

Chapter 1 : Comparing the Roots of Conflict in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa - Inquiries Journal

Offers a novel cross-disciplinary theoretical perspective on conflict and conflict transformation in world society, and integrates the study of conflicts in the Middle East region into a modern systems theoretical framework.

Our findings indicate that the Middle East and North Africa are not as susceptible to the conflicts previously mentioned. We instead propose a more complex view of conflict, where ethnic and religious conflict occur in most regions and factors such as the Cold War in Europe and the existence of holy sites in the Middle East must be taken into account when considering regional conflict. Introduction An understanding of regional conflicts, including their causes and legacies, is necessary for cultural, historical, and political literacy. In spite of globalization and the increasing reach of conflict, the majority of wars are fought between states that share borders and are a part of the same geopolitical region. Given that every region contains different ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups, as well as various resource factors that could potentially act as flashpoints for conflict within the region, why is it that some regions have become bywords for regional and ethnic conflict, while others have become bywords for regional peace? What causes bordering states or neighboring groups to engage in conflict with one another sometimes and resolve issues peacefully at other times? We argue that differences in identity do not cause conflict by themselves, but war is more likely when two countries have populations with different identities than it is when they have similar identities. Material conflicts did not consistently correlate with one another, but identity factors such as language, ethnicity, and religion consistently correlated with conflict. This indicates that differences in identity lead to violent conflict more consistently than material factors. Differences in identity lead to violent conflict more consistently than material factors. However, the data do not suggest that identity itself is the cause of conflict on a regular basis. The case of the strategic site--a location with both material and cultural significance--illustrates that the combination of material motivation and differences in identity is particularly volatile. Strategic sites correlated with more conflicts than any other factor studied, and their prevalence in the Middle East has contributed to its instability. Literature Review Generally speaking, there is a large amount of literature in regards to the types of conflict we are researching. In regards to resources in particular, there is debate on whether abundance or scarcity cause conflict. According to Maxwell and Reuveny, conflict arises over resource scarcity, or when there is a severe lack of natural resources¹. In regards to ethnic conflict, Gurr writes that many believe that ethnic conflict is emphasized because it is primordial in nature³. But, there has been a positive trend of ethnic conflict over time, which causes Gurr to further research into ethnic conflict. He argues that ethnic conflict has been nudged by the end of the Cold War, the fragmentation of ethnic groups, and the emergence of religious nationalism⁴. In regards to water conflicts, areas such as lakes, rivers, and trade ports are often the subject of conflict⁵. These conflicts can often occur when there is interference, such as a dam upriver, that could cause loss of water for those downriver⁶. Additionally, the use of rivers and oceans for trade can often lead to conflict, such as control over ambiguously held bodies of water such as seas and large lakes⁷. In regards to oil conflict, Cotet and Tsui find that oil conflict is emphasized after the great increase in the importance in oil in the world⁸. However, in their study, they find that, when one controls for several interfering variables, the relationship between oil and conflict became insignificant⁹. Middle East There is a variety of literature in regards to the origins of conflict in the Middle East. They also find that there is indeed greater conflict in the Middle East than in any other region The importance of oil is also the subject of debate among scholars. After further examination, we found that water conflict, especially surrounding the three major rivers -- the Nile, the Tigris-Euphrates and the Jordan river -- was a large predictor of fighting Sorli, 1. Interestingly, we also found scholarly predictions that the effects of climate change will, in the near future, potentially play a very important role in the fight over resources -- and not just water. Middle Eastern countries already compete for access to water, simply because the area is mostly arid, desert land. While our data only shows correlation and not causation, we cannot confirm this idea. Still, in the decades to come, it will be interesting to see whether these predictions are fulfilled. Finally, we found scholars that credit Middle Eastern conflict to migration, ethnicity and religion. The chapter goes on to explain that the rise of these regimes has the potential to drive

many people into less extreme, neighboring states. While the Assad family in Syria is not religiously extreme and thus does not completely fit this explanation, Syrian migrants present a great problem, not only to surrounding countries but to the rest of the world. The Syrian civil war has also led to the rise of the Islamic State, a deeply Islamist regime that is proving to be a very dangerous adversary. Due to the fact that the Islamic State has only become powerful in recent years, it is too early to see exactly the effects it will have upon conflict and instability in the Middle East. However, it may well be that in the next few decades, Islamic extremism becomes a greater source of conflict.

