



Arab Digest

Essential reading, essential listening from
independent sources



Light: Libya's Criminal Networks

...n people have been abandoned
...ary elites that control the country
...doms; their success in
...elves in the state apparatus and
...ace talks means that unless bold
...taken, the country's future



Yemen's bleak education picture

Summary: the damage done to Yemen's education system by 8 years of protracted war is deep and will be lasting, scarring the country's youth while denying them the possibility of productive work and meaningful careers.

February 21, 2023



Asian take on the migrant

Summary: a western media focus on the ill-treatment of sub-Saharan migrants ignores another harsh reality, the desperation of young Tunisians seeking to escape the economic crisis engulfing their country.

September 26, 2023 • No Comments



Saving face

Summary: diplomacy rather than bullets marked the end, at least for the time being, of a dispute between Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan that had not been resolved but had the potential to explode into a major military confrontation.

September 26, 2023 • No Comments



MBS's army: growing signs of discontent

Summary: the execution of two army pilots signals all is not well in the Saudi military as discontent festers and resentment is quelled with harsh measures.

September 25, 2023 • 1 Comment



Points and silences of Bishop of Canterbury

...elby has long expressed his
...ut as the most extreme




The Cairo link in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi

Summary: five years ago this week the journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered. Did New Jersey



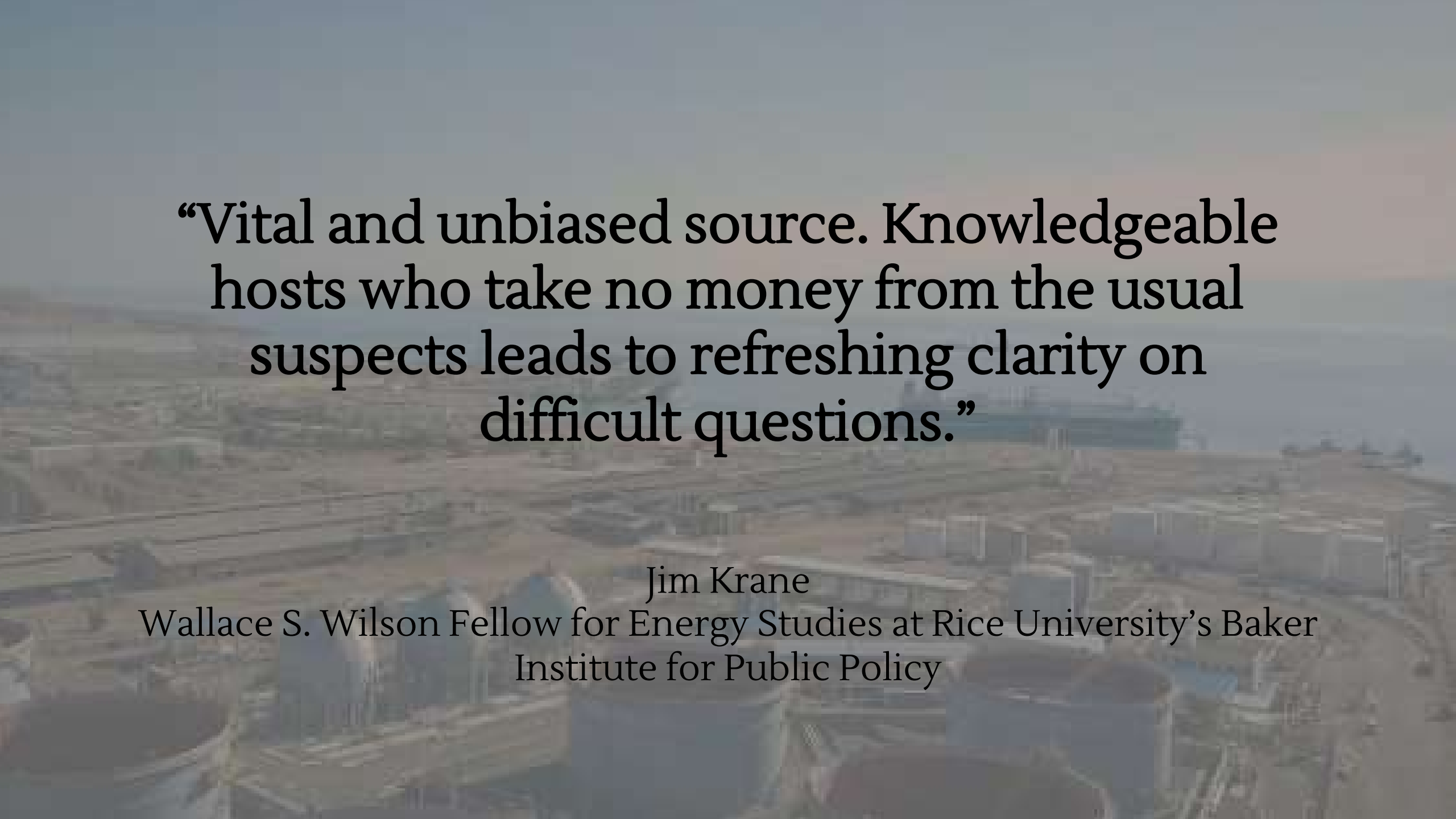
Derna reconstruction

Summary: the Derna disaster demand immediate response but already the H holding survivors hostage as it attempt

A woman wearing a black hijab and sunglasses is looking down. The background is a faded cityscape. The text is overlaid on the image.

“Absolutely indispensable. If I’m pressed for time, Arab Digest is my first stop for objective analysis of the issues of the day affecting the Middle East. It achieves the impossible: a quick fix without sacrificing depth.”


