



North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

NATO Crisis management in Middle East

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Agenda

1. 21st Century Geopolitical Challenges: Sources of Conflict and Instability in Middle East.
2. NATO Crisis management in Middle East.
3. The Middle East in 2017 and Beyond: Trends and Drivers



21st Century Geopolitical Challenges: Sources of Conflict and Instability

CREATE NEW COUNTRIES

Turkey modernizes under Ataturk

- Ataturk's laws:
 - replaces Arabic alphabet with Western
 - bans wearing traditional dress like men's fez or women's headscarves
 - all marriages must be civil
 - army, schools strengthened
 - manufacturing introduced

LEGACY: Today, Turkey (NOT) REALLY WANTS to join European Union.

Persia becomes independent Iran and becomes a Shi'ite nation under the Safavid dynasty, 1521-1722.

- In 1906, the weak kings are overthrown and a parliament (majlis) established.
- Oil already discovered in Persian Gulf.

A new country – Saudi Arabia

- A powerful Sheik, Saud ibn Abdul-Aziz, unites Bedouin tribes in alliance with strict Wahhabi Muslims – the Ikhwan.
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is created in 1926.
- Oil discovered in 1930s.
- US forms alliance during World War II.

New country created – IRAQ – Gertrude Bell's borders.

New actor – Palestine (McMAHON AGREEMENT)

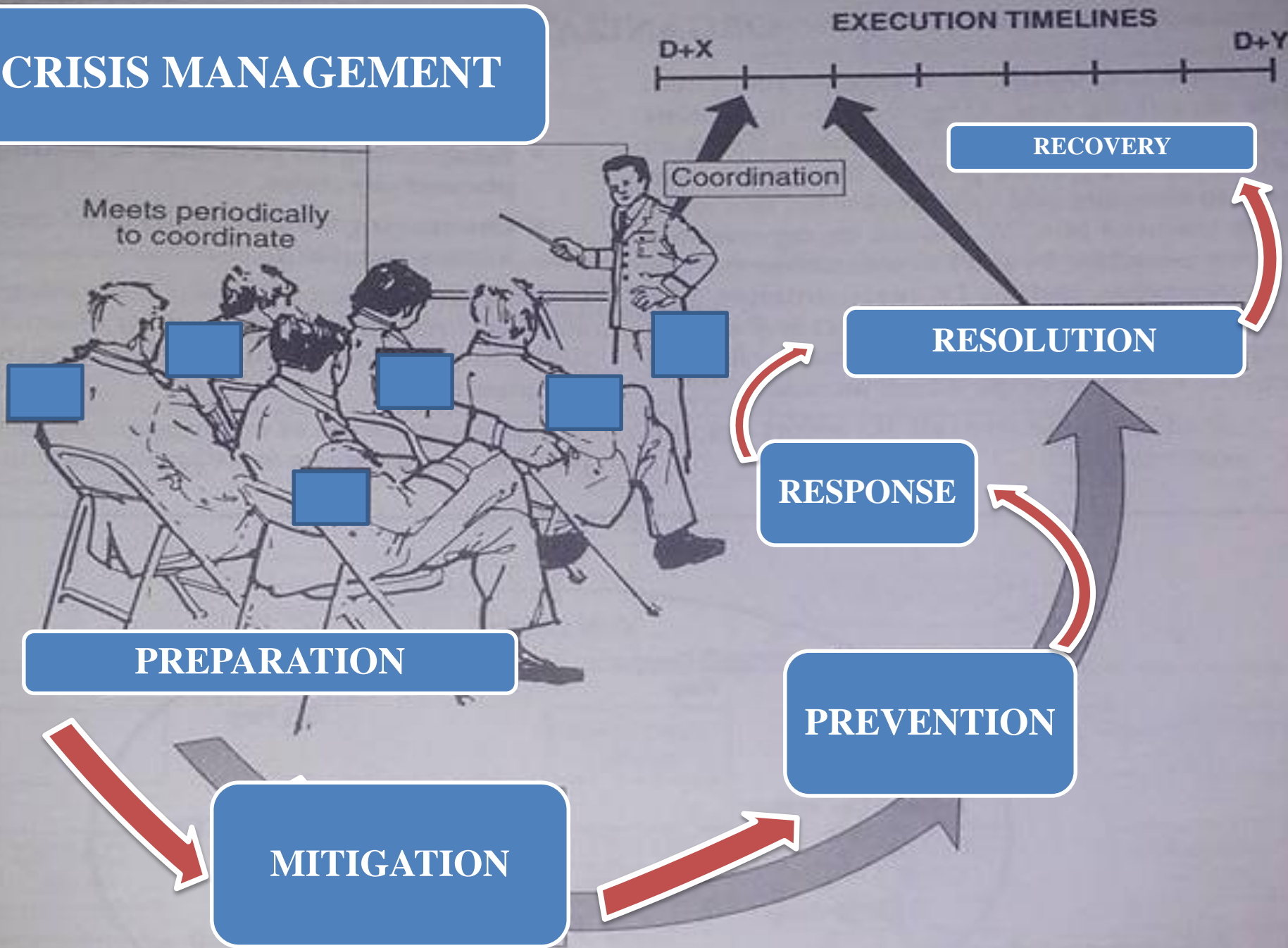
- Jewish settlers hoped to establish homeland for their people in Palestine (Zionism). Bought mostly waste land from locals under Ottoman law.
- By World War I, local Arabs were already beginning to clash with the settlers, who used only their own labor.
- However, more Arabs were moving in to the territory because the general economy was improving.

