

## The Middle East: Regional Disorder

### Acronyms and abbreviations

**GCC**—Gulf Cooperation Council

**IMF**—International Monetary Fund

**IPO**—Initial public offering

**ISIS**—Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (also called IS—Islamic State; ISIL—Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; Daesh)

**MbS**—Mohammad bin Salman

**NATO**—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

**UKIP**—United Kingdom Independence Party

**UAE**—United Arab Emirates

**UNRWA**—United Nations Relief and Works Agency

### Glossary

**Abdel Fattah el-Sisi:** President of Egypt since 2014 and re-elected in 2018. A former member of the Egyptian military and leader in the cabinet, he opposes the Muslim Brotherhood.

**Al Qaeda:** A terrorist organization of militants, jihadists, and extremists founded in 1988. Spanning across several countries, Al Qaeda's aim is to create an orthodox Muslim world and eradicate other religions and belief systems, including more liberal ideologies in Islam. They have been responsible for many terrorist attacks, large and small, throughout the world, including the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

**Arab Spring:** 2010 revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East that protested low quality of life in these countries due to governments and regimes. It spread via social media and sparked public protests, uprisings, riots and conflict, often leading to regime change.

**Ayatollah Khamenei:** The current and second Supreme Leader of Iran, since 1989, he is the most powerful leader in Iran, and highly influential in diplomatic relations and policy decisions.

**Ba'athism:** An ideology that advocates for the unification of Arabs into a socialist state, mainly evident in Iraq and Syria.

**Bashar al-Assad:** President of Syria since 2000, and re-elected in 2014, though controversially. He has been accused of war crimes in the Syrian Civil War and has been called upon to resign.

**Deforestation:** The removal of forests and trees, especially rainforests, to create urban landscapes and farmlands.

**Green Movement:** Political movement in 2009 in Iran that protested the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, believed by many to have been elected fraudulently.

**Hamas:** An extremist Sunni organization that is associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, and operates in Palestine and Palestinian territories. It controls the Gaza Strip.

**Hassan Rouhani:** Current and third President of Iran since 2013, and re-elected in 2017. He is known as a part of the moderate party and for striving to improve Iran's diplomatic relations.

**Hezbollah:** A Shi'a political party and militant group based in Lebanon but also found in Syria.

**ISIS:** A jihadist terrorist group that aims to create a worldwide Islamic state, currently based in Iraq and Syria. The group has been responsible for many terrorist attacks throughout the world, and have had control over large territories in Iraq and Syria, attempting to forcibly create their Islamic state.

**Jamal Khashoggi:** A Saudi Arabia-born journalist, a columnist for *The Washington Post*, who was assassinated in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on October 2, 2018. His death is thought to have been ordered by the Saudi prince and leader, Mohammad bin Salman.

**Kurds:** A largely Sunni Muslim people with their own language and culture who mostly live in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Syria.

**Mohammad bin Salman:** The crown prince and current prime minister of Saudi Arabia who was recently accused of ordering the assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

**Muslim Brotherhood:** A Sunni Islam movement and organization founded in Egypt. Religious, political and social, it has influenced many Islamist groups and politics throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

**Pan-Arabism:** A cultural and political ideology of the unification of Arab countries throughout North Africa and the Middle East.

**Pan-Islam:** A political ideology for the unity of Muslim people into one country with Islamic ideals.

**Proxy war:** War between two parties, which can be states or non-states, that uses or supports third parties to fight for them, while the two main parties are not directly involved in the armed conflict.

**Recep Tayyip Erdoğan:** President of Turkey since 2014, re-elected in 2018. He has been criticized for implementing anti-democratic practices and policy changes in the country.

**Saddam Hussein:** Iraqi President from 1979 to 2003. He was executed in Iraq in 2003 for crimes against humanity, and was known for being inhumane in his invasions of neighboring countries.

**Shi'a:** The second largest branch of Islam, Shi'a Muslims are in the majority in Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan and Bahrain.

**Sunni:** The largest branch of Islam, with some 85% of the world's Muslims.

**Wahhabism:** A branch of Sunni Islam that is extremely conservative. It is the prevailing branch of Islam in Saudi Arabia.