

# The Obama Administration and the Middle East: Setting Priorities, Taking Action

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Apr 22, 2010

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



### [Martin Kramer \(/experts/martin-kramer\)](/experts/martin-kramer)

Martin Kramer is The Washington Institute's Walter P. Stern Fellow and author of one of its most widely read monographs, *Ivory Towers on Sand: The Failure of Middle Eastern Studies in America*.



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

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



## In-Depth Reports

**T**homas Friedman, William Kristol, Martin Kramer, and David Makovsky joined in a keynote discussion at The Washington Institute's 2010 Soref Symposium on April 22, 2010. The event honored the Institute's 25th anniversary.

**Thomas Friedman** is chief foreign affairs columnist for the *New York Times*. He has won three Pulitzer Prizes, including one for commentary, and is the author of five bestselling books, among them *From Beirut to Jerusalem*.

**William Kristol** is editor of the *Weekly Standard* and regularly appears as a commentator on Fox News Sunday and on the Fox News Channel. Prior to founding the *Weekly Standard*, he led the Project for the Republican Future; served as chief of staff to Vice President Dan Quayle during the George H.W. Bush administration and to Secretary of Education William Bennett during the Reagan administration; and taught politics at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is coauthor of the New York Times bestseller *The War over Iraq: Saddam's Tyranny and America's Mission*.

**Martin Kramer** is The Washington Institute's Wexler-Fromer fellow and president-designate of Shalem College in Jerusalem.

**David Makovsky** is the Ziegler distinguished fellow and director of the [Project on the Middle East Peace Process \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/about/research-programs/project-on-the-middle-east-peace-process/\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/about/research-programs/project-on-the-middle-east-peace-process/) at The Washington Institute. In addition, he serves as an adjunct professor of Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He is coauthor, with Dennis Ross, of the book *Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East* (<http://twi-ee.newcitystaging.com/policy-analysis/view/myths-illusions-and-peace-finding-a-new-direction-for-america-in-the-middle>) (2009).

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