

1. Why is Jordan keeping out Palestinian refugees?
Khaled Abu Toameh, Gatestone Institute, 17 April 2012

Jordan's treatment of Palestinian refugees is not uncommon for an Arab country. In the past, Palestinians have also been denied entry into Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Libya. Palestinians are being held in tents, with poor sanitary conditions.

<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3019/jordan-palestinian-refugees>

2. The last chance for diplomacy to stop Iran
Brig Gen (ret) Michael Herzog, Bicom Analysis, 19 April 2012

Strong evidence suggests that Iran's nuclear programme is intended to actually construct nuclear weapons, not merely to develop the capability to do so. If it is not stopped soon, Iran will acquire the capacity to build nuclear weapons, shield that capacity from possible attack, and ultimately sprint to construct nuclear weapons when it deems circumstances ripe.

<http://www.bicom.org.uk/analysis-article/6409/>

3. So much for the Arab Spring
Michele Chabin, the New York Jewish Week, 12 April 2012

Palestinians are bankrupt and demoralised, yet politics and intifadas have lost their appeal.

http://www.thejewishweek.com/news/israel/so_much_arab_spring

4. Possible Russian responses to an attack on Iran
Zvi Magen, INSS Insight, 17 April 2012

The impression has been created that Russia as yet has no clear, unequivocal stance, at least externally, on how it would react if and when Iran comes under attack. Internal disagreement reflects both indecisiveness and various ambitions. Nonetheless, the preparations for a military response to an attack on Iran seem genuine enough. <http://www.inss.org.il/upload/%28FILE%291334659142.pdf>

5. Is Turkey getting dragged into a war with Syria?
Dr Can Kasapoglu, BESA Perspectives, 18 April 2012

As the turmoil in Syria continues and the security environment of Turkey worsens, two factors might lead to unilateral Turkish military intervention in Syria: a refugee crisis that forces Ankara to establish a buffer zone within Syrian territory, and/or defensive military measures needed to stop PKK terrorism.

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/docs/perspectives170.pdf>

6. Israel has been taken over by a deep, horrifying apathy

Haaretz Editorial, 19 April 2012

If in the past Israelis looked away so as not to see what was happening in the state's backyard, now they're doing the same when the offense takes place right in front of their lounge chairs.

<http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/israel-has-been-taken-over-by-a-deep-horrifying-apathy-1.425188>