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The New Middle East Cold War and the Future of the Arab State

The Arab world is suffering a crisis of authority unparalleled in its modern history. State authority has collapsed or been severely challenged from Libya to Iraq and Syria to Yemen. This descent into anarchy has not only invited regional and external powers to intervene in these countries, it has also caused a human security crisis that has led to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the displacement of millions of people and the creation of a refugee crisis of enormous proportions. While scholars in the recent past have debated the stability of the Arab authoritarian state and the prospects for democracy, the question now is whether any kind of effective state authority can be reconstituted across the Arab world.

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