

The Symptom and the Disease: Cholera and State Collapse in Syria and Lebanon

by [Hanin Ghaddar \(/experts/hanin-ghaddar\)](/experts/hanin-ghaddar), [Andrew J. Tabler \(/experts/andrew-j-tabler\)](/experts/andrew-j-tabler)

Jan 31, 2023

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Hanin Ghaddar \(/experts/hanin-ghaddar\)](/experts/hanin-ghaddar)

Hanin Ghaddar is the Friedmann Fellow at The Washington Institute's Geduld Program on Arab Politics, where she focuses on Shia politics throughout the Levant.



[Andrew J. Tabler \(/experts/andrew-j-tabler\)](/experts/andrew-j-tabler)

Andrew J. Tabler is the Martin J. Gross Senior Fellow in the Program on Arab Politics at The Washington Institute, where he focuses on Syria and U.S. policy in the Levant, and Director of the Institute's Junior Research Program.

What has caused Lebanon's devastating cholera epidemic, and why haven't authorities and healthcare professionals been able to stop it?

The breakdown of governance in Syria and Lebanon has given rise to the largest outbreak of cholera in the Middle East in decades and is impeding efforts to combat this often deadly disease. In this video, Institute senior fellows Hanin Ghaddar and Andrew J. Tabler analyze the causes of the cholera epidemic and the many factors that prevent its eradication. “The goal of the international health and medical organizations is to stop the spread and contain the disease but the problem is not medical,” Ghaddar explains. “This is happening because of the collapse of state institutions.”

Washington and its allies now must thread the needle on addressing the problems resulting from state breakdown in Syria and Lebanon all the

while maintaining measures designed to address Assad and Hezbollah's destabilizing behavior. ❖

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

We'll Need Oil for Decades to Come—and OPEC Needs the High Price

Jan 31, 2023

Simon Henderson

(/policy-analysis/well-need-oil-decades-come-and-opec-needs-high-price)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Arab Gulf States Shift Toward More Harmonious Relations

Jan 30, 2023

Simon Henderson

(/policy-analysis/arab-gulf-states-shift-toward-more-harmonious-relations)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

The EU Can, and Should, Designate the IRGC as a Terrorist Group

Jan 30, 2023

Matthew Levitt

(/policy-analysis/eu-can-and-should-designate-irgc-terrorist-group)

TOPICS

Democracy & Reform (/policy-analysis/democracy-reform)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Lebanon (/policy-analysis/lebanon)