

The True Promise of Joe Biden's Middle East Trip

by [Dennis Ross \(/experts/dennis-ross\)](/experts/dennis-ross), [James Jeffrey \(/experts/james-jeffrey\)](/experts/james-jeffrey)

Jul 27, 2022

Also published in National Interest

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Dennis Ross \(/experts/dennis-ross\)](/experts/dennis-ross)

Dennis Ross, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama, is the counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute.



[James Jeffrey \(/experts/james-jeffrey\)](/experts/james-jeffrey)

Ambassador is a former U.S. special representative for Syria engagement and former U.S. ambassador to Turkey and Iraq; from 2013-2018 he was the Philip Solondz Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute. He currently chairs the Wilson Center's Middle East Program.



Articles & Testimony

It is no exaggeration to say that the visit represents a transformation of Washington's regional approach—including a rethink of the “pivot.”

Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine has not only changed the security landscape in Europe, it has also fundamentally altered the way the Biden administration views geopolitical realities internationally. Without Putin's invasion, it is doubtful that the president would have made a trip to Saudi Arabia and met with the crown prince. This trip was about more than near-term oil production. It reflected a deeper recognition that the Middle East, and key states in it, are important in the longer-term competition with the Russians and Chinese. It also reflected Washington's understanding that many leaders within the region had grave doubts about America's staying power, and thus, there was an acute need to re-establish the credibility of our commitment to securing our interests and friends in the area. Given where the Obama and Trump administrations were on the high cost of deepening engagement in the Middle East, it is no exaggeration to say that the trip represents a transformation of Washington's approach to the region. No longer are we talking about a pivot away from it...

[Read the full article on the National Interest website. \(https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/true-promise-joe-biden%E2%80%99s-middle-east-trip-203856\)](https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/true-promise-joe-biden%E2%80%99s-middle-east-trip-203856) ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Turkey's War in Northern Iraq: By the Numbers](#)

Jul 28, 2022

◆
Michael Knights

[\(/policy-analysis/turkeys-war-northern-iraq-numbers\)](#)



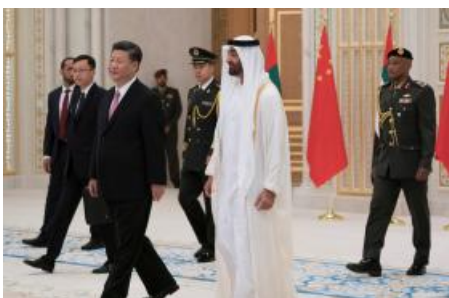
ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

[Russia and Iran Keep Growing Closer](#)

Jul 26, 2022

◆
Anna Borshchevskaya

[\(/policy-analysis/russia-and-iran-keep-growing-closer\)](#)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

[China Below the Radar: Israel-US Strategic Dialogue on Technology](#)

Jul 26, 2022

◆
Assaf Orion,
Shira Efron

[\(/policy-analysis/china-below-radar-israel-us-strategic-dialogue-technology\)](#)

TOPICS

[Arab-Israeli Relations \(/policy-analysis/arab-israeli-relations\)](#)

[Energy & Economics \(/policy-analysis/energy-economics\)](#)

[Great Power Competition \(/policy-analysis/great-power-competition\)](/policy-analysis/great-power-competition)

[Gulf & Energy Policy \(/policy-analysis/gulf-energy-policy\)](/policy-analysis/gulf-energy-policy)

[Military & Security \(/policy-analysis/military-security\)](/policy-analysis/military-security)

[U.S. Policy \(/policy-analysis/us-policy\)](/policy-analysis/us-policy)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[Gulf States \(/policy-analysis/gulf-states\)](/policy-analysis/gulf-states)

[Israel \(/policy-analysis/israel\)](/policy-analysis/israel)