

Obama and the Middle East: Act Two

by [Andrew J. Tabler \(/experts/andrew-j-tabler\)](#), [Patrick Clawson \(/experts/patrick-clawson\)](#), [David Makovsky \(/experts/david-makovsky\)](#), [David Pollock \(/experts/david-pollock\)](#), [Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](#), [Soner Cagaptay \(/experts/soner-cagaptay\)](#), [David Schenker \(/experts/david-schenker\)](#), [Eric Trager \(/experts/eric-trager\)](#)

Jan 7, 2013

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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

Andrew J. Tabler is the Martin J. Gross fellow in the Geduld Program on Arab Politics at The Washington Institute, where he focuses on Syria and U.S. policy in the Levant.



[Patrick Clawson \(/experts/patrick-clawson\)](#)

Patrick Clawson is Morningstar senior fellow and director of research at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.



[David Makovsky \(/experts/david-makovsky\)](#)

David Makovsky is the Ziegler distinguished fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Koret Project on Arab-Israel Relations.



[David Pollock \(/experts/david-pollock\)](#)

David Pollock is the Bernstein Fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on regional political dynamics and related issues.



[Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](#)

Simon Henderson is the Baker fellow and director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at The Washington Institute, specializing in energy matters and the conservative Arab states of the Persian Gulf.



[Soner Cagaptay \(/experts/soner-cagaptay\)](#)

Soner Cagaptay is the Beyer Family fellow and director of the Turkish Research Program at The Washington Institute.



[David Schenker \(/experts/david-schenker\)](#)



[Eric Trager \(/experts/eric-trager\)](#)

Eric Trager was the Esther K. Wagner Fellow at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

In January, the Atlantic published a series of policy proposals for the Obama administration's second term by Washington Institute scholars. The full series is collected here.

A Syria Strategy for Obama

(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/a-syria-strategy-for-obama>)

Andrew J. Tabler (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/tabler-andrew-j>)
January 17, 2013

A Syria expert offers three bold steps to hasten the end of Assad's regime. [Read more](#)

[\(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/a-syria-strategy-for-obama>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/a-syria-strategy-for-obama).

Obama, Offer Iran a Generous Deal

(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-offer-iran-a-generous-deal>)

Patrick Clawson (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/clawson-patrick>)
January 16, 2013

Raising the stakes for the nuclear negotiations is the only way to test if Tehran is serious. [Read more](#)

[\(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-offer-iran-a-generous-deal>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-offer-iran-a-generous-deal).

Obama, Israelis, and Palestinians: More Words, Less Action

(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-israelis-and-palestinians-more-words-less-action>)

David Makovsky (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/makovsky-david>) and David Pollock
[\(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/pollock-david>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/pollock-david)

January 11, 2013

In the coming months, what the parties say will be more important than what they do. [Read more](#)

[\(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-israelis-and-palestinians-more-words-less-action>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obama-israelis-and-palestinians-more-words-less-action).

TO STOP IRAN, GET A NEW SAUDI KING (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/to-stop-iran-get-a-new-saudi-king>)

Simon Henderson (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/henderson-simon>)
January 10, 2013

The Obama administration should intervene in Riyadh's succession crisis if it wants a reliable partner on Iran. [Read more \(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/to-stop-iran-get-a-new-saudi-king>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/to-stop-iran-get-a-new-saudi-king).

FOR OBAMA, THE KEY TO DAMASCUS MAY LIE IN ANKARA (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/for-obama-the-key-to-damascus-may-lie-in-ankara>)

Soner Cagaptay (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/cagaptay-soner>)
January 9, 2013

Washington must rein in Turkey before a conflagration further complicates U.S. options for addressing the Syrian civil war. [Read more \(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/for-obama-the-key-to-damascus-may-lie-in-ankara>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/for-obama-the-key-to-damascus-may-lie-in-ankara).

WILL JORDAN BE THE FIRST ARAB MONARCHY TO FALL? (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/will-jordan-be-the-first-arab-monarchy-to-fall>)

David Schenker (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/schenker-david>)
January 8, 2013

Why Obama needs to focus on corruption to save America's most reliable Arab ally. [Read more \(<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/will-jordan-be-the-first-arab-monarchy-to-fall>\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/will-jordan-be-the-first-arab-monarchy-to-fall).

Obama's Big Egypt Test: Sinai (/policy-analysis/view/obamas-big-egypt-test-sinai)

Eric Trager (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/trager-eric>)
January 7, 2013

The lawless desert on Israel's border presents immediate risks -- and possible opportunities -- for American interests in the region. [Read more \(\[/policy-analysis/view/obamas-big-egypt-test-sinai\]\(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obamas-big-egypt-test-sinai\)\)](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/obamas-big-egypt-test-sinai).



RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Iran Takes Next Steps on Rocket Technology](#)

Feb 11, 2022

◆
Farzin Nadimi

[\(/policy-analysis/iran-takes-next-steps-rocket-technology\)](#)



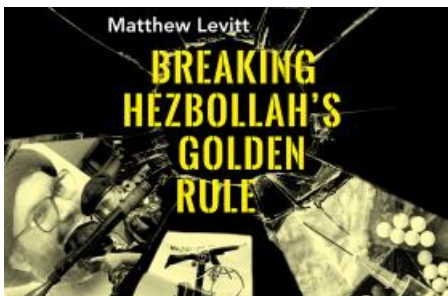
BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Saudi Arabia Adjusts Its History, Diminishing the Role of Wahhabism](#)

Feb 11, 2022

◆
Simon Henderson

[\(/policy-analysis/saudi-arabia-adjusts-its-history-diminishing-role-wahhabism\)](#)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

[Podcast: Breaking Hezbollah's Golden Rule](#)

Feb 9, 2022

◆
Matthew Levitt

[\(/policy-analysis/podcast-breaking-hezbollahs-golden-rule\)](#)

TOPICS

[Arab & Islamic Politics \(/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics\)](#)

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

[Democracy & Reform \(/policy-analysis/democracy-reform\)](#)

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

[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

[Egypt \(/policy-analysis/egypt\)](/policy-analysis/egypt)

[Jordan \(/policy-analysis/jordan\)](/policy-analysis/jordan)

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