

Mideast Conflicts a No-win for the US

The position of Mideast expert COL Richard Hobbs
articulated by Steve Metcalf

Basis of the Position

2

- The fiscal posture of the US is too precarious for further adventurism in the Mideast
- The Mideast is a no-win situation for the US
- The Mideast is of marginal interest to the world except as a problem

Fiscal Posture of the US Too Precarious

3

- \$20 trillion in debt and growing
- China's strong effort to make renminbi the global currency
- Divided Congress reflecting a divided Nation

Mideast Is a No-win Situation for the US

4

- Multiple separate conflicts in the same battle space
- A lack of shared common enemies
- Unstable governments due to economies and intra-Muslim strife
- Asymmetric cost of regional conflicts
- Nothing but lost US blood and treasure since 9-11
- Violent jihadist whack-a-mole is not a strategy
- No path to stable end state

Mideast of Marginal Interest to the World

5

- Fracking and alternative energies reduced ME economic value
- Backward in science, technology, agriculture, medicine and education
- Primarily a transit route
- Western focus should be to prevent its Islamization