

# CURRENT HISTORY

December 2010

Vol. 109, No. 731

## CONTENTS

- 363 How the Peace Process Plays in Israel . . . . .** *Tamar Hermann*  
Most Israelis, while they support the latest round of talks, are skeptical that a permanent peace agreement will result.
- 370 The Mideast After Iran Gets the Bomb . . . . .** *Bruce Riedel*  
Iran likely will become a nuclear weapons state within five years. For the region, this will be unsettling but not catastrophic.
- 376 The Rise and Fall of Political Reform in the Arab World . . . . .** *Marina Ottaway*  
Evidence from Egypt and Iraq bolsters the view that reform depends not on formal institutions and procedures, but on internal power dynamics.
- 383 Israel's Existential Predicament:  
Population, Territory, and Identity . . . . .** *Sergio DellaPergola*  
As Arabs' share of the Israeli population continues to grow, it gets harder to deny that the country is becoming a binational state. *Third in a series on demographic dilemmas.*
- 390 Iraq Struggles to Govern Itself . . . . .** *Daniel Serwer*  
When the prolonged power struggle in Baghdad finally ends, the outcome could be a Shiite-dominated government that alienates Sunnis and befriends Tehran.
- 395 Fragile State: Yemen in Conflict . . . . .** *Lucas Winter*  
Al Qaeda operatives who ship bombs to America are not Yemen's only problem. The government is trying to control restive highlands and avoid a proxy war involving Saudi Arabia and Iran.
- PERSPECTIVE**
- 401 The Paradox of Visibility: Gay in the Middle East . . . . .** *Brian Whitaker*  
In cultures that pretend homosexuality doesn't exist, or view it as a Western perversion, gay men and lesbians are forced to lead furtive lives.
- BOOKS**
- 403 Muslims in the Melting Pot . . . . .** *William W. Finan Jr.*  
A new book examines the role of Islam in America, where many citizens continue to view the religion through the prism of terrorism originating in the Middle East.
- THE MONTH IN REVIEW**
- 405 October 2010**  
An international chronology of events in October, country by country, day by day.
- 407 2010 Current History Index**