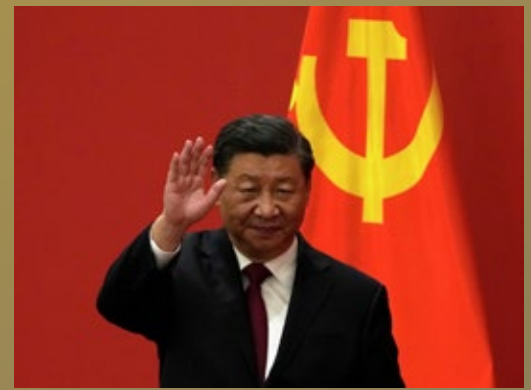


The Most Prominent Political Events in Asia and the Middle East in 2022



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Asia Middle East Forum

The past year 2022 witnessed exceptional global events, which will remain in the memory of those who lived through them, and some of its effects will be reflected on generations. During 2022, many personalities left our world and left imprints that will not be erased inside a lot of people.

Between brokenness and hope.. defeat and victory.. these events ranged, and the interaction of people differed after they preoccupied public opinion and the world with them.

Asia Middle East Forum reviews the most important events and decisions in Asia and the Middle East for the year 2022.

01

Renewing power of Chinese President Xi Jinping for a third term and strengthening his control over the state and the party



In October 2022, the Chinese Communist Party renewed the power of President Xi Jinping as General Secretary of the Party for an unprecedented third term, becoming the first Chinese leader to retain the position 3 times since the founding of the Party 100 years ago.

The renewal of power also enabled him to appoint his allies in the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the party. This Party is the most important group, in addition to the president, that governs the country, and through which it is possible to predict who will be the next president.

02

Pelosi Trip and a Delegation from the U.S. Congress to Taiwan Angers China



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan last August, which Beijing considered a violation of its sovereignty and an undermining of the One-China Principle. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the visit violates China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, harms Chinese sovereignty and shows that the United States is destroying peace in the Taiwan Strait.

At the end of the visit, China conducted massive military exercises to confirm the protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the "Chinese nation",

and to confront the wrong approach of the United States, according to statements by Chinese officials.

03

Global Energy Crisis

Europe is facing the highest energy prices in the world, after Russia reduced natural gas supplies through the Nord Stream pipeline, which is one of the most prominent negative repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

The Global Energy Agency expected that Europe will face a major crisis during the coming winter, calling on the countries of the continent to find ways to deal with the natural gas supply crisis in the coming months, and it is possible that Russian gas supplies to Europe will stop completely next year.



04

Russian War on Ukraine



On February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the launch of a military operation against Ukraine, which sought to join NATO, under the pretext that Ukraine's plans pose a constant threat to Russia's security.

The Russian President stated: "Moscow's attempts to agree not to expand NATO failed, and the situation regarding the expansion of the alliance has become more dangerous. So, we can no longer remain silent." He added that the operation came to "protect Russia from those who held Ukraine hostage and de-Nazification from it, and to protect those who were subjected, for what he described as, 8 years of bullying and genocide by the Ukrainian government."

The two sides suffered huge financial, human and military losses during the 10 months of the war. Many Ukrainian cities were subjected to widespread destruction, and millions of Ukrainians fled to Europe.

05

The G20 Economic Summit, and the meeting of the American President and his Chinese ally on the sidelines of the summit

For the first time after Joe Biden became president of the United States, the US president met his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on the Indonesian island of Bali, ahead of the G20 summit.



The meeting between Biden and Jinping comes at a time when the two countries with the two largest economies in the world are competing for international supremacy. The competition between the two powers intensifies with the growth of Chinese influence and Beijing showing more insistence on changing the global order led by the US and prevailing since World War II.





06

A Year After AUKUS Alliance

The US strategy to confront the Chinese rise relies on establishing security and military alliances within a narrow range. This is the model it presented in its tripartite alliance and the most compact “Ocus” alliance with both Britain and Australia, in addition to establishing partnerships with countries in the Indian and Pacific region that do not consider the US allies in direct confrontation with China and enables Washington to fulfill its security obligations towards its allies.

