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**E-Documents
June 2009 – Issue 2
Special Edition: A New Beginning:
Engaging the Muslim World**

**The President's Trip to the Middle East
June 2009**

A NEW BEGINNING: ENGAGING THE MUSLIM WORLD. America.gov. June 2009.
America.gov provides information, blog, and webcast pertaining to President Obama's trip
abroad.

http://www.america.gov/obama_cairo.html [HTML format with links].

SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN? THE MUSLIM WORLD, AMERICA, AND OBAMA'S PROMISE. Brookings Institute. Navtej Dhillon et al. June 1, 2009.

In reaching out to the Muslim world, President Obama will invariably touch upon some of the most important concerns and grievances, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to enhance respect and understanding between the U.S. and the Muslim world. The president will outline the contributions and achievements of Islamic civilization, and recognize the economic, social, and political progress underway in several Muslim countries. Reaffirming the U.S.'s dedication to law and a more principled foreign policy, the president will hail the early symbolic successes of his administration such as the commitment to close Guantanamo Bay. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/opinions/2009/0601_obama_muslim_world_dhillon/0601_obama_muslim_world_dhillon.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ENCOURAGES DIALOG WITH MUSLIM WORLD. U.S. Department of State]. Ralph Dannheisser. May 12, 2009.

President Obama and his administration are fully committed to pursuing "a deep and positive dialogue with Muslims around the world based on mutual respect and in support of our mutual interests," according to a key State Department official. The magnitude of the challenges faced makes it vital to go beyond interactions between governments to "reach out and develop partnerships with all elements of civil society," said acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Madelyn Spirnak.

<http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2009/May/20090512115531HMnietsuA0.8662836.html> [HTML format, various paging].

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA TO THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT. The White House. April 6, 2009.

President Obama addresses the Turkish Parliament, reaching out to the Muslim world.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-President-Obama-To-The-Turkish-Parliament/ [HTML format, various paging].

BEYOND THE FIRST 100 DAYS: PROSPECTS FOR OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY. Washington Institute. Nicholas Blanford et al. May 2009.

The authors analyze prospects for early Obama administration Middle East initiatives, and how those policies affect critical issues such as Iran's nuclear program, Lebanon's upcoming elections, and U.S. relations with Israel. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC07.php?CID=457> [HTML format, various paging].

A NEW U.S. POLICY PARADIGM TOWARD IRAN. RAND Corporation. Frederic Wehrey et al. May 21, 2009.

Iranian power projection is marked by strengths, but it also has serious liabilities and limitations. The United States should consider a new approach to Iran that integrates elements of engagement and containment. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9422.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

OBAMA'S EGYPT SPEECH: WHAT HE SHOULD SAY TO THE MUSLIM WORLD. Brookings Institute. John L. Esposito et al. June 2, 2009.

President Obama's speech comes at a particularly tense moment in the relationship between the U.S. and the world's approximately 1.3 billion Muslims, as the latter wait to see how the President will move forward on his efforts to close down Guantanamo Bay, bring the Iraq War to an end, shift our national security focus to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and promote Israeli-Palestinian peace. The Saban Center at Brookings' Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World has asked leading experts and policy-makers from the United States and the Muslim world to submit commentary on what they hope to hear from President Obama's speech. [Note: contains copyright material].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0602_obama_egypt_speech.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

TACTICS IN A COSMIC WAR. Yale Global.Reza Aslan. April 22, 2009.

By relying on distinctively religious rhetoric, Former President Bush played into the Jihadists hand: that of conflating the war on terror with a war on Islam. President Obama has reversed such a stance by stating unequivocally that the US is not at war with Islam and by refraining from using the phrase "war on terror." But while changing the rhetoric is an important first step to repairing the mistrust many even pro-western Muslims feel toward the US, it does not go far enough. The US needs to address many of the issues that provide tinder for the Jihadists including ending the suffering of the Palestinians and the support for Arab dictators, while engaging the democratically elected Islamist leaders in Lebanon and Palestine. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12287> [HTML format, various paging].

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