



Suggested Readings for Online Libraries

The Levant

- Sharp, Jeremy M., "Jordan: Background and U.S. Relations," *Congressional Research Service* (December 2, 2014): 1, accessed March 4, 2015 Available at: <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33546.pdf>
- Zanotti, Jim, "Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations," *Congressional Research Service* (August 1, 2014), accessed August 19, 2015 Available at: <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41368.pdf>
- Zanotti, Jim. "Israel: Background and U.S. Relations." Congressional Research Service. June 1, 2015. Accessed November 18, 2015. Available at: <http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33476.pdf>
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. *Syrian Refugees Living in the Community in Jordan* (September, 2012). Available from <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syrian%20Refugees%20living%20in%20the%20Community%20in%20Jordan%20-%20Assessment%20Report.pdf>

This report assesses the situation of Syrian refugees living in the community in Jordan. The report is based on a data collection from six locations where Syrian refugees are centered throughout Jordan. The report highlights and specifies the difficulties facing Syrian refugees all over.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syrian%20Refugees%20living%20in%20the%20Community%20in%20Jordan%20-%20Assessment%20Report.pdf>

- Bahout, Joseph. *Sectarianism in Lebanon and Syria: The Dynamic of Mutual Spill-Over* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, November 15, 2013). Available at: <http://www.usip.org/publications/sectarianism-in-lebanon-and-syria>
- Altunisik, Meliha Benli. *Challenges to Turkey's "Soft Power" in the Middle East* (Istanbul, Turkey: Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation 2011). Available at

This report argues that the Sunni-Shia conflict in Lebanon and the Levant in general existed before the wave of the so called Arab Spring hit Syria. The author emphasizes in his report that the conflict in Syria exacerbated the already disputed sectarian fabric of Lebanon. The report also draws a comparison between the sectarianism scenes in both twin states of the Levant Syria and Lebanon, highlighting its effect on the social and geopolitical levels. The author contends that the events in Syria intensified the sectarian mobilization from an interest-based and political one to more social and identity-based one.

<http://www.usip.org/publications/sectarianism-in-lebanon-and-syria>



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This paper is based on public opinion surveys conducted by TESEV, which highlights the level of attractiveness and likability of Turkey in the Arab world. The paper reviews the factors behind this attractiveness which, according to the author, is mainly due to Turkey's foreign policy, cultural products, and political and economic transformation. The report assesses that these factors possibly reflect Turkey's soft power in the Middle East which helped portray Turkey as a successful model and regional power player among different Middle East nations. The paper also discusses Turkey's role in light of the Arab Spring movement that swept the Middle East, highlighting the limitations of Turkey's soft power in dealing with this change.

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sev.org.tr/assets/publications/file/21102013113608.pdf](http://tesev.org.tr/assets/publications/file/21102013113608.pdf)

Arabian Peninsula and Gulf

- Katzman, Kenneth. "The United Arab Emirates (UAE): Issues for U.S. Policy." Congressional Research Service. September 14, 2015. Available at: <http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/mideast/RS21852.pdf>
- Blanchard, Christopher. "Saudi Arabia: Background and U.S. Relations." Congressional Research Service. September 8, 2015. Accessed November 23, 2015. Available at: <http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33533.pdf>
- "Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq." US Department of Defense Publications. June 1, 2010. Accessed November 18, 2015 http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/June_9204_Sec_Def_signed_20_Aug_2010.pdf
- Ulrichsen, Kristian Coates. *Regional Security Co-Operation in the Smaller Gulf States* (Oslo, Norway: Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF), Nov 2012) Available at: http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/791902c5d2673a09d00ff78a1a405bcc.pdf

- *This paper addresses the challenges facing regional security cooperation in the smaller Gulf states, especially following the Arab Spring wave of change that swept the Middle East at large. This change produced an ongoing regional instability and a state of uncertainty that needs to be addressed by these countries. The paper highlights the fact that the Gulf States remain focused on preserving the security of the regimes rather than the individuals or communities.*

n, Kenneth. *Bahrain: Reform, Security and U.S. Policy* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Center, February 14, 2014). Available at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/95-1013.pdf>



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- *This comprehensive report highlights Bahrain's current issues, political structure and Human Rights. It underline the wrangling between the ruling monarchy in Bahrain and the unsatisfied Shi'a faction, and particularly the recent uprising which is mainly over power sharing, economic issues, political dominance and calls for serious reforms. Such issues point out the political and social structure in the Arabian States where one sect or family maintains its hold on power, and to some extent on the wealth resources.*

"This analysis explores the radical shift in the security balance in the Gulf over the last decade. What was once primarily a conventional military balance, shaped largely by the threats posed by state actors like Iran and Iraq, has changed into a complex mix of conventional capabilities, irregular and asymmetric warfare capabilities, missile forces, the possible creation of nuclear forces, internal conflicts and insurgencies, extremist or terrorist movements, and internal security threats."

