

# Topic I. The U.S. and the Middle East

*From NOBR 2014:*

1. Do you think Israel and an independent Palestinian state could coexist peacefully with each other, or not?

- Yes
- No

2. In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

- Israel
- Palestinians
- Both
- Neither

*From NOBR 2015*

3. In terms of the political situation in the Middle East, which is more important?

- Democratic governments, even if there is less stability in the region
- Stable governments, even if there is less democracy in the region

4. The United States has traditionally pursued several major interests in the Middle East, including the free flow of oil, the security of Israel, and fighting terrorism. Are these still the most important and relevant issues for the American national interest?

- Yes
- No

5. The Bush administration’s decision to invade Iraq continues to hang over discussions of American Middle East policy. In retrospect, did the overthrow of Saddam Hussein advance the interests of the United States and its regional allies?

- Yes
- No

6. The Arab uprisings of 2011 unleashed a massive wave of protests demanding democracy, justice, and freedom. While those are traditionally considered to be American values, the targets of their rage were almost all American allies. Should the United States prioritize its alliances or its values in the Middle East?

- Prioritize alliances
- Prioritize values

7. The Trump administration negotiated the Abraham Accords normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab states on the premise that the Palestinian issue no longer mattered. Does that assumption seem correct in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and the Israeli war on Gaza which followed?

- Yes
- No

8. Since at least 1991, the United States has been the dominant power in the Middle East. In recent years, that primacy has been challenged by the rise of China and Russia, declining American involvement, and increasing independence of America’s regional allies. Are we now living in a multipolar Middle East, or is the United States still the primary power in the region?

- Multipolar Middle East
- United States is still the primary power in the Middle East

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