Africa In regards to Africa, there is additionally great debate regarding whether Africa is more prone to conflict. For example, El-Ayouty and Zartman claim that: There have also been conflicts arising from boundary and territorial disputes; civil wars and conflicts ignited by external forces; conflicts that are rooted in colonial and racial South Africa ; conflicts sparked by secession movements as in Angola, Western Sahara and Biafra of former Eastern Nigeria; and political as well as ideological conflicts. Colonialist powers, much like the French and British in the Middle East, did not care about the indigenous African population when they were creating state borders. Thus, many ethnic groups have been split, which leads to the groups trying to annex territory from a neighboring state in order to unite the group. Understandably, this leads to conflict: Because these borders were arbitrarily created, there is little sense of national identity. African people often hold onto their ethnic origins, despite their official nationalities, with politicians even doing the same. Political rivalries became ethnic conflicts. However, some scholars dispute this claim. Smith and Kay , 32 found that, while ethnic tensions and conflicts are indeed prevalent, the existence of a liberal democracy can often lead to lesser ethnic conflict This is because, if a country has greater civil liberties, its citizens can express themselves in a constructive manner and not resort to violence Additionally, Lesser et al. Europe In Europe, there is a variety of debate regarding the greatest source of conflict. Oudernam argues that ethnicity seems to be the greatest driving factor of conflict. For many, Oudenaren argues, this is where the seeds of conflict arise. Fox , disagrees, finding that other regions such as the Middle East are more prone to ethnic conflict compared to Europe Ethnicity and identity are not the only factors that cause conflict in Europe, though. All countries in the FSU face severe economic, environmental, and social problems that create possibilities for internal and external conflict. The collapse of the Communism also had profound effects on these states and their problems have yet to be resolved. Fox additionally found that the Cold War, which gripped Europe from , prevented ethnic conflict and instead caused civilizational conflict

Methodology Because our initial question -- what causes regional conflict -- was so broad, it was necessary to distinguish between forms of regional conflict. Initially, we divided conflict into three wide types: We then further subdivided these categories. For the purposes of this paper, resource conflict includes conflict over natural resources , geographical advantage, and borders. Identity conflict refers to conflicts in which combatants were of different races, ethnicities, language groups, or religions. Political conflict indicates conflict over the form of government or leader in a country; many of these conflicts take place during the Cold War and refer explicitly to conflict between USSR-backed and US-backed factions. After dividing these forms of conflict further, we coded for the presence or absence of each type of conflict, ranging from conflict over land to conflict between different linguistic groups. Typically, there were at least three forms of specific conflict present in each conflict for example, conflict over a port could include conflict over a strategic site, water access, and border conflict. Because the focus of our analysis was regional conflict, we only studied conflicts in which both belligerents were from the region where the conflict was located. For example, a conflict between Jordan and Lebanon would qualify as a regional conflict in the Middle East, while a conflict between Egypt and the UK would not be included in our analysis. Due to the breadth of the topic, we also only studied conflicts since We began our analysis with a focus on the Middle East, known as a hotbed for regional conflict, and expanded it to include Africa and Europe for comparison. We chose these three regions because of the range of potentially confounding variables--such as poverty , natural resources, and system of government--and because of the disparity between their reputations in relation to conflict. By comparing the three regions, we aimed to elucidate whether or not certain regions were more prone to regional conflict, or identity conflict in particular. Additionally, the international standard was appealing because it is frequently agreed upon by scholars. The Polynational War Memorial listed nineteen regional conflicts for Europe, twenty

for Africa, and 34 for the Middle East since , and a brief summary of each conflict that includes dates, locations, belligerents, and factors in the conflict, when available. After obtaining the data, we sorted conflicts by the presence or absence of identity conflict and resource conflict, and by the specific types of conflict present. When we were finished, we had accounted for ten different types of conflict: As many of these types of conflict are present in one conflict, the majority of conflicts were coded under multiple categories. For example, the Yom Kippur War was categorized as land, site, border, religious, ethnic, and linguistic conflict. Unfortunately, it was impossible to prioritize which factors were more or less important in a conflict. Once we had categorized the data, we coded it for presence or absence with dummy variables 0 for absent, 1 for present and processed the data with SPSS. This analysis tested all variables against all other variables, so we could establish correlations between any type of conflict and any other. In this paper, we will indicate when data has less than five percent error. Anything deemed insignificant has six percent or greater error. Findings Our findings indicated an increase in several types of conflict when belligerents were of different ethnicities, languages, or religions. These identities were not separate phenomena; more often than not, groups that went to war with one another differed on more than one of these factors for example, two warring ethnic groups also held different religious beliefs. Generally speaking, the fewer identity characteristics groups had in common, the more likely war became. This is true across regions, though some regions saw different identity factors at play than others. In Europe, for example, all wars occurred between Christian-majority countries, so there was no religious conflict to observe. Likewise, in the Middle East, there were no interracial conflicts due to the composition of the region, but ethnic conflict between Jews and Arabs in particular was common. The aforementioned volatility of strategic sites is an interesting case that highlights regional variation. Overall, strategic sites correlate with conflict over water, border control, religion, ethnicity, and language. However, the influence of strategic sites varies considerably by region. In the Middle East, strategic sites correlate with linguistic, religious, and border conflict. The conflicts that fall into this category in this region refer exclusively to religious sites, particularly those in Israel. Because these are repeated conflicts over the same area that occur between the same states, they are a case study in the overlap of identity difference and conflict the Israelis are Jewish and speak Hebrew; the Arab League represents Arabs who speak Arabic and practice Islam. In Africa, strategic sites are much less volatile. They correlate only with conflict over water, and represent only five conflicts since Likewise, in Europe, strategic site conflict correlates with conflict over water, but it also correlates with ethnic and linguistic differences.

