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EDITOR'S NOTE

Attention is focused on the Middle East this quarter. As the democratic transitions in Egypt and Tunisia unfold, and the last Gaddafi loyalists are isolated in Libya, U.S. efforts to assist these transitions continue. At the same time, the U.S. has supported the independence of the new nation of South Sudan, but also sought to curtail terrorism by continued attacks on al-Qaeda leaders, most recently killing Anwar Al-Awlaki in Yemen. In Syria, the Assad regime is resisting any major reforms and visiting violent repression on its people; the U.S. and its allies have condemned Assad's actions but have no clear way to influence the Assad regime. The unfolding dramas in the Middle East will likely keep our attention for a while. Be sure to follow all the U.S. responses to the crisis here in the pages of FPB.

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