Anthony. "The Arab-U.S. Strategic Partnership and the Changing Security Balance in the Gulf." Center for Strategic and International Studies. October 1, 2015. Accessed November 18, 2015. Available at:

http://csis.org/files/publication/151014_Cordesman_ArabUSStrategicPartnership_Web.pdf

- Christopher M. Blanchard et al., *The "Islamic State" Crisis and U.S. Policy* (Washington DC: Congressional Research Service, May 27, 2015), 2. accessed August 19, 2015.

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Christopher Blanchard's publication provides an overview of Islamic State related developments in Syria and Iraq, as well as providing details on the U.S Strategy to Combat the Islamic State Organization in Iraq and Syria, along with correlated policy debates and related legislative issues.

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le at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R43612.pdf>

North Africa

- Arieff, Alexis. *Algeria: Current Issues* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Center, November 18, 2013). Available at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS21532.pdf>

- *Large part of this report focuses on Algeria's core issue which is terrorism. Despite the government's efforts in counterterrorism and fighting extremist ideologies, Algeria remains the major source of regional terrorists and has been afflicted with domestic violence as well. However, the report highlights the fact that the U.S came to realize Algeria as a key strategic partner in countering AQI-affiliated groups in North and West Africa. The main operating terrorist group in the country now is Al Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb AQIM, which emerged following a number of splits and mergers. It declared its allegiance to Al Qaida under the name AQIM. Its main goal is to replace the current regime with an Islamic state and expand to control the region from there. On the economic level, Algeria is also a significant source of Petroleum for the U.S. and of natural gas for Europe which made it an attractive spot for U.S. investors.*



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Colette, Jason Gluck, Vivienne O'Connor, and Scott Worden. "Traveling Toward the Rule of Law in the Middle East and North Africa: Avenues and Obstacles." United States Institute of Peace. April 20, 2011. Accessed November 24, 2015. Available at: http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB90-Rule_of_Law_ME_and_North_Africa.pdf

"This Peace Brief maps out major avenues that can lead to the rule of law in the region. It also charts obstacles that stand in the way of new governments in Cairo, Tunis, and elsewhere as these nations seek to satisfy popular hunger for fairness. And it warns that promoting justice without ensuring security will lead nowhere."

- Mottaghi, Lili and Ianchovichina, Elena. "Inequality, Uprisings, and Conflict in the Arab World." World Bank MENA. October 1, 2015. Accessed November 19, 2015. Available at: <http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/10/13/090224b08>

"Part I of the report discusses the short-term, global and regional macroeconomic outlook. Part II focuses on the relationships between inequality, uprisings, and conflict in the Arab World. Part II of the report contains country notes."

[5a3/3_0/Rendered/PDF/Inequality00up0ct0in0the0Arab0World.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/10/13/090224b08/0/Rendered/PDF/Inequality00up0ct0in0the0Arab0World.pdf)

- Anthony O'Sullivan, Marie-Estelle Rey, and Jorge Galvez Mendez, "Opportunities and Challenges in the MENA Region," *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development* (2013), accessed November 24, 2015, Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/mena/49036903.pdf>
- Hanlon, Querine. *Security Sector Reform in Tunisia: A Year After the Jasmine Revolution*

"This chapter provides an overview of the economic challenges facing the MENA region, some of which have been brought to light even further by the Arab Spring. The chapter also reviews the region's economic performance over past years and the short-term economic impact of recent events. Finally, it highlights the economic potential of the MENA region and the way to maximize the great opportunities that lie ahead. The central argument throughout this chapter is that the current wave of political change provides a unique window of opportunity to introduce the transparent and accountable policies and institutions that will lead to increased competitiveness and better living standards."

(Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, March, 2012). Available at <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR304.pdf>

This report credits Tunisia for achieving peaceful transition to democratic rule through national elections which was perceived as fair and free. The report suggests that in order for Tunisia to excel in its path to democracy and maintain the revolutions achievements, a reform in the security sector is vital. This report maps the Tunisian security sector from armed forces to internal security forces, highlighting the areas where reform is needed. The report concludes with several policy recommendations and suggestions.