Chapter 2 : Middle East Conflict – Best of History Web Sites

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From 1917 to 1948, the British Empire had a mandate over Palestine. The increasing number of Jewish people immigrating to the Holy Land increased tensions in the region. European geopolitics in the earlier half of the 20th century in the wider Middle East region contributed to a lot of instability overall. The British Empire, especially, played a major role in the region. In return, the British government would support the establishment of an independent Arab state in the region, including Palestine. Yet, in contradiction to this, and to also get support of Jewish people, in 1917, Lord Arthur Balfour, then British Foreign Minister, issued a declaration the Balfour Declaration. As a further complication, there was a deal between Imperial Britain and France to carve up the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire and divide control of the region. The spoils of war were to be shared. As with the Berlin Conference where Africa was carved up amongst the various European empires, parts of the Middle East were also to be carved up, which would require artificial borders, support of monarchies, dictators and other leaders that could be regarded as puppets.

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Post World War II to After World War II, the newly formed United Nations which then had less developing countries as members recommended the partition of Palestine into two states and the internationalization of Jerusalem. The minority Jewish people received the majority of the land. The two states were to be joined in an economic union, and Jerusalem would be administered by the United Nations. The Arabs would get 43 percent of the land, the Jews 57 percent. The proposed apportionment should be assessed in light of the following facts: The Jewish portion was better land; by the end of the percentage of Palestine purchased by Jews was less than 7 percent; Jewish land purchases accounted for only 10 percent of the proposed Jewish state; and Jews made up less than one-third of the population of Palestine. The United States not only accepted the UN plan, it aggressively promoted it among the other members of the United Nations. That response and his earlier studies of the Bible made him open to the argument that emigration to Palestine was the proper remedy for the surviving Jews of Europe. He, like his predecessor, had promised he would take no action without fully consulting the Arabs, and he reneged. Henderson warned that partition would not only create anti-Americanism but would also require U. But Truman was concerned about the domestic political implications as well as the foreign policy implications of the partition issue. As he himself put it during a meeting with U. I do not have hundreds of thousands of Arabs among my constituents. Later, in a article in the American Zionist, Emmanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, conceded that Truman would not have worked so hard for the creation of Israel but for the prospect of wholesale defections from the Democratic Party. Neilsen, and Clark Clifford, all members of his staff, and Eddie Jacobson, his close friend and former business partner. The White House, too, was subjected to a constant barrage. I do not think I ever had as much pressure and propaganda aimed at the White House as I had in this instance. The persistence of a few of the extreme Zionist leaders – “actuated by political motives and engaging in political threats” – disturbed and annoyed me. Pressure on Truman also came from non-Jewish fundamentalists and politicians. In some cases, support for Jewish admission to and statehood in Palestine may have had another domestic political angle. That support sidestepped the sensitive issue of U. In other words, support for Zionism may have been a convenient way for people who did not want Jews to come to the United States to avoid appearing anti-Semitic. American classical liberals and others, including the American Council for Judaism, opposed the quotas, and it is probable that many of the refugees, given the option, would have preferred to come to the United States. By mid-November the Truman administration was firmly in the Zionist camp. When the State Department and the U. The United States also voted against a UN resolution calling on member states to accept Jewish refugees who could not be repatriated. Senior Editor Sheldon L. The State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, but the Arab states rejected the partition of Palestine and the existence of Israel. While the Jewish people were successful in creating their homeland, there was no Palestine and no internationalization of Jerusalem, either. In for example, Palestinians were driven out of the new Israel into

