



## US Senate

### Reestablishing Relations with the Middle East

#### I. Background

The United States of America has always been a leader in the global community when it comes to establishing diplomatic relationships with other nations. Along with nearly every country represented in the United Nations, the United States needs the cooperation of other nations in order to restore prosperous circumstances for its citizens. One of the most important issues which involve diplomatic ties with foreign nations involves whether or not the United States should support rebel groups which are attempting to overthrow weakened governments in the Middle East. Due to violence and economic downturn, many governments in Middle Eastern nations have become susceptible to radical rebel groups which utilize violence in order to achieve political power. Rebel groups such as Al-Qaeda, Jundullah, Hezbollah, and the Baluchistan Liberation Army have made significant progress towards establishing new political leaders through acts of violence and intimidation. It is the Senate's responsibility to choose whether or not to support the current governments of certain Middle Eastern nations, or to provide aid to rebel groups attempting to install a new governing body. Senators should consider multiple factors when it comes to deciding the United State's involvement in these countries. The Middle East is a very volatile area when it comes to establishing governments, but at the same time it provides a unique opportunity for the U.S. to create strong political and economic ties with leaders of areas which store precious natural resources. Different perspectives can be seen not only in the U.S. Senate but also the world. For example, supporting the Baluchistan Liberation Army in Pakistan may seem like a way to establish a relationship between an



unpredictable terrorist group which is likely to take over parts of oil rich Iran, but senators must also consider the Army's past which includes countless bombings in both Iran and Pakistan. Also, cooperation with the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) is vital to the economic future of the United States, therefore, senators must make decisions which contribute to the unification of Islamic states in the Middle East. During this time of economic struggles and political battles, The United States of America must emerge as a role model for international unity and financial stability.

Closing in on almost a year of protests and governmental changes, The Arab Spring has achieved massive amount of publicity. From civilian uprisings in Egypt and Libya, to violent suppression in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, The Arab Spring has brought even more attention to the Middle East. Because of constant dissatisfaction with their government, people in the Middle East have resorted to overthrowing their leaders and establishing new rulers of the oil rich region. With her country's best interest in mind, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared that the United States of America will continue its support for democracy in the Middle East. Although her stance on the Arab Spring is very vague, one thing is for sure; countries who have enlisted the use of violence in order to suppress peaceful protesters will not receive any support from the U.S. Beyond massive amounts of oil lying beneath the surface of the region, the U.S. is also interested in gaining traction towards the more volatile subject of Israel and their recent actions concerning nuclear weapons. The Obama administration stresses the use of diplomacy in the Arab Spring situation, but is very aware of the possibility of U.S. involvement in regions which would affect the stability of current U.S. allies.



## II. UN/US Involvement

The United States has been involved in the Middle East since the 1940s. After World War II was fought and finished, the United States, along with other developed nations (most notably England), realized that the Middle East harbored a cornucopia of precious raw materials and resources, specifically oil and gasoline; consequently, the United States of America sought to access these areas in order to receive their raw materials. The creation of the Anglo-American Petroleum Agreement is a prime example of U.S. desire in the Middle East. In the late 1940s, the state of Israel was created. While many Arab States did not acknowledge the Jewish State of Israel, the United States of America was the first to recognize it. Due its large population of Jewish citizens, the United States has continued to support Israel since that time. A turning point in the Middle East was the Suez Crisis, in which the United States gained the upper hand in this region disposing of British grasp on the Arab States in this area. Here, the United States, under President Eisenhower, sided with Egypt against Israel and Britain. After this incident, the United States gained more leverage in the Middle East, especially in Egypt. Furthermore, distrust between the U.S. and the Middle East began to grow during the 6 Day's War, in which Israel received the West Bank and Jerusalem. By the 1970s, America was a nation that the Arab States greatly distrusted, and these states felt that the U.S.A. was attempting to suppress their goals for nationalism and greater freedoms. In the 1990s, tensions mounted once more between the U.S. and the Middle East against the terrorist group known to the world as "Al Qaeda". In 2001, Osama Bin Laden attacked the United States and started a War on Terror against Al Qaeda, and in the process against the Middle East. In recent Middle Eastern rebellions, nationalism has played a major role in helping to oust old dictators and to create democracy. The United States has attempted to lend a helping hand to Libya in particular, who has received



almost \$900,000,000 directly and indirectly through troops and military supplies. UN Security Council Resolution 1973 stated that the U.S. and other countries had a duty to create a permanent ceasefire in Libya. NATO also implemented a no-fly-zone over Libya. Finally, the dictator, Gaddafi, was killed in October 2011. While Libya wanted NATO to stay in Libya, the Security Council decided to pull NATO out of its occupation in Libya.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

There are some possible solutions for the United States to succeed in reestablishing benevolent relations with the Middle East. The U.S. could deploy troops into the most volatile regions of the Middle East where there are violent protests and equally violent methods of suppression. Also, American diplomats who support the protesters in Arab Spring nations can convince current government leaders to move towards democracy and give into the demands of their citizens. Another solution would be to hold democratic elections while still operating under the traditional government currently established in Arab Spring nations. Attempting to dissolve the current governmental set up in Arab Spring nations and enlisting the use of a temporary U.S. military run government is also a possible solution.

### **IV. Guiding Questions**

1. How will U.S. foreign interests be affected by the Arab Spring?
2. Why should the United States involve itself any further in the Middle East?
3. What are possible catastrophes that may arise from supporting protesters or established governments?
4. Should the use of military be deployed in more Middle Eastern countries, and if so, why?
5. Is aiding countries going through revolutions a higher priority than dealing with issues happening at home such as economic stability? If so, why?