Elisabeth Kendall
The Mistress of Girton College,
Cambridge University

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Houston, Texas, showing a large stadium in the foreground and a dense urban area extending to the horizon. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

“Vital and unbiased source. Knowledgeable hosts who take no money from the usual suspects leads to refreshing clarity on difficult questions.”

Jim Krane

Wallace S. Wilson Fellow for Energy Studies at Rice University's Baker
Institute for Public Policy



“In a crowded information environment, Arab Digest is a go-to source for trenchant MENA analysis that cuts through the noise. The podcast is one of my favorite listens”

Amy Hawthorne
Former Research Director Project on Middle East
Democracy (POMED)



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New episode

Biden blunders in the Middle East

Jon Hoffman – Policy analyst at the Cato
Institute



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Arab world



New episode Iraq and a way forward

Renad Mansour - Project Director of the Iraq Initiative at Chatham House



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through with
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analysis



New episode Captagon, Assad and the new normal

Caroline Rose - Director of the Strategic Blind Spots Portfolio at the New Lines Institute



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“Arab Digest not only offers cutting edge analysis on the most current events in the MENA region, it also covers with great nuance and using renowned experts topics not covered in major media outlets”

Maged Mandour

Political analyst and writer, Sada Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Repressive apparatus and the politics in Egypt

Summary: the overthrow of President Morsi and the establishment of a new model of repression in Egypt, one that is not to manage dissent but to obliterate it.

3



On that Palestinian village that probably never heard of

Summary: a small step forward in an otherwise bleak situation may save a unique Palestinian farming community inside Jerusalem from being ethnically cleansed.

2

Yemen: implications of acute political fragmentation in Hadhramaut

Summary: the STC is striving to claim the mantle of the southern secessionist movement but it faces challenges from its rivals in the south while Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with their relations over Yemen fraying, each look for advantage by supporting opposite sides.

June 26, 2023



Oil: In Search Of Stability

Summary: despite what was, by all accounts, a challenging discussion at the OPEC+ weekend, Saudi Arabia and the UAE pragmatic outcome consist in stabilising the oil price.

June 4, 2023

Double bogey

Summary: the Iranian professional revolutionaries and raised the stakes for a winner.

Way forward

Editor William Law's guest this week is Amir, a Senior Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme and the Project Director of the Iraq Initiative at London's Chatham House. Their conversation ranges widely, looking at the current government in place for nearly a year; the continuing role of Iran, what needs to happen to curb the corruption throttling the country and the determination of young Iraqis to replace a system that denies them with one that empowers their hopes and enables their aspirations.

September 12, 2022



Of fathers and daughters

Summary: a Moroccan father grieves for his daughter; a Bahraini daughter risks all to save her father.

September 12, 2022



Palestine and a looming food crisis

Summary: Republicans in Washington have invoked an arcane device to withhold urgently needed humanitarian food aid to Palestinians.

September 7, 2023



An economy in crisis after 10 years of the Sisi dictatorship

Summary: ten years of Sisi rule has inflicted huge damage on the economy of Egypt while enriching the military elite, decimating the private sector and wrecking the lives of tens of millions of Egyptians.



10 Years after the Coup: The Lawlessness of Counterrevolution in Egypt

Summary: Arab Digest continues our interrogation of the 3 July 2013 coup with an analysis of Sisi's 'legal' justifications for his rule by dictatorship.



Militarisation and women's rights in Egypt

Summary: in the militarised world of Sisi's Egypt women pay the heaviest of prices, with violence against girls and women endemic; one third of family households are run by women and rampant inflation



AI and the digitalisation drive in the Middle East and North Africa

Summary: the digital transition is causing major changes across the world, from the adoption of AI chatbots like ChatGPT to major investments in IT infrastructure and fibre-optic cables. The Middle East is scrambling to keep up with the latest developments.

May 15, 2023 • No Comments



Assad and the ICJ

Summary: while Syria's Bashar al-Assad basks in the mostly friendly embrace of his Arab counterparts, Canada and the Netherlands are taking the dictator and his regime to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

June 13, 2023 • No Comments



Assad and the road back

Summary: as his allies and former Arab critics rally to the Syrian president he is using the lure of reconstruction contracts to strengthen his rule.

May 9, 2023 • No Comments



Dangerous liaisons

Summary: as outside players become more engaged and the violence in Sudan gathers pace so too does the risk of a major conflagration that could engulf the region.

May 4, 2023 • No Comments



Egypt continues to harass family members of political prisoners

Summary: the wife of an imprisoned lawyer was arrested and forced to retract her account of how her husband was tortured in the notorious Badr prison complex.

May 2, 2023 • No Comments




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H.E. Yasin Al-Rumayyis
Governor of FIC



Egypt's Debt Crisis Morphing into a Banking Crisis?

Summary: as Egypt's debt load mounts inexorably the rate of reform including the demand from lenders to demilitarise the economy is moving so slowly it may precipitate a banking collapse.

May 10, 2023 • No Comments



Sudan and a seven-day ceasefire

Summary: a short ceasefire that was ignored more than it was honoured is coming to an end and the prognosis for a peaceful solution remains grim unless the US and other Western nations bring pressure to bear on the states backing rival sides: Egypt and the UAE.

May 26, 2023 • No Comments



A rare street protest in Bahrain

Summary: for more than a decade the government of Bahrain has used the harsh repression of individual rights and the banning of protests to silence critics but this week saw the detention of a prominent cleric bring people defiantly into the streets.

May 25, 2023 • No Comments

