

# The Battle of Ideas

- Analysis of regional security in the Middle East presents a very complex challenge-given the many perspectives from which it must be considered.
- The Shebaa farms controversy.
- The connection between the Shebaa and the Golan Heights and its relevance to the current conflict and the continued presence of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
- Complete implementation of UNSC Resolution 1559-"disbanding of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia in Lebanon, as well as the extension of control of the Lebanon Government over all Lebanese territory.
- Following the June 1967 war, UN Security Council Resolution 242 was adopted in November that year, providing for a "land for peace" solution.
- The resolution called for Israeli withdrawal from territories it had occupied during the war in exchange for peace with its neighbours.
- Possible future UN involvement in the demarcation process and its implications.



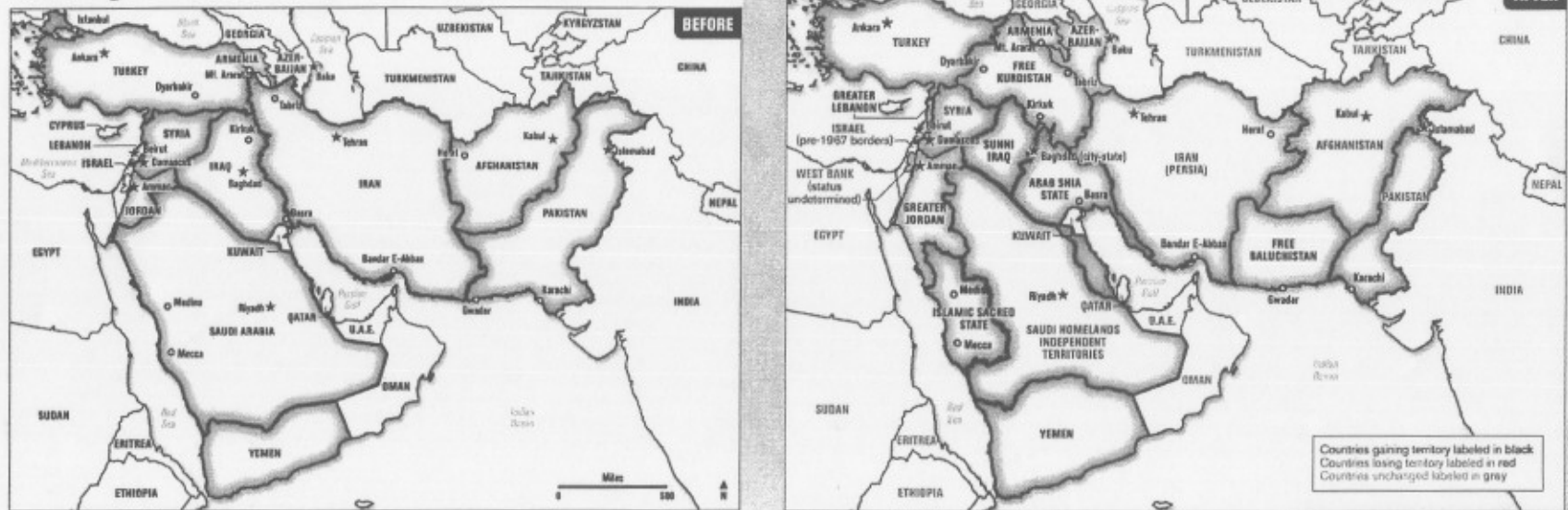
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## The Battle of Ideas

- The “New Middle East” Redrawing through regime change (**Maps taken from June 2006 volume of US Armed Forces Journal**)
- USA: Democratize the region but on our terms
- Work only with Leaders and Organisations willing to work with us.

Redrawing the Middle East map



- Iran and Syria also wanting to change the region but not according to the American-style democracy – Islamic principals must have major role.



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# South Africa's policy on the Middle East

- Reasons for engagement:
  - Peace in the Middle East.
  - Diverts resources and attention from the African Agenda and the Agenda of the South.
  - SA in a position to influence developments.
- Principles:
  - No military solution to the conflict.
  - Commitment to multilateralism to secure a sustainable solution and rules-based international order.



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# South Africa's policy on the Middle East Conflict

- Israeli extra-judicial killings are in violation of international law.
- Israel has legitimate security concerns, but limits must be placed on the violation of human rights in the name of counter-terrorism.
- No cause can justify resorting to terror against civilians (rocket attacks)
- SA condemns Israeli policy of collective punishment in Lebanon and other areas in the Middle East.



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## Do we React? - Implications for South Africa

- South Africa was involved in efforts to **evacuate its citizens** from the areas of conflict. In this regard it asked the governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom to assist.
- The South African Government is currently faced with calls from various interest groups in South African society for **the imposition of sanctions against Israel** and the withdrawal of our Ambassador to that country.
- **Energy Security at stake.** South Africa receives more than 70% of its crude oil from the Middle East. Oil price is already at record highs. (US\$ 76 per barrel)
- **Threat to South African Investments in Iran?** MTN and SASOL heavily invested in physical infrastructure that could be targeted (telecommunications and petrochemical plants)



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## Do we React? - A Course of Action

- Echo calls for an immediate cease-fire
- Call for the release of prisoners on both sides of the conflict
- Support the concept of the deployment of a UN Force
- Continue calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory
- Call for the resumption of Israeli Palestinian Dialogue
- Support Relief Efforts (Inter-faith effort led by DFA already underway)
- Support international efforts to strengthen the Government of Lebanon.
- Support confidence building measures to help ensure that the cease-fire holds.



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## FUTURE TRAJECTORY

- Cease-fire may hold, should Lebanese concerns be addressed.
- A return to renewed efforts to place Palestine at the center of discussions.
- A speedy deployment of UN troops to ensure compliance to a cease-fire by both Israel and Hezbollah.
- A more prominent involvement by the UN in terms of conflict and post conflict resolution.



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