New state – Israel (BALFOUR DECLARATION)



NATO Crisis management in Middle East.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT



THE MIDDLE EAST IN 2017 AND BEYOND: TRENDS AND DRIVERS

TRENDS AND DRIVERS

- Not Enough Land, Not Enough Water
- Oil: Curse or Cure
- Failing and Resurging States
- State-Backed and State-Wannabe Non-State Actors
- Political Islam and Secular Nationalism (Political Islam or Islamic politics?)
- The Sunni-Shi'i Divide
- The Intra-Sunni Divide
- Barbarism and Civility
- State and Civil Society
- Refugees without Borders and Population Transfers

ACTORS & LANDSCAPE

Irregular Warfare Operations

Democracy export

Situational awareness

Russia's Active Measures Revival

Covert (Para)military Campaigns

Great powers

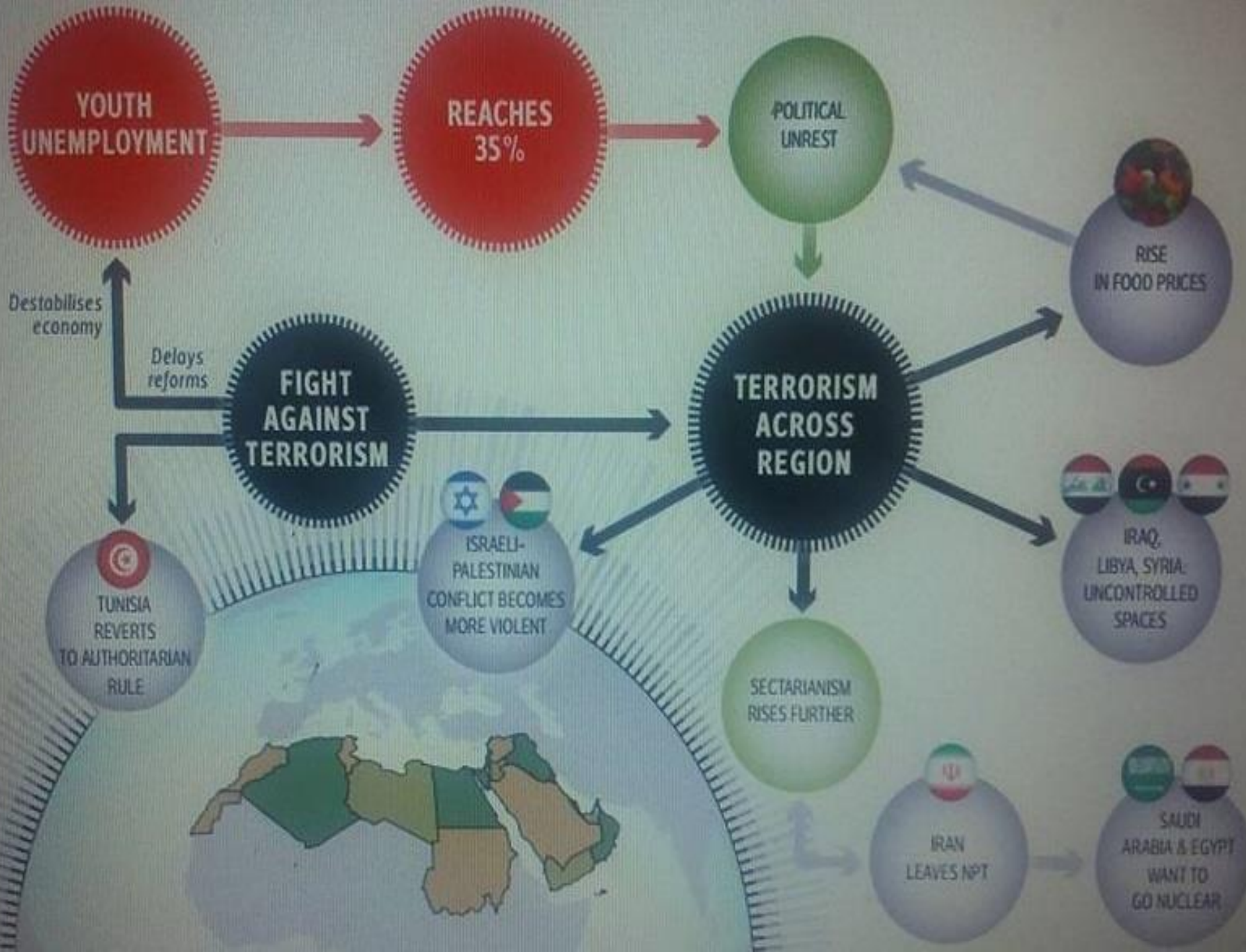
Info operations

Rebels, insurgents and terrorist organizations

Non state actors

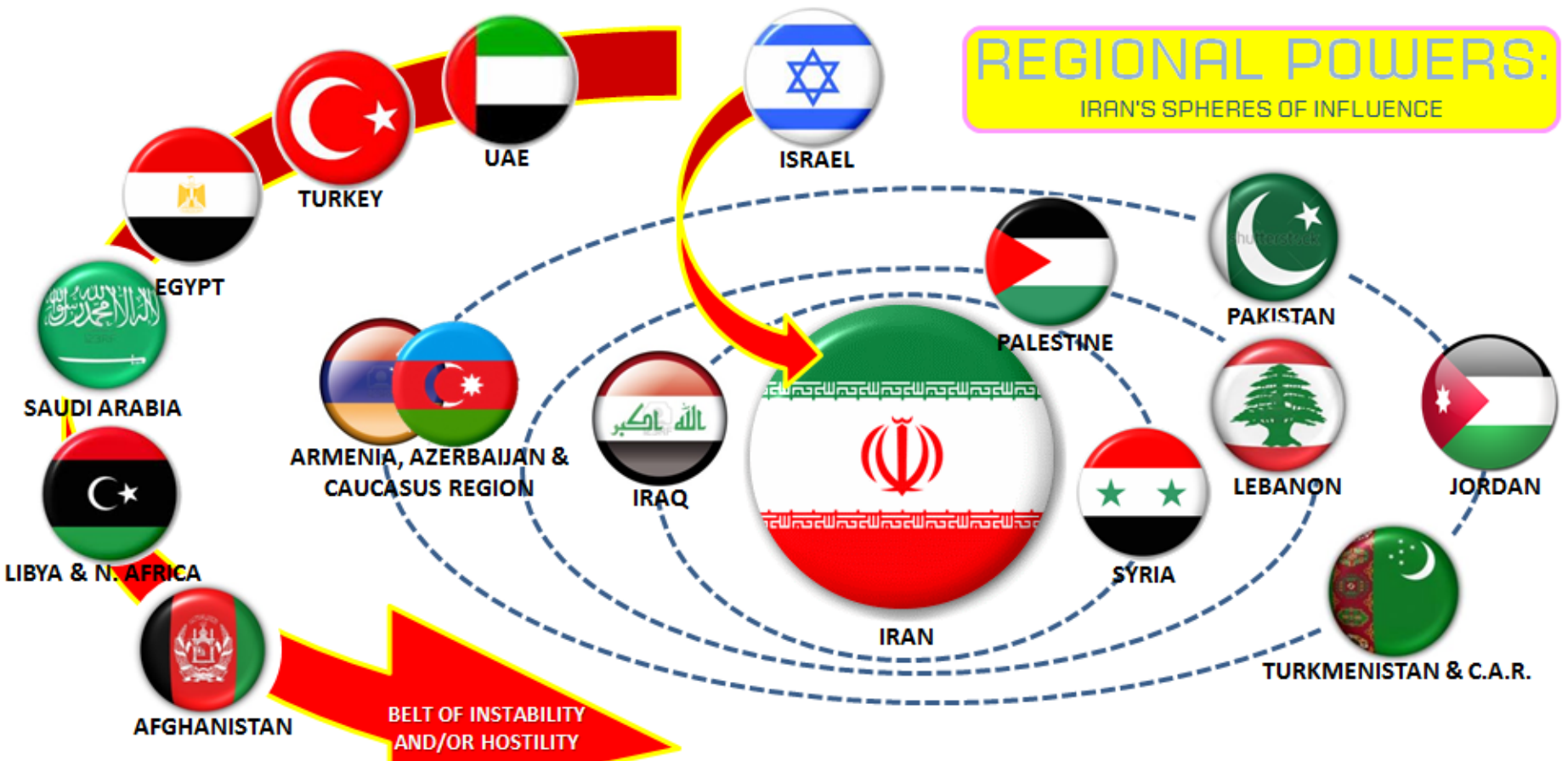
SCENARIOS

- Syria and Iraq separation alongside with establishing a new state Kurdistan
- Sunni territory establishing
- Intra-Sunni conflict in order to defeat the Muslim brotherhood
- Confrontation between a powerful monarchy and government led by the moderate Islamic parties
- Pax Americana or Pax Russica
- China's public diplomacy
- Women in the Arab world. The female role in private and public spaces, between Islam, tradition and modernity
- Pluralism in the Middle East





REGIONAL POWERS: IRAN'S SPHERES OF INFLUENCE



**BELT OF INSTABILITY
AND/OR HOSTILITY**

**FIRST ACTION:
CONSIDER IRAN'S FUTURE IN 2020 BY EVALUATING THE REGION'S TRAJECTORY**

**My vision (wish) is a world at peace,
beginning with the Middle East.**





The Danish atomic physicist Niels Bohr wisely remarked that “prediction is very difficult, especially about the future.”

Fore there if you want to found out the future you need to know the present.

QUESTIONS????