

Peter Hahn, "Unending Controversy: The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1961-1982"

1. What were the United States' three broad objectives in the Middle East during the 1960s and why was it so difficult to achieve (or even to pursue) all three simultaneously?
2. What issues put a strain on US-Israeli relations during the 1960s? What issues put a strain on US-Arab relations?
3. Why did the Straits of Tiran become the subject of controversy in 1967? What efforts did the US make to diffuse the crisis and why did these efforts fail?
4. How did the 1967 Six Day War affect Israelis and Arabs? How did it change the balance of power in the Middle East?
5. Why did it prove impossible for the US to build a permanent peace settlement in the wake of the Six Day War? Why did Arabs and Israelis have no desire to negotiate? What other options did they pursue to protect their interests?
6. What role did domestic public opinion in the US play in shaping Johnson's and Nixon's Middle East policies?
7. Why did Arabs and Israelis interpret UN Resolution 242 differently?
8. Why did President Anwar Sadat of Egypt initiate the 1973 war against Israel? Did he achieve his purpose? How did the 1973 war affect the United States?
9. Why did events in Lebanon (to Israel's north) undermine US efforts to bring peace to the Middle East during the mid-1970s?
10. What were the achievements and shortcomings of 1979's Camp David Accords?
11. Why did Israel decide in 1982 that a military attack on the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was a better option than agreeing on terms to a truce?

Peter Hahn, “Revolution, War, and Terrorism: The Middle East at Center Stage, 1970s-1980s

1. What factors led to the Iranian Revolution of 1978? Why was the Carter Administration unprepared for the Revolution and indecisive in its response to it?
2. Why did most observers consider Jimmy Carter’s handling of the Iranian hostage crisis to have been ineffectual?
3. Why did the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan convince Carter to abandon détente and pursue a firmer policy toward Moscow? How did the “Carter Doctrine” (77) reflect this firmer policy?
4. What steps did President Ronald Reagan take in response to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan? Why, at the time, did many consider his policies a success?