

DECEMBER 2018

CURRENT HISTORY

A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs



THE MIDDLE EAST

Postwar Problems

Getting Ready for Reconstruction in Syria

Faten Ghosn

Iraq's Protest Movement

Zahra Ali and Safaa Khalaf

The Iconoclasm of ISIS

Benjamin Isakhan

Heavy Hands

American Unilateralism

Shibley Telhami

An Egyptian Green Zone

Michele Dunne

ss Angst

et Öncü

ya

...son Farguef

\$8.95US \$5



0 74470 75307 0

CURRENT HISTORY

December 2018

Vol. 117, No. 803

CONTENTS

- 331 **The Hard Road Ahead for Syrian Reconstruction** *Faten Ghosn*
Attempts to rebuild and resettle refugees are already underway in parts of the country as the war winds down, but outside help will be needed to secure a sustainable peace.
- 338 **Southern Discontent Spurs an Iraqi Protest Movement** *Zahra Ali and Safaa Khalaf*
After years of armed conflict, Iraqi citizens are fed up with the corruption and mismanagement of a political class that has allowed conditions in cities like Basra to deteriorate.
- 344 **How to Interpret ISIS's Heritage Destruction** *Benjamin Isakhan*
Seemingly senseless desecration of monuments in Syria and Iraq was in fact carefully planned and executed to promote the jihadist group's ideology and fund its operations.
- 350 **Convergence and Competition Among the New Turkish Middle Classes** *Erol Balkan and Ahmet Öncü*
As globalization alters the cultural landscape, secular and Islamist families are jockeying for access to prestigious schools and aspirational lifestyles. *Fourth in a series on social mobility around the world.*
- 355 **Sisi Builds a Green Zone for Egypt** *Michele Dunne*
Five years after taking power in a coup, the latest Egyptian strongman has restored the wall of fear separating citizens from their government and suppressed the legacy of the 2011 uprising.
- PERSPECTIVE**
- 359 **Trump's Reckless Middle East Gambles** *Shibley Telhami*
Unilateral decisions to scupper the Iran nuclear deal and move the US embassy to Jerusalem could have dangerous consequences that the president's inexperienced advisers failed to anticipate.
- BOOKS**
- 363 **The Libyan Unraveling** *Alison Pargeter*
After intervening to help topple an eccentric dictator in 2012, the United States and its allies have stood aside and watched as rival militias tear apart a country lacking civil institutions.
- THE MONTH IN REVIEW**
- 366 **October 2018**
An international chronology of events in October, country by country, day by day.
- 367 **2018 Current History Index**