refugee camps in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and other regions. At least , people are said to have been driven out or ethnically cleansed, as some have described it. It should be noted that many Jews were also expelled from surrounding Arab countries. Zionist organizations and even some Arab nations also encouraged many Jews to immigrate to Israel. In , Britain, France and Israel invaded the Sinai peninsula after Egypt nationalized the Suez canal because these waning empires feared further loss of power, this time of a major economic trading route entry point for the West to the rest of the Middle East. While Egypt was defeated, international US, really pressure forced their withdrawal. In , Israel simultaneously attacked Egypt, Syria and Jordan in a pre-emptive strike against the Arab troops along its borders. Israel captured key pieces of land, such as the strategic Golan Heights to the north on the border with Syria, to the West Bank from Jordan and the Gaza strip from Egypt. In fact, Israel more than doubled its size in the six days that this war took place. Since then, negotiations have been around returning land to pre states, as required by international law and UN resolutions. In , Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur to attempt to regain their lost land, but failed. To many in the Arab world, Egypt had sold out to US pressure. To the US and Israel, this was a great achievement; Egypt was obviously not to be underestimated in its capabilities, so the best thing would be to ensure it is an ally, not an adversary. In , due to rising Hezbollah attacks from South Lebanon, where many Palestinian refugees still were, Israel attacked and invaded Lebanon. In , Israel declared a strip of South Lebanon to be a Security Zone never recognized by the UN, and hence Israel was always occupying this other nation. Many civilians were killed on both sides. Israeli forces were accused of massacres on many occasions. After 22 years, Israel withdrew in May In the late s came the Palestinian uprisingâ€™the Intifada. While there was much of a non-violence movement initially, the mainstream media concentrated on the violence. Young Palestinians confronted Israeli troops with nothing more than sling shots and stones. Thousands were killed by the Israeli military. Many suicide activists killed Israeli soldiers and caused other damage. Many innocent civilians were killed on both sides. This has been largely criticized as a one-sided accord, that benefits only Israel, not the Palestinian people. It resulted in Israeli control of land, water, roads and other resources. In , Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, ending twenty seven years of occupation. A Palestinian police force replaced them. In , then Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who had been involved in the latest peace processes, was assassinated by a Jewish extremist. In April , Israeli forces bombed Lebanon for 17 days, with Hezbollah retaliating by firing upon populated areas of Northern Israel. Israel also shelled a UN shelter killing about out of civilians sheltering there. The UN claimed it was intentional. October saw the Wye River Memorandum outlining some Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank but Israel suspended it in January due to internal disagreements on its implementation. Back to top to Present Further attempts through to the beginning of were made at continuing the Wye River accord, but kept breaking down due to Palestinian protests of continued new Israeli settlements. The Camp David summit in also failed to come up with solutions on Jerusalem. Sharon has long been accused of massacres in his military days was seen as generally being against the peace process at that time. This proclamation infuriated Palestinians, and led to a series of protests and violence and another major uprising , or intifada. The Palestinian National Authority, which Arafat headed with a police force armed by the Israelis was itself criticized for not serving the full interests of the Palestinian people. In all this time then, the Palestinian people have been without any nation, and have had limited rights, while suffering from poverty. Israel continued to increase and expand their settlements into occupied territories, giving up less and less land compared to what was promised. Many Palestinians that are not Israeli Arabs since living in Israel do not have the right to vote, or have limited rights, while paying full taxes. For over 3 decades, the Palestinian people have been living under a military occupation. Palestinian frustration has spilled into extremism in some cases as well. Many militant groups from Palestine and other areas of the Middle East have therefore sprung up in recent years as well as past decades, performing acts of what the West and Israel describe as terrorism and what the groups themselves justify as freedom fighting though achieving freedom through terrorist actions could arguably still be called terrorist organizations, despite claimed motives. Suicide bombings, and past acts of terrorism have terrorized Israeli civilians, making peace harder and harder to imagine, yet it has been easy to influence and recruit the young, impressionable and angry into extremist causes. As violence continues, it seems that it will remain

easy to find recruits to violent causes. In , Israel started construction of a large defensive security fence in the West Bank supposedly to stop terrorists from making their way in to Israeli cities and settlements. While it mostly seems to have worked, those large fences have drawn international criticism for going quite far into Palestinian land not Israeli land. Israel also continued controversial settlement programs in disputed areas. In June, US President George Bush stated in a speech, I call upon the Palestinian people to elect new leaders and for Israel, I challenge Israel to take concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable, credible Palestinian state. This was widely criticized for amounting to an open call for regime change. In , Israel stepped up its campaign against Hamas, the chief organization behind the suicide attacks of recent years. Arafat himself and his ruling fatah party are also being seen increasingly as corrupt and ineffective by Palestinians themselves. While Palestinian militants announced a ceasefire, Israel continued to assassinate militant leaders. Relative calm only lasted a few weeks, after more targeted assassination and suicide bombings. Abbas resigned soon after, seemingly frustrated by the internal politics. Ahmed Qurei replaced him, seen as more friendly to Arafat. In , Sharon announced a withdrawal of troops and settlements from the Gaza Strip, but a commitment to the largest settlements in the West Bank. On the West Bank, the security fence construction continued, despite continuing protests. The International Criminal Court said the barrier was illegal, but Israel is not bound to it, so ignored it. Turmoil within Palestine increased as Hamas, Fatah, Islamic Jihad and others turned on each other, amid disputes on how to reform the security forces. Despite growing criticism of his leadership in recent years, the outpouring of sorrow and people coming to mourn his death is enormous.

Chapter 3 : Current Religious-based Conflicts in the Middle East,

This is a list of modern conflicts in the Middle East ensuing in the geographic and political region known as the Middle East. The term "Middle East" is traditionally defined as the Fertile Crescent (Mesopotamia), Levant, and Egypt and neighboring areas of Arabia, Anatolia and Iran.

