

MEI Weekly.



The New Middle East and the Return of Great Power Competition is the theme of MEI's Annual Conference this year, held on 31 May 2023 at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom from 9.30am to 5.30pm (SGT). Photo: Observer Research Foundation

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

- **READ:** This latest Insight explores Israel's foreign policy in the face of rivalry between global powers, its relations with the US and China, and its response to their strategic contest. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Middle East Institute Annual Conference 2023

Catch Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K. Shanmugam, and experts such as Dr Ebtesam Al-Ketbi, the founder and president of the Emirates Policy Centre, and Mr Akitaka Saiki, former Vice Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as they discuss the new Middle East amidst the resurgence of great power competition.

Right-Wing Israelis Rally in Support of Judicial Plan

Up to 200,000 people participated in what organisers dubbed the Million March, a defiant show of solidarity for the government that urged it to move forward with its plan for the judiciary and resist outside pressure.



Pro-government protesters gathering near Israel's Parliament in Jerusalem on 27 April 2023, in support of the controversial push to overhaul the justice system. Photo: Ahmad Gharabli / AFP

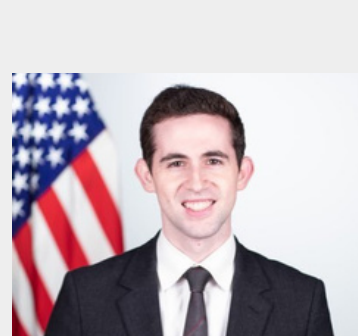
Shouting Matches on Memorial Day

As ultranationalist Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir began speaking on behalf of the government, loud shouting matches erupted over the graves between the families who opposed his presence at the cemetery and his supporters.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

The Abraham Accords: Past, Present and Future

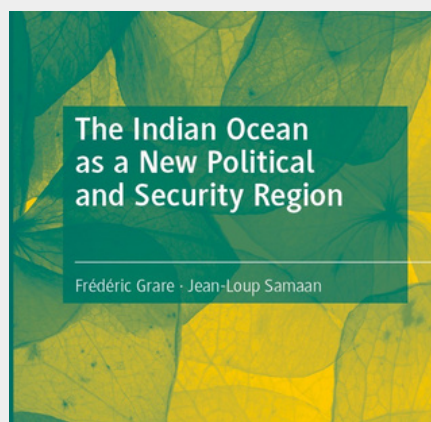
Join us for this discussion on the Abraham Accords and the future of the agreement, featuring Mr Avraham (Avi) Berkowitz, former Assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Negotiations from 2019 to 2021. This public talk will be conducted both, in-person and online via Zoom, on Tuesday, 2 May 2023, from 3.00pm to 4.30pm (SGT). For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Mr Berkowitz led the Abraham Accords negotiations under the Trump administration and was awarded the National Security Medal in 2020 for his role in the agreement. Photo: Twitter

The Indian Ocean: A New Political and Security Region

In this book talk, the authors argued that the Indian Ocean is not only a strategic battleground for competition between the US, China, and India, but also a vast area of contest among local players (from the Horn of Africa to the Persian Gulf, and South-east Asia), whose ambitions have grown significantly in the decade. What else was being said? To find out, watch the event or listen to the podcast [here](#).



The Indian Ocean serves as a crucial crossroads for trade, connecting the Middle East to South-east and East Asia, as well as Europe and the Americas. Photo: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Biden's Re-Election and the Middle East

Experts argue that four more years under President Joe Biden, who recently launched his campaign for re-election, will likely see continued attempts at US disengagement from the Middle East.



In July 2022, President Biden visited the Middle East to reaffirm US commitment to the region and advance Israeli-Arab normalisation. Photo: Rep. Chip Roy Press Office / Twitter

Egypt Braces for Refugee Influx from Sudan

Despite being a popular destination for refugees fleeing violence, persecution, and economic hardships in nations throughout the Middle East and East Africa, many doubt Cairo's capacity to absorb large populations due to its financial troubles.



Sudan has been engulfed in civil war as a result of a power struggle between two military factions. Photo: Sudan Tribune / Twitter

Follow us for the latest updates!



Can't make it to our events? Listen in your own time!

