“The New Middle East Cold War”

Dr. Gregory Gause, III
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ABSTRACT:
The current regional crisis in the Middle East, which stretches from Iraq to Libya and Syria to Yemen, is usually portrayed as a sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shia. But a more accurate depiction would be to characterize the regional crisis as a widespread weakening of the Arab state, and the balance of power maneuvers that have followed those domestic political conflicts. Sectarianism is an important element of the crisis, but not its cause.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Khadija ElCadi
Khadija.elcadi@qatar.tamu.edu
Phone: 4423.0145