: How Can the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Be Resolved?

Overview: Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Jim Zanotti
The failure to reach a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after years of negotiations has resulted in the consideration of alternative solutions.

A Two-State Solution Is Possible for Israelis and Palestinians
John V. Whitbeck
There is still hope for peace between Israelis and Palestinians in the form of a two-state confederation with a shared Jerusalem.

Support for a One-State Solution for Israelis and Palestinians Is Increasing
Danny Rubinstein
Despite widespread belief that a two-state solution with an independent Palestine is desirable, support for a one-state solution is growing among Palestinians.

A Parallel State Structure Is the Solution for Israelis and Palestinians
Mathias Mossberg and Mark LeVine
With the possibilities of a two-state solution or a one-state solution unlikely, it is more viable to devise a parallel state structure within the same territory.
Hamas Must Be a Part of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

Efraim Halevy
To decrease conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the Islamic Hamas group must be brought to the negotiating table along with the Palestinian Authority.

Hamas Has Proven Incapable of Joining the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

Michael Herzog
The failure of Hamas to become more moderate and to embrace democracy shows that it cannot be a part of the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians.

Chapter 3: Have US Military Actions in the Middle East Been Effective?

Overview: The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Barack Obama
The war in Iraq is over with a transition of responsibility back to the Iraqis, and the decade-long US war in Afghanistan continues, with an eye toward transition to the Afghans.

Yes: US Military Actions in the Middle East Have Been Effective

US Policy in the Middle East Has Yielded Good Results

George W. Bush
The US policies in the Middle East during the first eight years of the twenty-first century have resulted in greater freedom, increased democracy, and more peace.

US Military Presence in Iraq Has Been Effective and Is Still Needed

Kenneth M. Pollack
Despite a formal end to the Iraq war, US troops will be needed in Iraq for many years to maintain the successes gained by the US military mission in Iraq.
No: US Military Actions in the Middle East Have Not Been Effective

US Military Presence in the Middle East Is Unnecessary and Counterproductive

*Bradley L. Bowman*

Protecting US interests in the Middle East does not require a large military presence; a large US military presence actually promotes radicalization.

The Iraq War Was Unsuccessful and a Mistake

*Malou Innocent*

The war in Iraq cost billions of dollars, took thousands of American and Iraqi lives, soiled America’s reputation, and did little to keep the United States safe from al Qaeda.

Chapter 4: Should the United States Be Involved with Problems in the Middle East?

Overview: US Foreign Aid in the Middle East

*Jeremy M. Sharp*

To promote national security interests in the Middle East, the United States uses foreign aid to establish military cooperation and to promote democracy.

Yes: The United States Should Be Involved with Problems in the Middle East

The United States Should Promote Democracy in the Middle East

*Shadi Hamid and Steven Brooke*

US promotion of democracy in the Middle East needs to be a priority, as eliminating tyranny is one of the key components in a counterterrorism strategy.

The United States Should Take Military Action in Iran

*Daniel Pipes*
The danger of an Iranian nuclear bomb, coupled with public opinion on the issue, supports the United States’ using its military to destroy Iran’s nuclear-weapon capacity.

**No: The United States Should Not Be Involved with Problems in the Middle East**

The United States Should Disengage from the Middle East

*Leon Hadar and Christopher Preble*

The United States should distance itself from the problems in the Middle East, as extensive US involvement in the past has been expensive and ineffective.

The United States Can No Longer Afford Military Aid to Israel

*Josh Ruebner*

US military aid to Israel should not continue because it is too expensive and is misused by the Israelis against the Palestinians.

The United States Should Not Pursue Military Strikes or Regime Change in Iran

*Christopher Hemmer*

The United States should deal with a nuclear-armed Iran through deterrence, containment, engagement, and reassurance of America’s allies in the region.

**Organizations to Contact**

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