And, there appears to be no end in sight. While religious-based conflict may not be the core reason for the conflicts there in every instance, it surely is, at the very least, a basic influence and a major underpinning. So, the world must go forward by, among other things, emphasizing education in the direction of teaching the value of finding and emphasizing those common threads of similarity of religions rather than emphasizing the differences though they certainly exist. Judaism versus Islam Conflict, in which the Jews as a religious group were involved, in this part of the world, goes back more than 3,000 years, and is historically documented in the Jewish and Christian Old Testaments, among other records. History reveals that this conflict among these Semite neighbors in the Middle East has had at its heart the overemphasis of religious differences between Islam and Judaism. The establishment of Israel, however, focused back on their conflict almost exclusively in the Middle East. And, the cost was high for both sides. After the War, more than 800,000 Jews in 8 Arab countries were forced to flee for their lives, their property ransacked, and their schools, hospitals, synagogues and cemeteries expropriated or destroyed. Of all those countries, only one country, Jordan, has extended citizenship to the Palestinians. While many might argue that the Arab-Israeli Wars of the latter part of the 20th century, and the subsequent unstable and violent situation have not been religious-based in nature, it appears the genesis of these conflicts was. Not seldom do initially religious-based conflicts subsequently take on a separate life of their own. Though no major Arab-Israeli wars have erupted in the last decade, there remains in the Middle East a tinder-box tension. Lives are lost almost daily on one side, or both, and billions of dollars are spent in support of military establishments and their adventures which could otherwise have been focused on the immediate and humanitarian needs of those peoples. In late December, 1992, two Islamic men stopped a school bus carrying 50 Jewish children between the ages of 8 and 10 at gunpoint near Paris, France, and residents of the mainly Arab suburb stoned the vehicle. In fact, according to a French government report issued in early 1993, acts of violence against the Jews increased from one in 1989 to nine in 1992. If one includes other anti-Semitic incidents, ranging from threats to arson, the numbers went from 74 in 1989 to 100 in 1992. The security guard was punched in the face and kicked in the ribs. It was one of more than 100 anti-Jewish incidents in France, home of 6 million Muslims, in a 3 week period, compared with 10 in all of 1989. Sharp increases in attacks on Jews were reported in Britain, Russia and Belgium as well. Some called this a new wave of anti-Semitism in Europe. Later in 1993 and into the violence in the Middle East escalated sharply. There were attacks and counter attacks between the Palestinians and Israelis. Innocent men, women and children died by the hundreds on both sides. In June, at the urging of the U. S. Bush, the two sides again sat together to attempt to bring peace to the area. While this attempt showed initial short-term success, it quickly diminished again into violence. In late 1994, suicide car bombers attacked two synagogues in downtown Istanbul, Turkey killing 23 people and injuring more than 100. The other severely damaged the Beth Israel Synagogue in the affluent district of Sisli, three miles away. This was not the first time the Neve Shalom Synagogue had been attacked. In 1986, gunmen had killed 22 worshippers and wounded 6 others during a Sabbath service there. Continuing pressure against not only Israel from Iran via its surrogates Hamas and Hezbollah shows no end. The conflict Israel and the world have over the constructing new Israeli settlements on land both Israel and Palestine claim as their own remains complex and dangerous. The now more than three-year internal conflict in Syria poses potential danger to the entire Middle East area should it explode across Syrian borders. The change in governments in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and well as the ongoing conflict in Bahrain between the Sunni-led government and the majority Shiite citizens sees no immediate solution. These and more not only threaten general stability in the area but the existence of the state of Israel as well. These trends, both within and without the Middle East, have not changed in recent years.

Identity as the ideological battleground of Middle East conflicts World society and Middle East conflicts 6 Beyond Orientalization and Civilization:

Toggle display of website navigation Feature: The sharp uptick in war over recent years is outstripping our ability to cope with the consequences. From the global refugee crisis to the spread of terrorism, our collective failure to resolve conflict is giving birth to new threats and emergencies. Even in peaceful societies, the politics of fear is leading to dangerous polarization and demagoguery. It is against this backdrop that Donald Trump was elected the next president of the United States — unquestionably the most important event of last year and one with far-reaching geopolitical implications for the future. But one thing we do know is that uncertainty itself can be profoundly destabilizing, especially when it involves the most powerful actor on the global stage. Will he cut a deal with Russia over the heads of Europeans? Will he try to undo the Iran nuclear accord? Is he seriously proposing a new arms race? And that is precisely the problem. The last 60 years have suffered their share of crises, from Vietnam to Rwanda to the Iraq War. But the vision of a cooperative international order that emerged after World War II, championed and led by the United States, has structured relations between major powers since the end of the Cold War. That order was in flux even before Trump won the election. But Obama worked to shore up international institutions to fill the gap. In Europe, uncertainty over the new U. Nationalist forces have gained strength, and upcoming elections in France, Germany, and the Netherlands will test the future of the European project. The potential unraveling of the European Union is one of the greatest challenges we face today — a fact that is lost amid the many other alarming developments competing for attention. Exacerbated regional rivalries are also transforming the landscape, as is particularly evident in the competition between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries for influence in the Middle East. The resulting proxy wars have had devastating consequences from Syria to Iraq to Yemen. Many world leaders claim that the way out of deepening divisions is to unite around the shared goal of fighting terrorism. But that is an illusion: Terrorism is just a tactic, and fighting a tactic cannot define a strategy. Jihadi groups exploit wars and state collapse to consolidate power, and they thrive on chaos. In the end, what the international system really needs is a strategy of conflict prevention that shores up, in an inclusive way, the states that are its building blocks. The international system needs more than the pretense of a common enemy to sustain itself. With the advent of the Trump administration, transactional diplomacy, already on the rise, looks set to increase. Tactical bargaining is replacing long-term strategies and values-driven policies. A rapprochement between Russia and Turkey holds some promise for reducing the level of violence in Syria. However, Moscow and Ankara must eventually help forge a path toward more inclusive governance — or else they risk being sucked ever deeper into the Syrian quagmire. A stable Middle East is unlikely to emerge from the temporary consolidation of authoritarian regimes that ignore the demands of the majority of their people. The EU, long a defender of values-based diplomacy, has struck bargains with Turkey, Afghanistan, and African states to stem the flow of migrants and refugees — with worrying global consequences. On the other hand, Europe could take advantage of any improvement in U. Such transactional arrangements may look like a revival of realpolitik. But an international system guided by short-term deal-making is unlikely to be stable. Deals can be broken when they do not reflect longer-term strategies. Without a predictable order, widely accepted rules, and strong institutions, the space for mischief is greater. The world is increasingly fluid and multipolar, pushed and pulled by a diverse set of states and nonstate actors — by armed groups as well as by civil society. In a bottom-up world, major powers cannot single-handedly contain or control local conflicts, but they can manipulate or be drawn into them: Local conflicts can be the spark that lights much bigger fires. Whether we like it or not, globalization is a fact. We are all connected. Countries may wish to turn inward, but there is no peace and prosperity without more cooperative management of world affairs. This list of 10 conflicts to watch in illustrates some of the broader trends but also explores ways to reverse the dangerous dynamics. Syrian Abu Khaled looks at the rubble of his destroyed house in the rebel-held town of Douma on Dec. This was evident in the recent recapture of Palmyra by the Islamic State, just nine months after a Russian-backed military

