**GREAT DECISIONS 2019**

**Topic 2 – The Middle East**

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As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran?

**SUGGESTED BACKGROUND RESOURCES**

1. Chapter 2 of the *GREAT DECISIONS 2019 Reader.*
2. [Glossary of Terms](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Mideast_glossary2019.pdf) for this topic.
3. If this topic particularly engages you, I might also suggest the following:
   * Mara Karlin and Tamara Cofman Wittes, [America’s Middle East Purgatory](http://www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org/pdfs/GD-Middle-East-Purgatory.pdf), Foreign Affairs, January/February 2019.
   * Briefing, [In Arab World, a New Alliance is on the Rise](https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2019/0213/In-Arab-world-a-new-alliance-is-on-the-rise). Christian Science Monitor, February 13, 2019.
   * Aaron David Miller and Richard Sokolsky, [What Is Trump Getting for Sucking Up to Saudi Arabia?](https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/08/29/trump-mbs-saudi-arabia-yemen-middle-east-foreign-policy-219617)  Politico, August 29, 2018.

Further resources are available at the Great Decisions website on [the Middle East](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=topic_detail&topic_id=75).