

but this reduction is likely to be slow, uneven, and to suffer periodic setbacks. Events in 1991 in places as widely scattered as Tibet, Haiti, East Timor, Myanmar, and in the Horn of Africa served as reminders of the continuing uses of soldiers by oppressive rulers.

*Toward Regional and North-South Confrontations?*

Meanwhile, there are all-too-few examples of regions elsewhere in the world taking inspiration from the regional cooperation and security-building processes which helped bring an end to the East-West confrontation. The most prominent effort at regional peace-making has been in the Middle East, where Washington, honouring its pledges at the time of the second Gulf war, exerted prodigious energy and skill to get Israelis, Palestinians, and various other Arab representatives to the table, and to keep them there. What became clear, to all those who had not already expected it, was that the processes of pre-negotiation and negotiation will be laborious, bitter, and vulnerable to being undermined by any number of actors and factors. The investment by Secretary Baker and his colleagues will be difficult to sustain over the long haul, and through a presidential election period.

However, it is now clear to most observers that the will of the American government and people for a durable, just resolution is firm and is unlikely to be diverted by obstructionism from any quarter, now that the negative influence of the Cold War has finally been dispelled from the region. The successful effort to repeal the 1975 Zionism-is-racism resolution of the UN General Assembly was another important step in establishing the seriousness, breadth, and legitimacy of the demand for peace in the region by the whole international community.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the mixed legacies of the second Gulf war overhang the region itself, and the various visions of a new world order. The human toll of the war itself, and of the continuing sanctions against Iraq, sits uneasily with the ugly fact that the architect of the aggression and the oppressor of the Iraqi people is still in place, and has been revealed to have made much more extensive and advanced preparations for mass-destruction warfare than had been feared. The legal and political judgement of the US-led coalition not to proceed to Baghdad and depose Saddam Hussein, sits badly as well with the subsequent and continuing need to intervene, in the name of humanity, against his slaughters and persecution of innocent Iraqi Kurds and Shia Muslims. At the same time, some preliminary moves to stem the flow of weaponry into the