campaign had expelled the group. Western diplomats expressed horror and outrage yet failed to muster a concrete response. The evacuation of civilians and rebels ultimately proceeded, haltingly, only after Russia, Turkey, and Iran struck a deal. Neither the United States nor the United Nations was invited or even consulted. A cease-fire deal brokered by Russia and Turkey at the end of December appeared to fall apart within days, as the regime continued military offensives in the suburbs of Damascus. Despite the significant challenges ahead, this new diplomatic track opens the best possibility for reducing the level of violence in Syria. The war against the Islamic State is likely to continue, and there is an urgent need to ensure it will not fuel further violence and destabilization. Washington has backed both efforts while trying to minimize direct clashes between them. The incoming Trump administration should prioritize de-escalating the conflict between its Turkish and Kurdish partners above the immediate capture of territory from jihadis. If violence between the two spirals, the Islamic State will be the first to gain. The Islamic State still claims a caliphate across parts of Iraq and Syria, although it has lost significant territory over the past year. Even if it is defeated militarily, it or another radical group may well re-emerge unless underlying governance issues are addressed. The Islamic State itself grew from a similar failure in Iraq. It is spreading an ideology that is still mobilizing young people across the globe and poses threats well beyond the borders of Iraq and Syria, as recent attacks in Istanbul and Berlin have shown. To avoid worse, Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government need support and pressure to rein in paramilitary groups. Success in the current U. Besides the regular Iraqi Army, special counterterrorism forces, and federal police who are leading the effort inside the city, local groups are also involved, seeking spoils of victory. Moreover, Iran and Turkey are competing for influence by using local proxies. The longer the battle drags on, the more these various groups will exploit opportunities to gain strategic advantage through territorial control, complicating a political settlement. Iraq, with support from the United States and other partners, should continue military and logistics support to Iraqi forces pushing into the city and establish locally recruited stabilization forces in areas retaken from the Islamic State to ensure that military gains are not again lost. They will also need to jump-start governance involving local, and locally accepted, political actors. First aid officers carry an injured woman at the site of a terrorist attack on January 1 in Istanbul. In addition to worsening spillover from the wars in Syria and Iraq, Turkey also faces a spiraling conflict with the PKK. Politically polarized, under economic strain, and with weak alliances, Turkey is poised for greater upheaval. The conflict between the state and PKK militants continues to deteriorate following the collapse of a cease-fire in July. Since then, the PKK conflict has entered one of the deadliest chapters in its three-decade history, with at least 2, militants, security forces, and civilians killed as both sides opt for further escalation. In response, the government is once again jailing representatives of the Kurdish movement, blocking a crucial channel to a political settlement that must include fundamental rights protections for Kurds in Turkey. This, and the danger posed by the Islamic State, persuaded Ankara to send its first detachments of troops into both countries, sucking it further into the Middle East maelstrom. In the wake of the coup attempt last July, the government launched a massive crackdown, purging more than , officials. In November, Erdogan responded angrily to criticism from Brussels, threatening to tear up the March refugee deal by which Ankara agreed to prevent the flow of Syrian refugees from moving onward to Europe. Ankara is increasingly downplaying its Western alliances and scrambling to make arrangements with Russia and Iran. However, Turkey and Iran are still on a dangerous course, fueled by profound disagreement over their respective core interests in Iraq and Syria. Newly recruited Houthi fighters mobilize in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa to fight pro-government forces on January 3. Yemen The war in Yemen has created another humanitarian catastrophe, wrecking a country that was already the poorest in the Arab world. With millions of people now on the brink of famine, the need for a comprehensive cease-fire and political settlement is ever more urgent. Yemenis have suffered tremendous hardships from air bombardments, rocket attacks, and economic blockades. According to the U. All parties to the conflict stand accused of war crimes, including indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas. Saudi Arabia entered the conflict in March to counter advances made by the Houthis, a predominantly Zaydi Shiite militia viewed by Riyadh as a proxy for its archrival, Iran. Both sides appear locked in a cycle of escalating violence and provocations, derailing U. That same month, the Houthi movement and its allies, mainly forces under former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, formed a new government. Despite the challenges, it may still be

