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'Zero Hour' in Middle East As War-Weariness Sets In

Can a Long Cycle of Conflict Be Stopped?

By ROGER COHEN

DAMASCUS, Syria — From the rubble and the ruin, the torture and the terror, the dust and the debris, something is stirring in the Middle East, a spirit that says no to endless cycles of violence and values a future for the region's children above past feuds.

This sentiment is tenuous, contested and vulnerable. But with more than a half-million killed in Syria's 13-year civil war and 70,000 Palestinians killed in the two-year Gaza war, alongside close to 2,000 Israelis, exhaustion



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE NEW YORK TIMES
Scars of Syria's civil war linger in the city of Deir al-Zour.

is widespread. Shun retribution, murmur the war-weary, and think again.

"There is no other solution but finding a solution," said Hassan Smadi, 48, a hospital worker in the battered southern Syrian town of Busra. He lost a younger brother, killed in the relentless bombing by Bashar al-Assad, the dictator ousted in 2014; his family fled to Jordan. "We are tired of war and bored of war, and want only to live peacefully."

Continued on Page A6

329 Days of Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump,

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM and STUART A. THOMPSON

Since his inauguration, President Trump has relentlessly pursued the public's attention each day of his second term in office.

In doing so, Mr. Trump has set out to dominate our collective consciousness unlike any of his predecessors.

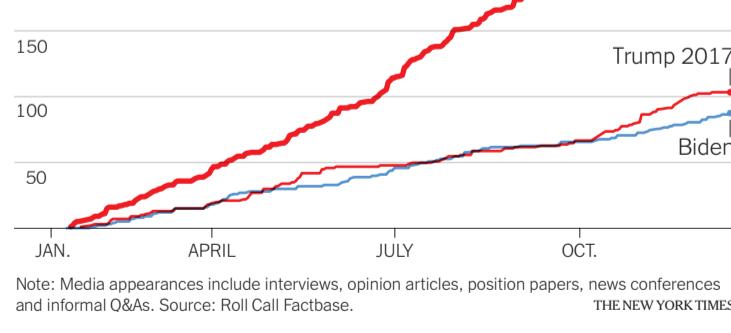
To understand how Mr. Trump has achieved this omnipresence, The New York Times reviewed the first 329 days of his second term, finding at least one instance each day when he attracted the public's attention to himself and his actions.

The review encompassed more than 250 media appearances, more than 320 official appear-

Continued on Page A12

FINDING THE CAMERAS President Trump's appearances have more than doubled those of his own first term and of President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

250 MEDIA APPEARANCES



Note: Media appearances include interviews, opinion articles, position papers, news conferences and informal Q&As. Source: Roll Call Factbase.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

Resonating at the Met Opera

A staging of "I Puritani" provided three hours of drama and, of course, beautiful singing, our critic says.

PAGE C1

Nordic Noir in New York

An exhibition of the works of the Finnish painter Helene Schjerfbeck may leave some visitors awe-struck.

PAGE C1

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Another New Year at War

For Ukrainian troops on the front line, the holiday felt like any other day. After a year of Russian advances, their goal for 2026 is simply to survive.

PAGE A4

Bardot's Polarizing Legacy

The actress, who died this week at 91, was a 1960s cinema icon. She was also a hero to the French far right.

PAGE A9

OBITUARIES B9-10

Maverick in House and Senate

Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado was the only Native American in Congress at the time. He was 92.

PAGE B10

Hospital Accused of Negligence

More than 500 women said in a lawsuit that a doctor in Virginia had performed unnecessary C-sections and sterilizations without their consent.

PAGE A17

Southern California's Trials

The floods last week just before the first anniversary of the January wildfires show how extreme weather is defining life in the L.A. region.

PAGE A16

All Eyes on This N.F.L. Owner

Carlie Irsay-Gordon of the Colts has a distinctive vision of leadership. It is about to face a major test.

PAGE B5

Last Hurdle to the Postseason

The Seahawks are in a great position, if they aren't derailed by turnovers or a slow start against the 49ers.

PAGE B6

THE WEATHER

Today, morning clouds, afternoon sun, cold, breezy, high 30. Tonight, mainly clear, cold, low 24. Tomorrow, morning sun, afternoon clouds, high 33. Weather map, Page A20.

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Taking Oath, Mamdani Vows to Lead 'Audaciously'



Senator Bernie Sanders administering the oath to Mayor Zohran Mamdani, whose wife, Rama Duwaji, held Qurans at two events.

Makes Appeal to Working Class and Critics

By DANA RUBINSTEIN

Zohran Kwame Mamdani, the 34-year-old democratic socialist wunderkind who rose from political obscurity and charmed skeptics from the boardroom to the White House, was publicly sworn in as New York City's mayor on Thursday.

In his first speech as mayor, before a shivering crowd of thousands outside City Hall, Mr. Mamdani sought immediately to assure New Yorkers that he intended to carry out his affordability agenda and that he would refuse to "reset expectations" for what government could and should deliver for the working class and the unprotected.

"The only expectation I seek to reset is that of small expectations," Mr. Mamdani said. "Beginning today, we will govern expansively and audaciously."

He promised to lead unapologetically both as a left-wing Democrat — he was elected as a democratic socialist, and I will govern as a democratic socialist," he said — and as a mayor for all New Yorkers, including those who did not support him.

To those "who view this administration with distrust or disdain," Mr. Mamdani said, "I promise you this: If you are a New Yorker, I am your mayor. Regardless of whether we agree, I will protect you, celebrate with you, mourn alongside you and never, not for a second, hide from you."

The star-studded ceremony at City Hall featured two avatars of the progressive wing of American politics who had helped propel Mr. Mamdani to the mayoralty: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a fellow Democrat representing parts of Queens and the Bronx, delivered opening remarks, and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont administered the oath of office, with Mr. Mamdani, the city's first Muslim mayor, resting his hand on two Qurans held by his wife, Rama Duwaji.

The message from the stage was unmistakable: In New York City, the left is ascendant. And to national Democratic leaders

Continued on Page A14

SECURITY Mayor Zohran Mamdani took office at a time of fear about political violence. PAGE A15

They Fled Kabul 3 Years Ago. Their Boy Is Stuck.

By ANNA GRIFFIN

BEAVERTON, Ore. — Husna Hashemi keeps photos on her phone from the day more than three years ago when she handed her infant son, asleep and swaddled in blankets, to her husband's parents and brother in a city park in Kabul.

She didn't want to leave — even now, speaking in Dari through an interpreter, she wept as she talked about returning to Afghanistan to be with her youngest child.

But her husband, Sayed Rasool Hashemi, had worked for years with the American military, and after the U.S. government fled Afghanistan, the Hashemis faced a terrible choice: Stay and risk everyone's lives or leave their

newborn behind.

"I did not want to go without him," Ms. Hashemi said. "What kind of mother does that?"

The Hashemis' story, told from their neat, snug suburban apartment in Beaverton, Ore., where the immigrants are building new lives, holds twists and bureaucratic dead ends that span two presidential administrations and would make Franz Kafka proud.

It's capped, for now, by President

Continued on Page A11

TIL BÜRGY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Terrorism was ruled out in a fire early Thursday that killed about 40 people in a town in the Alps.

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