

The Trump Middle East Marshall Plan

(White Paper by Tom Barrack) - March 10, 2017

Overview

The policies of the last eight years have created unprecedented challenges for our nation at home and our allies abroad. Nowhere has a failure of American leadership been more profound than the Middle East. The regional problems of the Middle East have grown into global challenges which threaten many of our national interests. Perhaps at no time in the history of our nation have the stakes been higher.

History reflects that transformational economic leadership by America can lead to dynastic industrial, political, and human capital advancements abroad. The Marshall Plan following the Second World War was one such initiative which became one of the greatest foreign policy and economic growth achievements of the past century. It is now time to develop a 21st Century Trump Marshall Plan to provide a coordinated economic development initiative for the Middle East. The goals of the Trump Marshall Plan and its European predecessor are similar in that the desired result is a balanced and cooperative regional economic unit which foregoes “nation-state” rivalries for the benefit of global economic prosperity and growth, and thereby establishes an enduring peace which accrues to American interests. A primary difference from the previous Marshall Plan is that the Trump Middle East Marshall Plan will be funded and paid for by the GCC countries themselves; however, it will be directed by American ingenuity, industry, and financial diplomacy!

The Trump Plan’s Five Objectives

- 1. Stop the exportation of radical Islamic terrorism.**
 - a. This goal will be accomplished by supporting our “benevolent Islamic allies” in the creation and implementation of a viable economic development plan which will provide hope and shared prosperity.
- 2. Aid in a peaceful resolution between Israel and Palestine.**
 - a. Egypt is paramount to this process, and Egypt must support an Israeli solution if any peace process is to be successful.
 - b. However, Egypt can only survive the Muslim Brotherhood and other internal attacks if it develops a viable economic plan for hopeful prosperity for its people executed in a co-operative but not corrupt manner with its military.
- 3. Maintain the regional balance of power by countering Iranian and Russian intervention through USA economic cooperation.**
 - a. Russia, China and Iran have filled the voids created by American foreign policy missteps of the past.
- 4. Generate USA economic stimulus and growth by expanding international opportunities for our domestic industries and service providers, thereby**

creating jobs, reducing our trade deficit and providing investment for research and development.

- a. American-made Engineering, Construction, Power, Water, Agricultural, Healthcare, Security, Legal, Logistics, and Financial Industries will pave a new path of economic development.
5. **Provide a countervailing and compassionate foreign policy initiative as the USA becomes more scrutinizing and firm with Immigration and national defense policy across the Middle East and other Islamic regions.**

A Regional Economic Blueprint: Uniting Tribes and Flags

A revised economic blueprint and vision is a major component of any Middle East Peace initiative for Israel, Palestine and the broader Middle East. In fact, there is no Middle East. There are only tribes, flags, and local loyalties which seldom corroborate on religion, geography, language, and political systems. The region's boundaries were drawn after the First World War by the dominant powers of the West to conform to the Western-exported notion of a nation-state for the purposes of the West. Along this road, the West engaged in a foreign relations policy of "catch and release." Western powers supported local ruling regimes to form "nation-states" and when the Western motivations shifted the West discarded those rulers and replaced them with changed regimes. The social barbell of "haves" and "have-nots" was to the benefit of the West in need of stable non-democratic regimes with whom to negotiate resource contracts for fossil fuels upon which the West was almost entirely reliant. This practice was magnified in the recent Arab Spring which failed in all aspects and transitioned into an Arab Fall. The fortunes of the primarily Sunni "oil-cursed" GCC countries have reversed in the wake of a changing global fossil fuel market, a series of misguided regime changes, an inconsistent foreign policy from the USA, and a growing threat from Iran and its proxies across the region.

It is time for a new alliance built upon a foundation of economic sustainability and growth for the various nation states within the region. Without economic direction, vision, and leadership from the West, the Middle East tribes will find alliances with Russia and Iran, which are the only groups that will provide hope and support for them. In the absence of the hope of economic growth and domestic prosperity, a cadre of radical Islamist groups, which are all competing to form borderless caliphates across the region, will capture the hearts and minds of the almost 100 million youth in the region who will mature into the working age demographic in the next decade. The growing regional economic illness left unattended will become an international terrorist epidemic of despair, hostility, and anger.

We must provide an economic action plan which fits "hand-in-glove" with a security and diplomatic plan. While the IMF and World Bank are important partners in the process as accessories, these institutions are not capable to serve as principals. Rather, USA industrial resources when coupled with America's financial, legal and trade expertise, funded by our GCC allies, can create a path through this jungle. The development of power and water in the region, at scale, are two of the key ingredients that can lead a

renewal of American industrial and intellectual resources in the region. ARAMCO is a clear example of the possibilities that arise when USA industrial and international financial expertise joins in developing and sustaining a nation state resource and industry on a global canvas.