possible to convince the parties to accept the roadmap as the basis for a compromise that would end regional aspects of the war and return it to an inter-Yemeni process. Women and children queue to enter a Unicef nutrition clinic at the Muna informal settlement on the outskirts of Maiduguri in northeastern Nigeria on Sept. Jihadis, armed groups, and criminal networks jockey for power across this impoverished region, where borders are porous and governments have limited reach. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and al-Mourabitoun remain active while a new group claiming affiliation to the Islamic State is developing. All appear likely to continue attacks targeting civilians, as well as national and international forces. Mali is the U. Mali could face a major crisis this year, as implementation of the Bamako peace agreement threatens to stall. The recent fracturing of the main rebel alliance in the north, the Coordination of Azawad Movements, has contributed to a proliferation of armed groups, and violence has spread to central Mali. Regional powers should use the upcoming African Union summit in January to revive the peace process and possibly bring in groups that are currently left out. A leadership quarrel has split the jihadi movement, but it remains resilient and aggressive. Understanding the various ways women experience the conflict should directly inform strategies to tackle the roots of the insurgency. The Boko Haram insurgency, the aggressive military response to it, and the lack of effective assistance to those caught up in the conflict threaten to create an endless cycle of violence and despair. If regional governments do not react responsibly to the humanitarian disaster, they could further alienate communities and sow the seeds of future rebellion. States should also invest in economic development and strengthen local governance to close off opportunities for radical groups.

Chapter 5 : Arab-Israeli conflict - Wikipedia

His main areas of expertise are IR theory, Middle East politics and society, EU foreign policies, and Euro-Mediterranean relations. He is author of Territorial Conflicts in World Society, The Middle East under Fire?, EU Foreign and Interior Policies and The European Union and Border Conflicts.

Below is a map of Europe looked like in , after the war. What was the Austria-Hungary Empire has become several countries including, Yugoslavia. Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Hungary are now separate countries. In , their secret was disclosed by The Russian Government. Notice the little strip called the Allied Condominium, which is later to become Israel and Palestine. The Zionist movement, established in the s, had a mission to establish a Jewish homeland for Jews living in Russia, Germany, and Poland. League of Nations Mandate Source The Carving up of the Ottoman Empire As you can see from the map above, that the former Ottoman Empire was carved up by the League of Nations without any regard for the culture, ethnicity, religious beliefs or interests of the peoples living in the regions. It was done arbitrarily to create conflict, turmoil and corruption, thus giving the British and the French control over the area. If you were to overlay the Ottoman Empire map of over this map, you would see many similarities. Shiites occupy the coast of Lebanon and Syria and parts of Turkey. This is what this area was called after the British mandate. Shiites also occupy southern Iraq as the majority. Sunnis occupy most of Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the southern parts of Turkey where they are mixed with the Kurds. They also occupy most of the northern parts of Iraq, where they are in the minority. They are in one of the most oil-rich regions in the Middle-East. They are also one of the largest populations of people in the world without a country. Conclusion WWI resulted in carving up the Middle-East without any regard for religion, ethnic diversity or culture. From everything that I have researched, it appears as if it was done intentionally to create chaos in the region for the purpose of control by the winners of WWI. It has become apparent to me that trying to democratize these countries is an exercise in futility and results in the loss of blood and treasure for all involved. When they try democracy, the wrong people get into office, e. Israel and the Palestinians are in a constant state of turmoil because of the Balfour Declaration. I believe in large part, the terrorism that we have experienced has been caused because of the preferential treatment that the U. This angers the Arab world and they retaliate by terrorizing us. If I were president, I would make Palestine its own country. We must learn that we cannot make a Theocracy into a Democracy. Men draw maps and layout boundaries, not nature. Borders mean nothing to the people of these areas. They have been connected to each other for hundreds of years without any regard for borders.

Chapter 6 : List of modern conflicts in the Middle East - Wikipedia

This is an excerpt from Conflict and Diplomacy in the Middle East: External Actors and Regional blog.quintoapp.com your free copy here. When assessing the development of regional peace and cooperation, few areas are as challenging and ambivalent as the Middle East.

