

## ***Middle East Dialogue 2015...Glorious Past, Uncertain Future***

### **THE SHI'A CRESCENT**

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The Shi'a Crescent has captured the epicenter of the Middle Eastern politics over the course of last decade. The paper is an attempt to set forth a new understanding of the emergence of the Shi'a Crescent as the unfolding of constant interaction between geo-political forces, both states and non-state one, in the region. This means the Middle Eastern politics must be contextualized diachronically and across spaces.

What actors and processes at what levels of analysis and through what mechanisms have constructed the Shi'a Crescent? What were the effects of tremendous, path breaking events, particularly 9/11, Invasion to Iraq, Iranian Nuclear program, and the Arab Spring, on the geo-political and geo-cultural dynamic of the Shi's Crescent? These are the principal questions that guide the analytical narrative in the present survey.

Though in sync with geo-political forces and the overall balance of power, the construction of the Shia Crescent has been also predicated on the geo-cultural forces. Hence, we should dig out the interactions among place, identity, and culture through highlighting specific utilized normative rhetoric and ideological language in the formation of the heartland of the Islamic world.