07

Assigning Anwar Ibrahim to form the government after struggle and obstacles for 25 years



On Nov 24, 2022, Malaysian opposition politician Anwar Ibrahim was appointed prime minister. He became the country's tenth prime minister after a long journey of political struggle that exceeded two and a half decades, a third of which he lived in prison. During his political life, he moved between several leadership positions and political alliances.

Ibrahim's appointment comes after a round of intense political competition between Malaysian coalitions and parties. Hence, the country entered a state of political disparity and mutual accusations of corruption, which was reflected in the economic situation and increased popular discontent.

08

Chinese President's visit to Saudi Arabia... Chinese Arab summits and "shouting" in Washington



The Chinese dragon set out towards the Saudi Arabia Kingdom, which is considered its gateway to the Arab and Gulf world. This visit came because the Saudi Arabia is the convening of the three Chinese-Saudi, Chinese-Gulf, and Chinese-Arab summits. Chinese President Xi Jinping crowned his third term, to constitute an important step for his country, which has long been his country dreamed of the ancient Silk Road after developing it, to suit the geography of the new countries.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz signed with Chinese President Xi Jinping, during the visit, the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between the two countries. Xi stressed that his visit to the Kingdom will open a "new era" for relations between China, the Arab world, the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, they signed the strategic partnership document between Saudi Arabia and China and the plan to harmonize the "Belt and Road" initiative in achieving the "Kingdom's Vision 2030".

09

The Latest News on the Palestinian Issue



2022 is the deadliest year for Palestinians and the highest presence of resistance operations. Israeli violations against Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank increased during 2022, becoming the bloodiest year since 2005. In contrast, the number of specific resistance operations in Jerusalem and the West Bank increased from 19 operations in 2019 to 285 in 2022.

The Washington Post reported that the occupation forces murdered more Palestinians in 2022 than in any year since the United Nations began systematically recording the death toll in 2005.

The American newspaper described the year 2022 as "the bloodiest year for the Palestinians of the West Bank for nearly two decades".

10

FIFA World Cup 2022

The first World Cup in the Arab world and the Islamic world 2022 was held in Qatar from November 20 to December 18, 2022, and it is the second World Cup to be held in Asia after the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. The World Cup ended with Argentina winning the Cup after winning the final match over Lusail Stadium defeated France 4-2 on penalties after a 3-3 draw after extra time.

On the other hand, the American newspaper "Los Angeles Times" published a report entitled "The Palestinian Cause Takes Center Stage in the World Cup", as all teams in North Africa and the Middle East made the Palestinian cause prominent in every match for them.



11

Sri Lankan President Escapes



The President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, fled his official residence in the capital, Colombo, after it was stormed on July 9, 2022, by demonstrators, to protest the worst economic crisis to hit the country in modern history, since the time its independence in 1948.

A spokesman for the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Sri Lanka announced that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa sent his resignation to the Speaker by e-mail shortly after his arrival in Singapore.

12

Assassination of Japan's former Prime Minister



On July 8, 2022, Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, was shot dead while delivering a speech at an election rally in the western city of Nara. He was seriously injured, and announced his death in hospital about 5 hours later.

Abe's death sparked international condemnation. He is the first former Japanese prime minister to be assassinated after World War II, and the sixth former prime minister to be assassinated throughout the existence of Japan Empire.

13

Iran Protests/Mahsa Amini

A series of demonstrations began in Iran on September 14, 2022, following the killing of a young Iranian woman of Kurdish origin, Mahsa Amini. She was severely beaten while in custody and arrested by the Iranian government's morality police on charges of violating hijab laws.

The funeral of the 22-year-old girl in her hometown of Saqz in Iranian Kurdistan turned into a demonstration against the Iranian government. Then, the demonstrations expanded to include various Kurdish cities, to extend to many Iranian cities, demanding freedom and an end to the rule of the clergy.





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