

'America wants war with all of us'

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Match the words with their meanings:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1• nationalism | a• a situation in which people, groups or countries join together |
| 2• colonialism | b• a system in which people vote to choose their government |
| 3• fundamentalism | c• a situation in which one country rules another country |
| 4• unity | d• the wish for political independence for a group of people with the same language, history and culture |
| 5• democracy | e• the belief that religious laws should be followed very strictly |

2 Prefixes

Match the prefixes with their meanings:

- | | |
|----------|---------------------|
| 1• pan- | a• for/in favour of |
| 2• neo- | b• against |
| 3• pro- | c• all |
| 4• anti- | d• earth |
| 5• geo- | e• new |

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If you want to know what Arab people think, Cairo is the perfect place. The former Egyptian leader, President Nasser, was the founder of pan-Arab nationalism and Cairo was also the birthplace of "political Islam". Today everyone in Cairo is talking about two things: the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and the possibility of a war between the

United States and Iraq. Dia Rashwan, an expert on Islamic fundamentalism, believes that Bin Laden is not as popular now as he was last year. "But that doesn't mean that people don't hate the US," he says. "Now they hate the US even more than before." After the attacks of September 11th, things seemed very bad for the Arabs, but now they seem even worse. After September 11th, the US began its "war on terror". Many Arabs think that this is a war on all Arabs. They think that in George Bush's simple world of good and evil, the Arab countries and Iran are the evil ones.

Most Arab countries were under foreign rule for hundreds of years and their people wanted independence and the unity of the greater Arab "nation". Now there is a danger that these dreams will be destroyed again. They have many social, economic and cultural problems and this means that it is very difficult for them to defend themselves against attacks from outside. The Americans say that these problems were the cause of the attacks on the US last year and many Arabs agree that this is true. They say that their countries need to change in order to have democracy and human rights.

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Muhammad Said is a journalist from al-Ahram, the best-known newspaper in Egypt. He believes that 90% of the problem comes from the Arab-Israeli conflict, which reminds Arabs that in the past they were colonies. Arabs think that the US only acts in favour of Israel. So the Arab world, says Said, is now in danger of "direct or indirect colonialism".

This kind of neo-colonialism means that the US will try to change the governments of countries they think

are unfriendly to the US. The US will force "friendly" countries to introduce reforms. The plan, says Said, is to solve the Palestinian question by war and the Arabs as a national group will suffer. After they have removed Saddam Hussein, the Americans want to make Iraq the centre of a new pro-American geo-political region. Other countries will then have to do what the Americans tell them to do or they will suffer the same fate as Iraq. This will happen to unfriendly

countries such as Syria, or traditional friends, such as Saudi Arabia. If Arabs believed that the Americans wanted to introduce democracy to Iraq, they would support their actions against Saddam Hussain. But they don't believe this.

"The US may be preparing a big surprise for the region," says Lebanese journalist Saad Mehio, "but the Middle East may also be preparing a big surprise for the Americans."

The Guardian Weekly 12-9-2002, page 7

3 Comprehension

Decide whether these sentences are True or False (according to the article):

- 1• President Nasser was the founder of political Islam.
- 2• Many Arabs hate the US more this year than they did last year.
- 3• Things seem better for the Arabs than they were just after September 11th last year.
- 4• Many Arabs think the "war on terror" is a war against them.
- 5• Most Arab countries are under foreign rule.
- 6• The attacks on the US last year were caused by social, economic and cultural problems.
- 7• Al-Ahram is the best-known Egyptian newspaper.
- 8• Many Arabs believe the US is trying to change the governments of friendly countries.
- 9• The Americans want to make Egypt the centre of a new pro-American region.
- 10• The Americans think Syria is a friendly country.

True False

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4 Comparatives

Decide whether these sentences are True or False (according to the article):

	Comparative	Superlative
1• bad	_____	worst
2• well-known	better-known	_____
3• good	_____	best
4• friendly	friendlier	_____
5• popular	_____	most popular

5 Opposites

Put these 10 words into 5 pairs with opposite meanings:

good
friendly
love
war
better
hate
evil
unfriendly
worse
peace

6 Word Building

Complete the table. Use the text to help you.

Adjective	Noun
1• independent	_____
2• _____	economy
3• _____	friend
4• _____	foreigner
5• _____	culture
6• dangerous	_____

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Key

1 Key Words

1a; 2c; 3e; 4a; 5b

2 Prefixes

1c; 2e; 3a; 4b; 5d

5 Opposites

good	evil
friendly	unfriendly
love	hate
war	peace
better	worse

3 True or False

1 False
2 True
3 False
4 True
5 False
6 True
7 True
8 False
9 False
10 False

6 Word Building

1 independence
2 economic
3 friendly
4 foreign
5 cultural
6 danger

4 Comparatives

1 worse
2 best-known
3 better
4 friendliest
5 more popular