An official cablegram from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to the UN Secretary-General on 15 May stated publicly that Arab Governments found "themselves compelled to intervene for the sole purpose of restoring peace and security and establishing law and order in Palestine" Clause 10 e. Further in Clause 10 e: The remainder of the Mandate consisted of Jordan, the area that came to be called the West Bank controlled by Jordan , and the Gaza Strip controlled by Egypt. Prior to and during this conflict, , [39] Palestinian Arabs fled their original lands to become Palestinian refugees , in part due to a promise from Arab leaders that they would be able to return when the war had been won, and also in part due to attacks on Palestinian villages and towns by Israeli forces and Jewish militant groups. The War came to an end with the signing of the Armistice Agreements between Israel and each of its Arab neighbours. The status of Jewish citizens in Arab states worsened during the Israeli-Arab war. Anti-Jewish riots erupted throughout the Arab World in December , and Jewish communities were hit particularly hard in Aleppo and British-controlled Aden , with hundreds of dead and injured. In Libya , Jews were deprived of citizenship, and in Iraq, their property was seized. Over the course of twenty years, some , Jews from Arab countries immigrated to Israel and other countries. Many argued that this was also a violation of the Armistice Agreements. The United States and the United Nations soon pressured it into a ceasefire. Egypt agreed to freedom of navigation in the region and the demilitarization of the Sinai. The Arabs responded by trying to divert the headwaters of the Jordan, leading to growing conflict between Israel and Syria. On 30 May , Jordan signed a mutual defense pact with Egypt. On 5 June, Israel launched an attack on Egypt. The results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region to this day. Once Sadat took over, he tried to forge positive relations with the USA, hoping that they would put pressure on Israel to return the land, by expelling 15, Russian advisors from Egypt. The Israeli military were caught off guard and unprepared, and took about three days to fully mobilize. In addition, these Arab countries agreed to enforce an oil embargo on industrial nations including the U. S, Japan and Western European Countries. These OPEC countries increased the price of oil fourfold, and used it as a political weapon to gain support against Israel. The United States, wary of nuclear war , secured a ceasefire on 25 October. Under its terms, the Sinai Peninsula returned to Egyptian hands, and the Gaza Strip remained under Israeli control, to be included in a future Palestinian state. The agreement also provided for the free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal and recognition of the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba as international waterways. Israelâ€™s Jordan relations In October , Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement , which stipulated mutual cooperation, an end of hostilities, the fixing of the Israel-Jordan border, and a resolution of other issues. The conflict between them had cost roughly It was signed at the southern border crossing of Arabah on 26 October and made Jordan only the second Arab country after Egypt to sign a peace accord with Israel. Iraqâ€™s Israel relations Israel and Iraq have been implacable foes since During the Gulf War in , Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel, in the hopes of uniting the Arab world against the coalition which sought to liberate Kuwait. At the behest of the United States, Israel did not respond to this attack in order to prevent a greater outbreak of war. September is known as the Black September in Arab history and sometimes is referred to as the "era of regrettable events". In another conflict between Israel and the PLO broke out, which ended with a ceasefire agreement that did not solve the core of the conflict. In June , Israel invaded Lebanon. Within two months the PLO agreed to withdraw thence. In March , Israel and Lebanon signed a ceasefire agreement. In and , Israel launched major operations against the Shiite militia of Hezbollah , which had become an emergent threat. In May , the newly elected government of Ehud Barak authorized a withdrawal from Southern Lebanon, fulfilling an election promise to do so well ahead of a declared deadline. The hasty withdrawal lead to the immediate collapse of the South Lebanon Army , and many members either got arrested or fled to Israel. Israeliâ€™s Palestinian conflict The s were marked by a large number of major,

international terrorist attacks, including the Lod Airport massacre and the Munich Olympics Massacre in , and the Entebbe Hostage Taking in , with over Jewish hostages of different nationalities kidnapped and held in Uganda. In December , the First Intifada began. The First Intifada was a mass Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian actions ranged from civil disobedience to violence. In addition to general strikes, boycotts on Israeli products, graffiti and barricades, Palestinian demonstrations that included stone-throwing by youths against the Israel Defense Forces brought the Intifada international attention. The PLO, which until then had never been recognised as the leaders of the Palestinian people by Israel, was invited to peace negotiations the following year, after it recognized Israel and renounced terrorism. As a result, in September , Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords , known as the Declaration of Principles or Oslo I; in side letters , Israel recognized the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people while the PLO recognized the right of the state of Israel to exist and renounced terrorism, violence and its desire for the destruction of Israel. Area A was land under full Palestinian civilian control. In Area A, Palestinians were also responsible for internal security. The Oslo agreements remain important documents in Israeli-Palestinian relations. Following a series of suicide bombings and attacks, the Israeli army launched Operation Defensive Shield. It was the largest military operation conducted by Israel since the Six-Day War. Israel established a complicated system of roadblocks and checkpoints around major Palestinian areas to deter violence and protect Israeli settlements. However, since , the IDF has slowly transferred authority to Palestinian security forces. This policy was fully implemented in August A year previously, he had commented that the fate of the most far-flung settlements in Gaza, Netzararem and Kfar Darom, was regarded in the same light as that of Tel Aviv. It divided his party. It was also uncertain whether this was simply the beginning of further evacuation.

Chapter 7 : 10 Conflicts to Watch in “ Foreign Policy

A meme is gaining traction within American government and media, and it goes like this: The conflicts of the Middle East aren't about religion.

Chapter 8 : Economic Effects of War and Peace in the Middle East and North Africa

"World Society and the Middle East offers an innovative theoretical framework for the study of Middle East politics. By using rich empirical data on current developments in Middle East politics and society (with a special focus on Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria) the book focuses on pertinent issues in contemporary Middle East studies such as the role of space and power, the.

Chapter 9 : Middle East news - breaking news, video, headlines and opinion - CNN

The world is increasingly fluid and multipolar, pushed and pulled by a diverse set of states and nonstate actors “ by armed groups as well as by civil society.