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EUROMED REVIEW

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EGYPT

Egypt's Unexceptional State of Emergency
Sherif Mohy El Deen
Arab Reform Initiative
10 August 2017

"Egyptian President al-Sissi's imposition of the state of emergency in April 2017 adds nothing new to the already restrictive framework permitting the use of exceptional measures and legitimizing rights abuses in the name of fighting terrorism, writes Sherif Mohy El Deen in new paper published by the Arab Reform Initiative. The paper discusses the impact of the state of emergency on the public sphere and whether it actually makes any difference at a time when the country is in a very exceptional situation since July 2013."

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Israel, the Arab States, and the Illusions of Normalization
Philip Gordon
INSS – Institute for National Security Studies
3 July 2017

"The prospect of Israel normalizing its relations with Arab states is an enticing idea that anyone who cares about Israel or the region should want to see realized. Arab strategic interests are aligning with Israel's; some Arab leaders' attitudes toward Israel are changing; and the Arab desire to see an Israeli-Palestinian deal remains strong. Nevertheless, the vision of Israel normalizing its relations with Arab states without the agreement of the Palestinians is fanciful, and even modest steps toward normalization will require Israel to do much more than many Israelis seem to realize. Ultimately, the road to normalization with the Arab states still runs through the Palestinian issue, and not the other way around."

The Palestinian Political Crisis
Michał Wojnarowicz
PISM – The Polish Institute of International Affairs
04 July 2017

"The conflict between the main Palestinian parties, Fatah and Hamas, is growing. The Fatah-led Palestinian Authority is seeking to weaken Hamas by exploiting the deteriorating situation in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. Deepening the conflict could lead Hamas to break the ceasefire with Israel or force a concession to Fatah, which may result in an agreement between the two parties. Continuation of the conflict will have a significant impact on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process."

The Gaza Strip: An Opportunity for Change?
Kobi Michael
INSS – Institute for National Security Studies
6 July 2017

"Events of recent weeks in both nearby and distant arenas have reshuffled the cards vis-à-vis the state of affairs in the Gaza Strip. The result has been the emergence of possible conditions for change – that is, if Israel takes advantage of them through cooperation with Egypt and the Gulf states. Recent developments have created circumstances and constraints for the actors in the arena that can potentially be leveraged as strategic opportunities to reshape the Gaza arena. Cooperation between Israel, Egypt, and the Gulf states, alongside Hamas's strategic weakness and Mohammed Dahlan's possible mediating role in the Gaza arena, allow a reframing of the rules of the game."

Haram al-Sharif: Israel's Alignment with the Sunni Arab States in Practice
Brandon Friedman
FPRI- Foreign Policy Research Institute

EUROMED REVIEW

The monthly EUROMED REVIEW is curated by the team of the Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department of the European Institute of the Mediterranean.
This department is in charge of the monitoring and strategic discussion of the major issues on the Mediterranean's political agenda and of the Europe-Mediterranean relations.
The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), founded in 1989, is a consortium comprising the Catalan Government, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. It incorporates civil society through its Board of Trustees and its Advisory Council formed by Mediterranean universities, companies, organisations and personalities of renowned prestige.
In accordance with the principles of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership's Barcelona Process, and today with the objectives of the Union for the Mediterranean the aim of the IEMed is to foster actions and projects which contribute to mutual understanding, Exchange and cooperation between the different Mediterranean countries, societies and cultures as well as to promote the progressive construction of a space of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilisations in the Mediterranean.
Adopting a clear role as a think tank specialised in Mediterranean relations based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the IEMed encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organisation of seminars, research projects, debates, conferences and publications, in addition to a broad cultural programme.

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