The Middle East

Autocrats Hang On
How Assad Outfoxed His Foes
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Egypt’s Fascist Moment
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The Stormy Arab Spring
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Flexibly adapting to changing circumstances and unleashing ruthless violence, Bashar al-Assad has clung to power and demonstrated how dangerous it is to underestimate him.

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Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood were political naïfs, but they never really had a chance against a bureaucratic behemoth determined to protect its privileges.

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In the months since President Hassan Rouhani’s election, he has signaled his intention to seek normalized relations with Washington. Can he overcome internal obstacles?

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Fragile and too important to ignore, Iraq could revert to all-out civil war. But restraining factors, including converging US and Iranian interests, might keep the peace.

356  Propaganda and Power in the Middle East ...................... Emile Nakhleh
Autocrats pervert soft power in the region by peddling the unpersuasive message that all political opponents are terrorists or tools of foreign plots. Third in a series on soft power around the world.

PERSPECTIVE

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Three years ago, the Arab people rose up to demand bread, dignity, and freedom. While reactionary forces have proven resilient, there is no going back to the old status quo.

BOOKS

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In his new book, Shibley Telhami analyzes extensive polling data from the Middle East, finding that public opinion embraces regional uprisings but dwells on old grievances.

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

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An international chronology of events in October, country by country, day by day.