

# GREAT DECISIONS

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## I / The U.S. and the Middle East

### Acronyms and abbreviations

**GCC:** Gulf Cooperation Council

**GWOT:** Global War on Terror

**IRGC:** Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (in Iran)

**JCPOA:** Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015)

**PLO:** Palestine Liberation Organization

### Glossary

**Abraham Accords:** Bilateral agreements on Arab–Israeli normalization signed between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on September 15, 2020

**al-Qaeda:** A militant Islamist group of Sunni jihadists founded by Osama bin Laden; responsible for the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States

**Arab uprisings in 2011:** Also referred to as the Arab Spring

**Bashar al-Assad:** A Syrian politician who is the current president of Syria, since July 17, 2000.

**Camp David Accords:** A pair of political agreements signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on September 17–19, 1978, following 12 days of secret negotiations at Camp David, the country retreat of the President of the United States in Maryland

**Global War on Terror:** A multinational military campaign led by the United States after the September 11 attacks waged primarily against militant Islamist groups

**Hamas:** Palestinian militant organization and a major Palestinian political party

**Hezbollah:** A militant Shia Muslim group based in Lebanon with close ties to Iran

**Saddam Hussein:** The president of Iraq from 1979 until his capture during the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003

**Islamic State:** Jihadist movement also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or Daesh; conquered territory in Northern Iraq in 2014–2015; self-proclaimed worldwide Muslim caliphate; considered a terrorist organization by the United Nations

**jihadist:** – a Muslim who struggles or strives in the name of Islam or engages in holy war; a term often used to refer to Islamists willing to engage in violence against the West or non-Muslims to achieve their aims

**Levant:** The region of West Asia along the Eastern Mediterranean Sea that currently includes Israel and Palestine

**Oslo Accords:** A pair of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO): the Oslo I Accord, signed in Washington, D.C., in 1993; and the Oslo II Accord, signed in Taba, Egypt, in 1995

**Palestinian Authority:** The Fatah-controlled government body that exercises partial civil control over West Bank areas “A” and “B” as a consequence of the 1993–1995 Oslo Accords