

# MEIWeekly.



At MEI's 2024 Round-up on Wednesday at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom in Singapore, General David Petraeus, former US Army commander in Iraq and director of the CIA, discussed the latest developments in Syria and their potential impact on Iran's capabilities and the region, in conversation with MEI Honorary Fellow Bilahari Kausikan.

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

**READ:** MEI's Perspective examines the fall of Assad's regime, the factors contributing to it, such as local rebellion and external geopolitical interests, and explores the implications for Syria and the broader region. Read the article [here](#).

**READ:** This latest Heard@theSouq analyses Indonesia's energy transition challenges, focusing on its collaborations with Middle Eastern partners such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia to achieve its renewable targets while navigating financial risks and environmental issues. Read the article [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### Syria's Future Hinges on Ability of New Rulers to Unite Nation

Speaking at MEI's 2024 Round-up, General Petraeus emphasised that Syria's future depends on its new rulers' ability to unite various factions. He also lauded the Gulf nations' efforts in diversifying their economies away from oil and developing technologies of the future.

### Netanyahu Takes the Stand in Corruption Trial

While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's appearance marked a significant moment in the judicial process, it left many Israelis underwhelmed. "I am shocked by the magnitude of this absurdity" he said, adding that, "I am running a country, I am running a war".



"I am not occupying myself with my future, but rather with that of the state of Israel", he continued. Photo: AFP

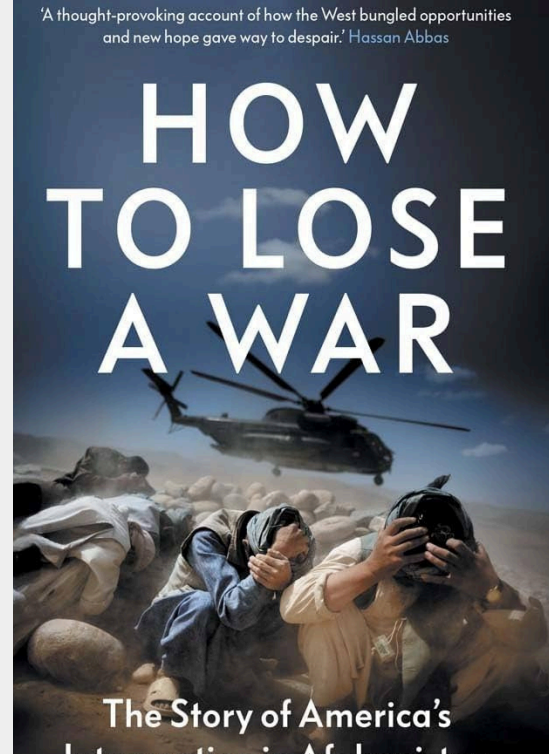
### Houthis Turn Back the Clock for Shipping

As Houthi insurgents in Yemen continue targeting vessels in the Red Sea with drones and missiles, freighters are being forced to divert their cargo around the Cape of Good Hope in Africa, charging higher rates, and fearing that this could become permanent.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### ICYMI: [Book Launch] How to Lose a War

In this book launch event, RSIS Adjunct Senior Fellow Amin Saikal critically examined the key factors behind America's Afghanistan debacle, explaining how the shift from a "light" to a "heavy footprint" approach led the US into an unwinnable war. Explore the key takeaways by watching the full event or listening to the podcast [here](#).

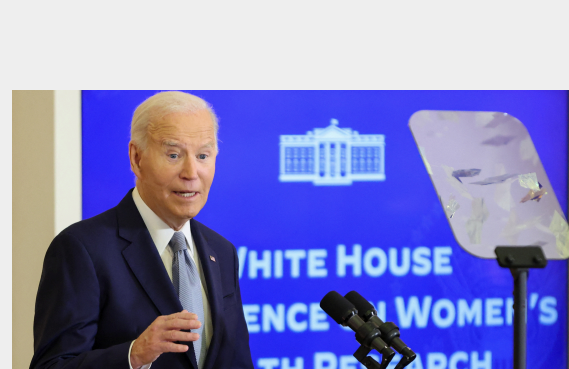


The question of what caused America's failure in Afghanistan has been widely debated from varying perspectives. Photo: RSIS, NTU

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### US Says it Could Recognise New Syrian Government

The Biden administration has said it will recognise and support a new government in Syria if it can commit to several actions, including renouncing terrorism and destroying any chemical weapons depots in the country.



On Tuesday, two US lawmakers sent a letter to the President Joe Biden's administration calling for America to lift some sanctions on Syria's government. Photo: AFP

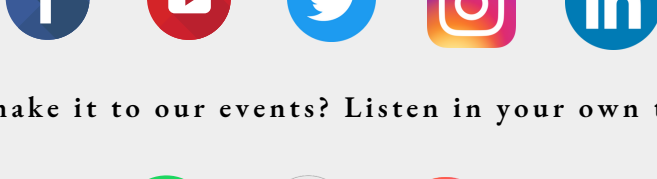
### Ethiopia and Somaliland Reach Truce in Turkey-brokered Talks

An official stated that negotiations between leaders from both sides and their respective teams lasted nearly seven uninterrupted hours, with Turkish Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan actively participating. Under the deal, known as the Ankara Declaration, Somalia secured Ethiopia's recognition of its territorial unity, while Addis Ababa was granted commercial access to the Somali coastline.



"You won't leave this room until you reach a deal", Mr Erdogan reportedly told Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (left) and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (right) during negotiations. Photo: X / Turkish Presidency

Follow us for the latest updates!



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



Our mailing address is:

Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore  
29 Heng Mui Keng Terrace  
Block B, #06-06  
Singapore 119620  
Singapore

Subscribe to our mailing list [here](#).