

**Acronyms and abbreviations**

GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council

GWOT: Global War on Terror

IRGC: Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (in Iran)

JCPOA: Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015)

PLO: Palestine Liberation Organization

**Glossary**

**Abraham Accords:** Bilateral agreements on Arab–Israeli normalization signed between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on September 15, 2020

**al-Qaeda:** A militant Islamist group of Sunni jihadists founded by Osama bin Laden; responsible for the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States

**Arab uprisings in 2011:** Also referred to as the Arab Spring

**Bashar al-Assad:** A Syrian politician who is the current president of Syria, since July 17, 2000.

**Camp David Accords:** A pair of political agreements signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on September 17< 1978, following 12 days of secret negotiations at Camp David, the country retreat of the President of the United States in Maryland

**Global War on Terror:** A multinational military campaign led by the United States after the September 11 attacks waged primarily against militant Islamist groups

**Hamas:** Palestinian militant organization and a major Palestinian political party

**Hezbollah:** A militant Shia Muslim group based in Lebanon with close ties to Iran

**Saddam Hussein:** The president of Iraq from 1979 until his capture during the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003

**Islamic State:** Jihadist movement also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or Daesh; conquered territory in Northern Iraq in 2014–2015; self-proclaimed worldwide Muslim caliphate; considered a terrorist organization by the United Nations

**jihadist:** – a Muslim who struggles or strives in the name of Islam or engages in holy war; a term often used to refer to Islamists willing to engage in violence against the West or non-Muslims to achieve their aims

**Levant:** The region of West Asia along the Eastern Mediterranean Sea that currently includes Israel and Palestine

**Oslo Accords:** A pair of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO): the Oslo I Accord, signed in Washington, D.C., in 1993; and the Oslo II Accord, signed in Taba, Egypt, in 1995

**Palestinian Authority:** The Fatah-controlled government body that exercises partial civil control over West Bank areas “A” and “B” as a consequence of the 1993–1995 Oslo Accords