The Strategy of the Trump Middle East Marshall Plan

The strategy will be one that empowers the intellectual capital and industrial might of the USA's private sector in a public-private venture. It will align with the strategic interests and challenges of the United States, our Allies, and global partners. The pillars of this Trump Plan will be the long-term economic stability and security of a reimagined Middle East economy. The Trump Plan will enable the visions of Israel, the GCC, Egypt, and Jordan to create an economic union which in itself can fuel an Israeli-Palestinian solution and a quelling of the civil displacements in the region.

This Trump Middle East Marshall Plan will be funded primarily by the nations of the GCC in the Middle East, not by US taxpayers. However, the Trump Plan will be led by USA industry, financial and trade experts working hand-in-hand with the traditional diplomatic channels and venues. American leadership in basic themes can change the landscape in the following ways:

- Power generation and distribution when combined with the security which assures its continuity;
- Water and gas, when coupled with cross-border transmission and cooperation;
- Food and agriculture, when coupled with the education of how to grow, process and distribute it;
- Housing, when coupled with a state housing policy which makes it affordable.
- Education and training, when coupled with a legal and financial system that encourages direct foreign investment by providing predictability and transparency.
- Streamlined regulation, business, and trade administration, and a reliable legal system with cross-border regional collaboration.

The Designation of a Special Envoy to Effectuate the Trump Plan

Under the Constitution, the President of the United States determines USA foreign policy. The Secretary of State, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, is the President's chief foreign affairs adviser. Also, the President may appoint special envoys to carry out defined missions to further improve the foreign affairs of the United States.

The President will appoint a special representative for the Trump Middle East Marshall Plan with the diplomatic rank of ambassador or special advisor to the President. The primary objectives of the Trump Middle East Marshall Plan are to terminate the

exportation of radical Islamic terrorism, to establish a lasting resolution between Israel and Palestine, to maintain the balance of power in the face of a growing Iranian and Russia threat, and to generate economic growth, exports and fiscal stimulus at home. The Trump Plan will generate commercial opportunities for U.S. companies both domestically and abroad while delivering security, infrastructure, and significant economic development for the host countries.

Implementing a Trump Middle East Marshall Plan

Under the Trump Middle East Marshall Plan, the President shall appoint a Special Envoy for the engagement on important economic and cross-border issues, and for developing a comprehensive economic vision for the Middle East region to address its youthful population and changing economy, and which would be funded by the GCC and supported by operating partnerships with USA industry and business.

Immediate Action

To appoint a Special Envoy who will then coordinate and work hand-in-hand with the Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, Special Advisors to the President, Jared Kushner and Gary Cohn, and the National Security Advisor, Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, in formulating a Trump Plan. A Cabinet Council will then be formed which will be chaired by the Special Envoy. The Cabinet Council will consist of the Special Advisors to the President, Senior Deputy or Under-Secretaries from various designated USA agencies including the Dept. of Treasury, Dept. of Commerce, NSC, Dept. of Defense, Dept. of Energy, the DHS and the CIA. The Special Envoy, on behalf of the Cabinet Council, will constantly advise and inform POTUS on the Council's progress and actions.

Within 30 days of the implementation of the executive order, the Special Envoy will organize a working group - "Joint Cooperation Council"- to develop the salient issues and concerns which must be formulated in a working plan. This working group will consist of senior designees from relevant GCC and Middle East countries, the USA ambassadors in those countries, the relevant USA industries, and the IMF and World Bank. Within 90 days, this Joint Cooperation Council will set forth an action plan and priorities. It will set forth a relatively short study period and enumerate specific tasks and undertakings in conjunction with time frames necessary to accomplish these undertakings and the funding sources necessary for execution.

The Duties of the Special Envoy:

- Serves as the President's special representative, working hand-in-hand with the Secretary of State and the Senior Advisors to the President, for the execution of a Trump Marshall Plan in the Middle East through an Executive Order.
- Solicits funding from participating GCC countries for studies and implementation of the Trump Plan.

- Acts as a liaison between conflicting Middle East regimes to resolve economic paralysis or conflicts.
- Coordinates activities with the relevant departments and agencies of the USA government including but not limited to the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Defense, Energy and Homeland Security.
- Builds trusted relationships with the top leaders of GCC countries, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq.
- Builds long-line relationships with U.S. private sector leaders acting as their expediter in clearing the traditional regional and regulatory hurdles to their participation.
- Advises the President, Secretary of State and Congress on the key operational and strategic issues directly related to the Trump Plan.
- Integrates the Trump Plan objectives with the appropriate USA Ambassadors to relevant host countries.
- Administers the overall objectives of the Trump Middle East Marshall Plan.