

# Middle East Political Crossroads: Key Events and Developments

Middle East Politics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

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**1. As of April 2026, which country's political system is described as highly centralized under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, with curtailed political freedoms and a repressed opposition?**

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Egypt**
- C) Iran
- D) Turkey

**2. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, under what recent agreement have Hamas and Israel begun to implement terms including hostage releases and prisoner exchanges, with the UN scaling up aid to Gaza?**

- A) The Abraham Accords
- B) The GCC-Qatar resolution
- C) A U.S.-brokered peace deal**
- D) The Astana Process

**3. Which nation has recently been accused by Syrian authorities of plotting attacks and operating cells within Syria, marking a shift in the relationship with a group that previously supported the Assad regime?**

- A) Iran
- B) Turkey
- C) Hezbollah**
- D) Israel

**4. What major economic crisis has Lebanon been facing since 2019, characterized by a banking collapse, currency devaluation, and a high poverty rate affecting approximately 80% of the population?**

- A) Hyperinflation crisis
- B) Sovereign debt crisis
- C) Multi-dimensional economic crisis**
- D) Liquidity crisis

**5. In Yemen, what has been a significant development in response to the Israel-Hamas war, involving repeated attacks on ships transiting a key maritime route?**

- A) Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping**
- B) Saudi coalition airstrikes on Houthi strongholds
- C) Southern Transitional Council (STC) offensives
- D) Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) resurgence

**6. Which country's foreign policy has shifted towards a 'multi-alignment' strategy, balancing its U.S. security partnership while expanding ties with China, Russia, and the Global South, as part of its Vision 2030 reform program?**

A) United Arab Emirates

**B) Saudi Arabia**

C) Qatar

D) Turkey

**7. As of early 2026, what is the status of the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA), which was originally signed in 2015?**

A) Fully revived with all parties complying

B) In negotiations for a new, comprehensive agreement

**C) Deteriorated after the U.S. withdrawal in 2018, with Iran accelerating enrichment**

D) Completely abandoned with no prospects for revival

**8. In Iraq, who is the current Prime Minister, appointed in October 2022, who is considered a close ally of former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki?**

A) Mustafa al-Kadhimi

**B) Mohammed Shia al-Sudani**

C) Muqtada al-Sadr

D) Abdul Latif Rashid

**9. What significant geopolitical event occurred in Syria in December 2024, leading to a change in leadership and a fragile transition period?**

**A) The fall of the Assad regime**

B) A major ISIS resurgence

C) The signing of a comprehensive peace treaty

D) The intervention of a multinational peacekeeping force

**10. Which nation's diplomatic crisis, involving severed relations with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt, was brought to an end in January 2021 following an agreement at the al-Ula GCC summit?**

A) Iran

B) Turkey

**C) Qatar**

D) Oman

**11. As of April 2026, what has been the impact of the ongoing conflict in Gaza on the Red Sea, according to recent reports?**

- A) Houthi forces have repeatedly attacked ships transiting the Red Sea**
- B) Shipping traffic has significantly increased due to increased security
- C) The Red Sea has been closed to all international shipping
- D) Maritime trade has returned to pre-conflict levels

**12. Turkey's foreign policy in the Middle East has seen a shift towards improving relations with direct neighbors and playing a mediating role. Which of the following is a key aspect of this new approach?**

- A) Focusing solely on military power projection
- B) Prioritizing diplomatic solutions and de-escalation**
- C) Withdrawing from all regional engagements
- D) Exclusively aligning with one major regional power

**13. Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what was a key development in late 2023 and early 2024 related to the ongoing war in Gaza?**

- A) A lasting ceasefire agreement was reached and is being fully implemented.
- B) Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, leading to an Israeli offensive in Gaza.**
- C) International pressure led to a permanent two-state solution.
- D) The conflict was resolved through a joint UN-Arab League initiative.

**14. Which country, facing one of the worst economic collapses in modern history, has seen its national currency lose over 98% of its value between 2023 and early 2024?**

- A) Syria
- B) Yemen
- C) Lebanon**
- D) Iraq

**15. As of early 2026, what is the general political situation in Iraq, according to recent analyses?**

- A) Stable and prosperous with strong democratic institutions
- B) Fragile and uncertain, facing challenges like political instability and corruption**
- C) Completely under foreign military occupation
- D) Peacefully unified under a single dominant political party