

October 10, 2011

To: Katonah Great Decisions Participants

From: Fred Piker – Discussion Leader

Re: Summary of 10/4/11 Meeting – “Middle East Realignment” – Topic Leader:
Tyler Beebe

KICKOFF

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Ed Elkin, a guest at our 9/20 meeting, has decided to become a regular at our Chapter. Welcome Ed! Also, welcome to today’s guest, Jo Cameron.

Future 2011-12 Day Time Meeting Dates

11/8, 12/6, 1/10/12, 1/24, 2/7, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15

Future Schedule of Fall/Early Winter Daytime Meeting Topics

11/8 – “Global Public Service, Ethics, and the Role of the U. N.”
Co-Topic Leaders: Terri Sachs & Dimitri Argyriades

12/6-“The Atlantic Alliance – What’s the Future?”
Co-Topic Leaders: Joe Adams & Mike Kornfield

1/10/12-“Chinese Foreign Policy: Recent Developments and Implications for the
U. S. and the World” – Co-Topic Leader: Charlie Kimball

Descriptors re 2012 FPA Briefing Book Topics

Recently the FPA released the descriptors which I forwarded on to Chapter participants.

2011-12 Chapter Fee & Ordering of 2012 FPA Briefing Books

Included with this submission is a schedule of Briefing Book orders (as of 10/10/11).
SINCE PRIOR TO THE END OF OCTOBER I MUST ORDER THE BRIEFING BOOKS, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP IF I SHOULD ORDER ONE FOR YOU.

Feedback re 10/3 Chappaqua Great Decisions Program

Several Chapter participants attended Professor Waxman's presentation re "Is the 2 State Solution Dead?" Consensus was he was highly informative.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CHAPTER MOTTO - "DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT FONDNESS FOR DISPUTE OR DESIRE FOR VICTORY" – BEN FRANKLIN

Pre-Meeting Preparation

Priority

Numerous recent articles. A sampling is included in the "Supplementary" section that follows along with other references

Supplementary

"Hero – The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia" – Author: Michael Korda – Harper Collins – 2010

"Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph" – T. E. Lawrence – First Paperback Edition – August 2011

FPA 2009 Briefing Book – "Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East"

Recent Chapter Discussions

3/3/09 – "Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East"

3/2/10 – "Israel/Palestine: What's Ahead – Continued Stalemate or Resolution?"

3/16/10 – "The U. S. and the Persian Gulf"

"The New Arab Revolt" – Foreign Affairs – May/June 2011

"The Middle East: What Next?" – The Wilson Quarterly – Summer 2011

"Beyond Tahir Square" – World Policy Journal – June 2011

"Why Didn't Anyone Predict the Arab Revolution?" – Foreign Policy – July 2011

"Briefing: Islam and Democracy – Uneasy Companions" – The Economist – 8/6/11

“After the Revolt, a Regional Reign of Uncertainty” – NYT – 8/25/11

“Going, going ... The Fall of Qaddafi will transform Libya, the Middle East and NATO”
and “The Birth of Free Libya” – The Economist – 8/27/11

“Libya: Celebration and Uncertainty” – Bloomberg Business Week – 8/28/11

“Will Oil Drown the Arab Spring?” – Foreign Affairs – September/October 2011

“NATO After Libya – A Troubling Victory” – The Economist – 9/3/2011

“China’s Evolving Foreign Policy – The Libyan Dilemma” – The Economist – 9/10/2011

“Iran Changes Rhetoric on Syria” – Financial Times – 9/15/11

“U. S./Europe See Syrian Stalemate” – WSJ – 9/16/11

“America in Middle Between Egypt, Israel, Turkey & Palestine” – The Economist –
9/17/11

“U. S. Readies for a Syria Without Assad” - NYT – 9/20/11

“Briefing: Israel, Palestine and the U. N. – The War Over Statehood” – The Economist –
9/24/11

“In Riddle of Mideast Upheaval, Turkey Offers Itself as an Answer” – NYT – 9/27/11

“Saudi Arabia and Its Women” – NYT – 9/27/11

“2 for 2, or 2 for 1?” – NYT – Tom Friedman – 9/28/11

“Syrian Opposition Seeks No-Fly Zone” – anti Assad groups call for outside aid, arms
embargo, but draw tepid response – AND “Kurds Look Beyond Assad, With Dreams of
Autonomy” – WSJ – 9/29/11

“Activists in Arab World Vie to Define Islamic State” – debates over the emerging political
orders weigh religious and liberal visions AND “Saudi Men Go to Polls; Women Wait” –
NYT – 9/30/11

“The Storm Before the Calm” – Fareed Zakaria – Time – 10/3/11

“The Debate on a Palestinian State” – Time – 10/3/11

Topic Introduction

Initially Tyler focussed on the realignments that have occurred for three major players in the Arab Spring - Libya, Egypt, and Syria. His comments included: (1) The role, impact, and consequences of U. S. foreign policy on each of the uprisings; and (2) The often dramatic changes in relationships between and among the three countries and their Middle Eastern counterparts. Subsequently, he led discussion on the questions listed below. **INCLUDED WITH THIS SUBMISSION IS A TRANSCRIPT OF HIS TOPIC INTRODUCTION.**

Preliminary Discussion Questions

1-As a byproduct of the uprisings, favorable perception of the U. S. in Egypt and Libya has sagged. What should the U. S. do to reestablish and reinvigorate its image and reputation in those countries?

2-If Palestine's bid at the U. N. for statehood recognition results in escalating regional violence, what impact will it likely have on the three countries?

3-If the Syrian uprising ends in a stalemate and Al-Assad remains in power, will the Arab Spring lose momentum?

4-From the standpoint of key U. S. vested interests, early on in all three uprisings the U. S. took a restrained back-seat position. Was it right to do so?

5-If the Muslim Brotherhood eventually emerges as the controlling force in Egypt, how should the U. S. respond?

6-Can or should the U. S. do anything to counter the rising hatred of Israel in Egypt?

7-If the Al-Assad regime is toppled, what are the implications for Iran and Hezbollah?

8-If tribal and/or regional enmities combine to overthrow the new Libyan government, should the U. S. intervene? Alternatively, should it push NATO to do so?

9-In addition to these three uprisings, the Arab Spring has emerged in other countries in the region – e. g. Bahrain, Yemen, etc. What other realignments have shifted and what are the implications for U. S. foreign policy?

10-During the Bahrain upheaval, Saudi Arabia sent its troops into Bahrain. By doing so, what are the implications for its status in the region and for the future of the Arab Spring?

Participant Observations

Attached is Elizabeth Hall's summary of participants' observations.

12:00 P. M-ADJOURNMENT & OPTIONAL CURRENT EVENTS MODULE

Although initially we planned to discuss issues associated with Putin's likely reelection as President of Russia, discussion swiftly ventured away from foreign policy issues to U. S. campaign finance reform.

12:30 P. M. – ADJOURNMENT OF OPTIONAL MODULE

Best regards,

PAGE

PAGE 3