- Rousseillier, Jacques. "Terrorism in North Africa and the Sahal: Al-Qaida's Franchise or Freelance?" *Middle East Institute*, Policy Brief No. 34 (Washington, D.C. August 2011). Available at <http://www.mei.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Roussellier.pdf>

- *This policy brief examines Al-Qaida's role, influence and status in a regional perspective, particularly in North Africa and the Sahal. The paper assesses the imaginable and real evolving threats of AQI and its possible vulnerabilities.*

This is a comprehensive thematic review with a very useful annotated bibliography focusing on the smuggling of migrants into, through and from North Africa. This review provides statistics and estimations of irregular migrations and smuggling migrants across the region. It also provides an overview of the most common and used smuggling routes by migrant smugglers. One of the sections focuses on the profiles and characteristics of smuggled migrants and their relationship with their smugglers.

ed Nations Office on Drug and Crime. *Smuggling of Migrants into, through and from North Africa* (New York: May, 2010). Available at:
[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Migrant smuggling in North Africa June 2010 ebook E 09-87293.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Migrant_smuggling_in_North_Africa_June_2010_ebook_E_09-87293.pdf)

West South Asia

- Lamer, Wiebke & Foster, Erin, "Afghan Ethnic Groups: A Brief Investigation," Civil-Military Fusion Center (2011). Available at:
https://www.cimicweb.org/Documents/CFC%20AFG%20Social%20Well-being%20Archive/CFC_Afg_Monthly_Ethnic_Groups_Aug2011%20v1.pdf

This paper covers the different and diverse ethnic groups in Afghanistan with a brief overview on each group's background. Although this article focuses on Afghanistan, but some of these ethnic groups extend beyond borders to Pakistan and Iran, such as the Pashtuns and Baloch.

- El-Sammak, Amr, and Nesreen Ghaddar. "West Asia." UNEP. 2010. Accessed November 24, 2015. Available at:
http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/GEO5_report_C14.pdf

UNEP explores the major environmental challenges facing West Asia, including water scarcity, land degradation and desertification, increasing fossil fuel-based energy production and use with high inefficiencies in generation, distribution and end use, as well as conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. This reading explores that how climate change, which is becoming one of the region's main problems will potential adverse impacts on the economy and human well-being.



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- Pelikan, Philip, “Mullah Engagement Program: Helmand and Farah Provinces,” *Small Wars Journals* (2010). Available at: <http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/journal/docs-temp/631-pelikan1.pdf>

This article highlights the vital role of religious leaders in Afghanistan. It shows how their support is critical to the success of the U.S. and ISAF mission in that country. The author shares his experience about this effective engagement mission and how it opened a dialogue between U.S. leadership and local Afahan religious leaders.

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s, Keith W. “The Afghan National Army: Has Capacity Building Become Culture Building?” *Military Review* (November-December 2012). Available at: http://usacac.army.mil/CAC2/MilitaryReview/Archives/English/MilitaryReview_2012123

The author points that the key to understanding the Afghan military is culture. What Americans sees as failings of ANA personnel has roots in the Afghan culture. Rather than try to change this culture, the US is best advised to build an Afghan military organization that is compatible with the culture of the Afghan society.

[007.pdf](#)

- Civil Military Fusion Center. *Corruption and Anti-corruption Issues in Afghanistan* (2012). Available at: https://www.cimicweb.org/cmo/afg/Documents/Governance/Afghanistan_Corruption_Volume.pdf

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This comprehensive publication investigates the systematic corruption within different institutions in Afghanistan, such as the education sector and security forces.

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r, Eray, “Illicit Drugs and Afghanistan: Key Trends,” Civil-Military Fusion Center (2012). Available at: https://www.cimicweb.org/cmo/afg/Documents/Economic/CFC_Afghanistan_Introduction-to-Counter-Narcotics_May12.pdf

- *This comprehensive report with well researched statistics tackles the persisting issue of the Illicit Drugs in Afghanistan. It highlights the trends, motivations behind poppy cultivation, key players and key beneficiaries of this illegal trade.*

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hel, Shahmahmood & Coburn, Noah, “Promoting Stability and Resolving Provincial Disputes in Afghanistan: USIP’s Dispute Councils Program,” (United States Institute of Peace, 2011). Available at: <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Promoting%20Stability%20and%20Resolving%20Provincial%20Disputes%20in%20Afghanistan.pdf>

- *This USIP report investigates some of the provincial disputes in Afghanistan such as land ownership and how the USIP managed to promote peace and stability by resolving these disputes through their Dispute Councils Program. This report shows how local leadership plays a vital role in resolving tribal and local disputes, and promoting governance and the rule of law.*



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gional Economic Outlook Middle East and Central Asia." International Monetary Fund. October 1, 2015. Accessed November 23, 2015. Available at:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2015/mcd/eng/pdf/mreo1015.pdf>

"The Middle East and Central Asia Regional Economic Outlook (REO) is prepared annually by the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department (MCD). The analysis and projections contained in the MCD REO are integral elements of the Department's surveillance of economic developments and policies in 31 member countries. It draws primarily on information gathered by MCD staff through their consultations with member countries."