

# The Untold Story: The White House And The Middle East From The Cold War To The War On Terror

Amidst the shifting sands of global politics, few regions have witnessed as much turmoil and intrigue as the Middle East. From the onset of the Cold War to the ongoing War on Terror, the United States, with the White House at the helm, has played a significant role in shaping the destiny of this volatile region.

The Middle East holds a strategic importance that transcends geographical boundaries. Its vast energy resources and geostrategic positions have made it a focal point for global powers seeking to secure their interests. This article dives deep into the White House's involvement in the Middle East, exploring key events and policies that have shaped the region's trajectory.

## The Cold War: Paving the Path

The aftermath of World War II set the stage for intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Middle East became a battleground where these superpowers vied for influence. The White House, under presidents such as Truman and Eisenhower, implemented policies aimed at countering Soviet influence and safeguarding Western interests, particularly regarding oil production and trade routes.

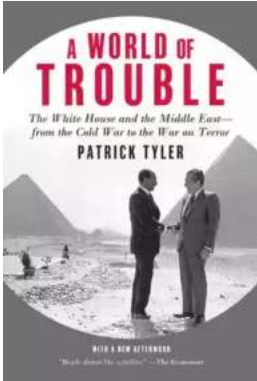
### **A World of Trouble: The White House and the Middle East--from the Cold War to the War on**

**Terror** by Patrick Tyler(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3348 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 653 pages



One significant event was the Suez Crisis in 1956, which showcased the White House's desire to maintain stability in the region. The Eisenhower administration, working alongside the United Nations, brokered a ceasefire between Egypt and Israel, safeguarding the vital Suez Canal and preventing further conflict.

## **The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Navigating Tense Waters**

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been a central issue in Middle Eastern politics for decades. The White House has consistently sought to broker peace between the warring parties. The Camp David Accords of 1978, facilitated by President Jimmy Carter, marked a significant breakthrough by bringing together Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has posed numerous challenges for subsequent administrations. The White House has continually attempted to mediate negotiations, striving for a two-state solution and lasting peace. From the Oslo Accords to the failed Camp David Summit of 2000, American presidents have stepped into the role of peacemakers, determined to resolve this long-standing dispute.

## **The Gulf Wars: A New Era of Intervention**

The end of the Cold War saw a dramatic shift in the Middle East and the role of the White House. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 prompted a swift response from the international community, led by the United States.

The first Gulf War marked a turning point, demonstrating the White House's readiness to employ military force to safeguard regional stability and protect vital interests. The subsequent imposition of no-fly zones and economic sanctions on Iraq illustrated a new era of interventionism, with the United States taking the lead in shaping Middle Eastern affairs.

## **Terrorism and the War on Terror**

The devastating terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, shook the world and brought the Middle East to the forefront of global attention. The White House, under President George W. Bush, initiated the infamous War on Terror, with Afghanistan and Iraq becoming primary battlegrounds.

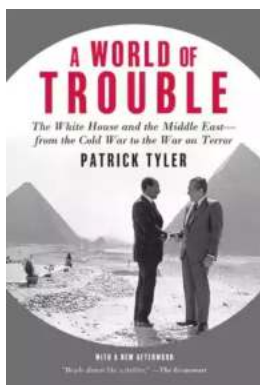
The invasion of Iraq in 2003 was a watershed moment, leading to a protracted conflict and a series of unforeseen consequences. The White House's tactics and intentions came under scrutiny, with debates surrounding the justification and aftermath of the invasion. The ongoing fight against terrorism has reshaped the Middle East and continues to be a defining challenge for the United States.

## **Looking Ahead: Challenges and Perspectives**

As the Middle East navigates its way through the complexities of the modern world, the role of the White House remains pivotal. From diplomatic efforts to military interventions, the United States continues to wield influence in shaping the region's trajectory. Challenges such as the ongoing Syrian civil war, the rise of ISIS, and the nuclear ambitions of Iran require strategic decisions and careful diplomacy.

The White House's stance on the Middle East is often a reflection of domestic priorities and global power dynamics. As administrations change, so do approaches and policies, influencing relationships with regional powers and shaping the course of events.

The story of the White House and the Middle East from the Cold War to the War on Terror is a complex narrative, filled with triumphs and failures, and intertwined with the destinies of nations. It is a tale that continues to unfold, with each decision and action leaving a lasting impact on this critical region.



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A spellbinding narrative account of America in the Middle East that "reads almost like a thriller" (The Economist)

The Middle East is the beginning and the end of U.S. foreign policy: events there influence our alliances, make or break presidencies, govern the price of oil, and draw us into war. But it was not always so—and as Patrick Tyler shows in *A World of Trouble*, a thrilling chronicle of American misadventures in the region. The story

of American presidents' dealings there is one of mixed motives, skulduggery, deceit, and outright foolishness, as well as of policymaking and diplomacy.

Tyler draws on newly opened presidential archives to dramatize the approach to the Middle East across U.S. presidencies from Eisenhower to George W. Bush. He takes us into the Oval Office and shows how our leaders made momentous decisions; at the same time, the sweep of this narrative—from the Suez crisis to the Iran hostage crisis to George W. Bush's catastrophe in Iraq—lets us see the big picture as never before. Tyler tells a story of presidents being drawn into the affairs of the region against their will, being kept in the dark by local potentates, being led astray by grasping subordinates, and making decisions about the internal affairs of countries they hardly understand. Above all, he shows how each president has managed to undo the policies of his predecessor, often fomenting both anger against America on the streets of the region and confusion at home.

A World of Trouble is the Middle East book we need now: compulsively readable, free of cant and ideology, and rich in insight about the very human challenges a new president will face as he or she tries to restore America's standing in the region.



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