

# Diplomat

Issue 4 - November 2006



## The New Middle East

Richard N. Haass

**Prince Saud Al Faisal:  
Palestine is Key to the  
Peace in Middle East**

**European Muslims  
Hamstrung by the  
Lack of Unity**

**Islam and West  
An Invitation to a New  
Way of Thinking**

# Diplomat

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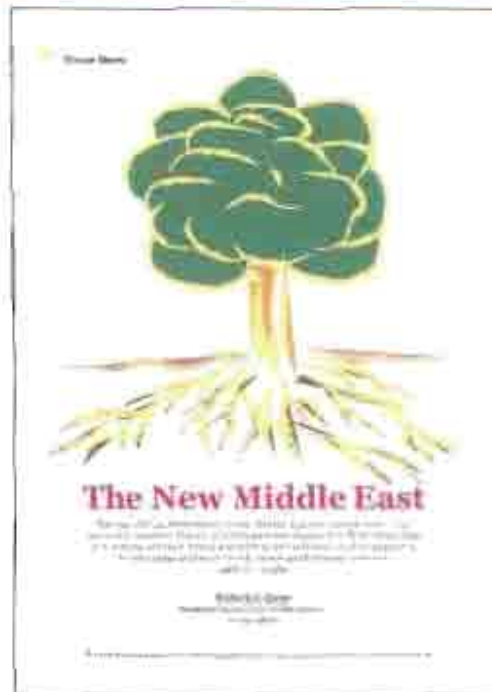
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Change of U.S. dominance in the Middle East has opened a new era in the modern history of the region, Iraq became. It will be shaped by new actors and new forces competing for influence, and in particular, Washington will have to reassess its diplomatic and military policy.

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**HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal**  
Foreign Minister

# Nuclear Weapons and Double Standards

**We believe that the most effective way of resolving the issue concerning proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction requires us to abandon double standards when dealing with similar issues, or different parties.**

Today's world is confronted with numerous global problems for which no solutions seem possible except within the framework of multilateral cooperation under the umbrella of the UN. That is to say, the human sufferings resulting from these problems are still defying the world community's efforts to overcome, and forever do away with them. Although these global problems do not differentiate between peoples according to their color, religion or race; they, however, impact more severely societies most stricken by poverty. The current situation calls for urgent solutions on a priority basis. Naturally, one of the most dangerous and fundamental issues in this regard is the issue of nuclear weapons.

Countries have realized early on that the proliferation of these weapons undermines their stability in a serious way. Over the years, a series of international agreements and conventions have been ratified requiring bilateral and multilateral commitment to this crucial issue; still, these commitments mean little, if not fully observed, and if not backed up by strict adherence to the provisions of the treaty. We have to acknowledge the very grave consequences to world peace if these weapons are ever to be used, whether in hostilities between countries, or on the hand of terrorists.

We believe that the most effective way of resolving the issue concerning proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction requires us to abandon double standards when dealing with similar issues, or different parties. It is to us imperative to ensure that the Middle East, including the Gulf, is free of these weapons. As the situation now stands, Israel is the only country in the region that possesses all kinds of weapons of mass destruction; yet, the country has never been exposed to any kind of inspection.

And while we fully support the right of all countries to the exploitation of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, we call upon all to stay the course of negotiations and explore the possibility of a negotiated peaceful solution over the Iranian nuclear crisis. Since Iran continues to insist that its program is meant only for peaceful purposes, and the full potential of negotiation has not yet been exhausted.