

MEIWeekly.



A meeting in Abu Dhabi between Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman al-Saud and his UAE counterpart, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on 27 November 2019. Photo: Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy

WHAT'S HOT: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS, & MORE

- **READ:** In the aftermath of Israel's alleged attack on Tehran's military facility, this blog analyses the various strikes against Iran and its militias. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Growing Saudi-UAE Rift

Both countries have diverged on several fronts, competing for foreign investment and influence in global oil markets, and over the direction of the Yemen war. Disagreements that were once kept behind closed doors are now spilling into the open, threatening alliances.

Opposition Picks Candidate to Rival Erdogan

The head of Turkey's main opposition party, Mr. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, has been selected to challenge current President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. While critics of the incumbent see the election as the prime opportunity to remove him from power, reports indicate that the opposition coalition is in disarray.



The opposition coalition's candidate and leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP) speaking at a conference on Turkey's foreign policy and global relations on 2 December 2013. Photo: Brookings Institution website

Saudi Arabia Imposes Ramadan Restrictions

The controversial measures include reducing mosque loudspeakers, surveilling worshippers during the last 10 days, limiting donations, and banning the filming or broadcasting of prayers. The restrictions have been met with outrage and backlash from many Muslims worldwide.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

Gender and Climate Change in the GCC

What is the track record of Arab countries in this area, notably within the Gulf Cooperation Council states? Will economic diversification and climate-based solutions in these oil-producing states, on top of domestic reforms, help the cause of gender equality? To find out, tune in to this public talk that will be conducted online via Zoom on Tuesday, 21 March 2023, from 4.00 pm to 5 pm (SGT). To register, click [here](#).



Photo: MEI

#ICYMI: Global Jihad - A Brief History

On 2 March 2023, MEI hosted this book talk that discussed the history and phenomena of the global jihad movement, which was rooted in resentment beginning with the Muslim Brotherhood. In his book, the Naval Postgraduate School's Glenn E. Robinson proposes to see Islamic fundamentalism as an extreme social movement and defines it in four waves. If you missed this event, listen to the podcast or watch the talk [here](#).

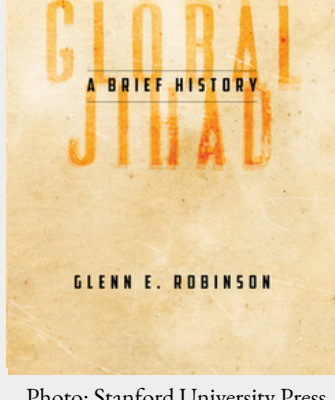


Photo: Stanford University Press

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Smotrich to Visit Washington Next Week

Far-right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's visa request has been approved by the US State Department after internal consultations following his controversial comments about "erasing" a Palestinian village.



Mr. Smotrich delivering a speech at a rally in the southern Israeli city of Sderot on 26 October 2022. Photo: Democracy for the Arab World Now website

Russia to Add Gulf Countries to Visa-Free Travel List

The foreign ministry announced on Monday that it is working on establishing visa-free travel agreements with a handful of Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman, as well as Syria.



President Vladimir Putin meeting Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 2016, in Russia. Photo: President of Russia website

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