

GREAT DECISIONS

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Competition and cooperation in the Red Sea Region

Acronyms and abbreviations

AQAP—Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

GCC—Gulf Cooperation Council

IMO—International Maritime Organization

NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

PLAN—People’s Liberation Army Navy

RSF—Rapid Support Forces

UAE—United Arab Emirates

Glossary

Bab-el-Mandeb: translated to “Gate of Tears,” it is the strait between Yemen and Djibouti in the Red Sea.

Convention of Constantinople: is an 1888 treaty signed by major European powers that regulates the use of the Suez Canal. The Convention stated that the Suez Canal would be open to “all ships during war and peace.”

al-Duwaima: a small island located in the Red Sea. The island is located off the coast of Saudi Arabia and Yemen and has been a heavily disputed territory between the two.

Fifth Fleet: refers to the historic numbered fleet of the United States Navy. The Fifth Fleet, formed in 1944 to combat Japanese naval forces during World War II, was deactivated after the war. The Fifth Fleet was brought back in 1995 to patrol the waters of the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf.

Hala’ib Triangle: also known as the Halayeb Trian-

gle, the triangle is a section of disputed land between Egypt and Sudan. The issue stems from a border dispute after the Anglo-Egyptian war, which set the border along the 22nd parallel north. The triangle is currently administered by Egypt.

Hamas: is the governing authority of the Gaza Strip. Hamas was founded after the First Intifada as an affiliate of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood.

Hanish Islands: is a group of islands in the Red Sea that are claimed by both Yemen and Eritrea. The Islands were the site of fighting during the 2015 Yemen civil war.

Horn of Africa: refers to the peninsula in Eastern Africa that features the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. The Horn is home to some 115 million people.

Muslim Brotherhood: founded by Hassan al-Banna in 1928, the Brotherhood is a Sunni organization that has run as a political party in Egypt. They successfully won the 2012 Egyptian presidential election when Mohamed Morsi became president. He was overthrown by a military coup after one year. The Brotherhood is now barred from participating in elections and has been listed as a terrorist organization by Egypt.

Operation ATALANTA: a European Union naval operation launched in 2008 to monitor shipping vessels that pass through the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. The operation was launched in response to the growing number of piracy cases around Somalia.

Operation Bright Star: is a series of training exercises between the armed forces of Egypt and the United States. The operation is held biennially and has grown to include other nations’ armed forces. Bright Star began in 1980 to increase ties between the U.S. and its Middle Eastern allies.

Operation Ocean Shield: was a NATO-led naval campaign that sought to curb the rise of pirate attacks in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea. The operation was run from 2009 until it was discontinued by NATO in 2016. The campaign's main focus was on providing security to World Food Programme vessels that were shipping supplies to the Horn of Africa.

“Operation Red Sea”: is a 2018 Chinese film that depicts the Chinese People's Liberation Army rescue of Chinese citizens from Yemen during the outbreak of the Yemeni civil war. The film dramatizes the evacuation of Chinese and foreign nationals from Yemen and was the highest grossing film in China during 2018.

Siad Barre(1919–95): was the president of Somalia from 1969 until 1991. He became president after the 1969 coup against the government of Abdirashid Ali Shermarke. Barre led a one-party rule in Somalia, aligning himself with the Soviet Union. Barre ran the country until he was overthrown in 1991 during the Somali civil war.

Southern Transitional Council: is a secessionist organization that seeks to separate South Yemen (the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) from Yemen. The group seeks to return Yemen to the borders of pre-1990, when Yemen was merged.

Suez Canal: is a waterway that connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. The canal runs along the Isthmus of Suez, that separates Asia and Africa. The canal was constructed by the Suez Canal Company between 1859 and 1869.

Suez Canal Crisis (1956–57): was a conflict that occurred after Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal. The fighting took place over a week and 2 days between Egyptian forces and a coalition of Israel, France and the UK. While Israel was able to gain control of the Sinai peninsula, the political toll was felt in both France and Britain as the crisis closed the canal until March 1957.

Task Force 151: is a multinational naval force and is a collaboration between the U.S. Naval Fifth Fleet, and naval forces from many different nations such as Canada, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore and the UK. The Task Force is most famous for their rescue of Captain Richard Phillips and the Maersk Alabama, which was captured by Somali Pirates on April 1, 2009.

The African Union: is a continental governing body consisting of the 55 countries of Africa. The body was formed in 2002 as a successor to the Organization of African Unity. The union is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Wahhabism: is a religious movement within Islam. Wahhabism was founded in the 18th century as a response to Sunni Islamic traditions of the time. Wahhabism has been linked with the Saud family since the proclamation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932. Wahhabism has been criticized as being “far-right” and “fundamentalist,” and has been accused of inspiring the ideologies of Islamic terrorist organizations.

Wilayat Sinai: is the name given to the Ansar Bait al-Maqdis (Supporters of the Holy House) terrorist group located in the Sinai Peninsula. Wilayat Sinai has pledged its allegiance to ISIS and has become an ISIS branch in Sinai. They have been responsible for attacks against both the Egyptians and Israelis.

