

Alignments and Realignments in Persian Gulf Security

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The Regional Setting

Overall Security Issues in the Persian Gulf

The View From Washington

The View From Riyadh

The View From Abu Dhabi

The View From Doha

The View From Tehran

The Uncertain Tomorrow

The Regional Setting



Conflict Fatigue

US Commitment to the Region

Economic Priorities

Geopolitical Competition

Regional De-Escalation &
Regionwide Rapprochement

Overall Security Issues in the Persian Gulf

Continued American Presence in the Persian Gulf

Continued Psychological Dependence on the US

Continued Mistrust and Fear of Iran

Spread of Mistrust by All Actors

Absence of Russian & Chinese Military Presence (for now)

Decline of the GCC as a Multilateral Cooperation Forum

Importance of Bilateral Relations

Security of Shipping Lanes



The View From Washington

The Biden Doctrine

America's role in maintaining the global order

More restrained use of American military force

China as America's existential competitor

Russia as a disrupter

Iran and North Korea as nuclear proliferators

Cyberthreats as ever-evolving

Terrorism as spreading far beyond Afghanistan



The View From Washington

A Trump II Doctrine?

America's role in maintaining the global order

Unabashed US global dominance

China as America's existential competitor

Iran and North Korea as nuclear proliferators

Use of American military force – *without war*

Russia as a disrupter – *maybe*

The Importance of Transactionalism



The View From Riyadh



MBS's on the Job Training

MBS the Rock Star

The Precarious Political Balance

The Importance of Vision 2030

Regional Adventures on Hold, for now

Normalization with Israel on Hold, for now

MBS the Statesman

A New Security Calculus

U.S. (leadership), Saudi Arabia (F-35)
and Pakistan (security partner)

The View From Abu Dhabi



Playing Geo-Strategic Catch Up

Competition with Regional Rivals

Exercising “Strategic Autonomy”

“Middle Power” Status

The View From Doha



Qatar's Foreign Policy of Hedging

The Reputational Risks of Hedging

Mediation as a Foreign Policy Pillar

Small State Security Dependence

The US Still *the* Security Provider

The View From Tehran



The Hybrid Authoritarian System, no more

Factional Disunity Across Institutions

The Look East Policy

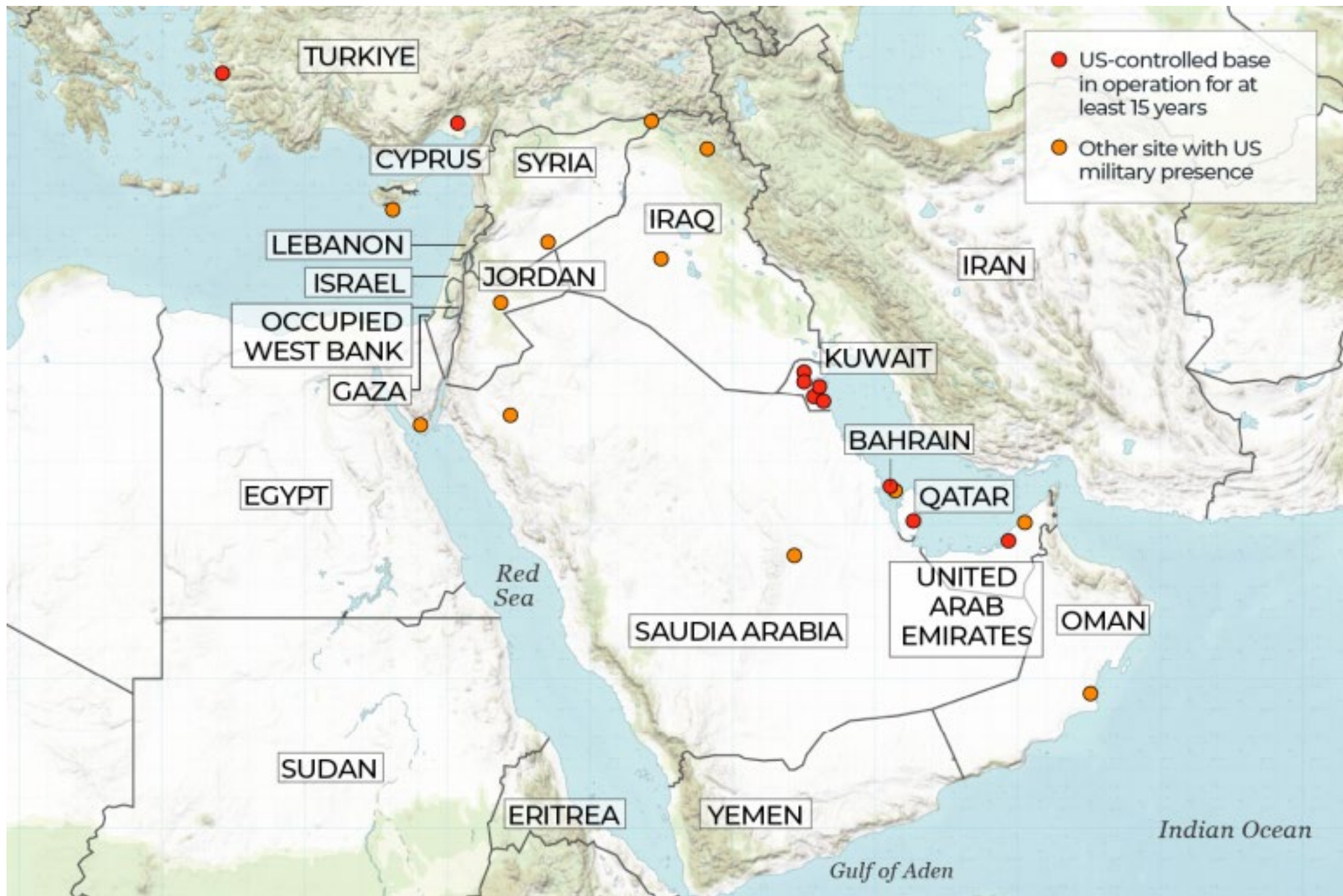
The Good Neighbor Policy

US – Israeli Threat is Real

Iran Remains Encircled

The American Military in the Middle East





Iranian Security Policy Before October 2023

Iran & Deterrence

The Axis of Resistance



Hezbollah



Hamas



Houthis

Strategic Depth



Syria



Iraq

Missile Program



Iranian Security Policy After October 2023

Axis of Resistance



Strategic Depth



The Missile Program



Nuclear Ambiguity?



The Persian Gulf's Current Security Landscape

Iran's New Deterrence Strategy

Deterrence-by-Denial to Deterrence-by-Punishment

Missile Program

Horizontal Escalation

Nuclear Ambiguity

Normalization on Hold

Netanyahu Chastened

American-Israeli Dreams of a "New Middle East"

Obliteration of Resistance Front

Comprehensive Containment of Iran

Growing Israeli Recognition

Disbanding of Remaining Militia Groups

The Uncertain Tomorrow

Precipice of Change

The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine
Unpredictability of Autocracy
Leadership Transition in Tehran
Unpredictability of Pres. Trump

More of the Same

Continued US Military Presence
Continued Tensions
Precarity of Yemen
Tragedy of Palestine



Projections

Middle Power Competition

Continued US Presence

Chinese Infrastructural Development

Uncertainty in Levant

Tragedy of Palestine

The New Middle East, Not Israel's

Leadership Transition in Iran

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