

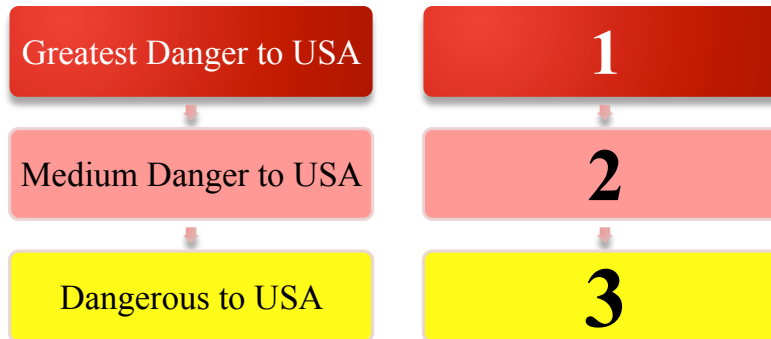
US Strategy Update

Nukes, Terrorism in East Africa and Syria

and the Obama Doctrine

As of 2013-10-01

By John Antal



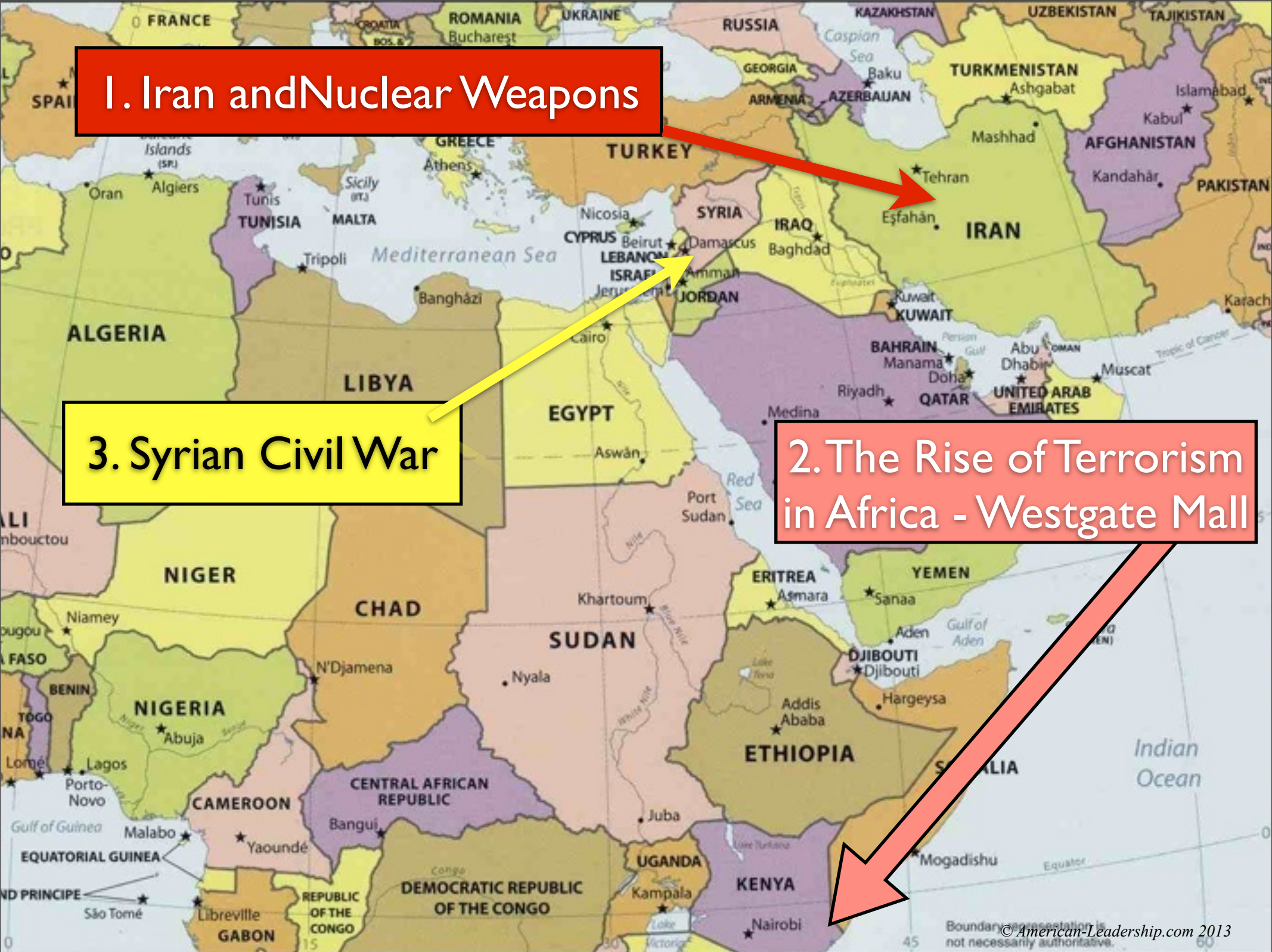
FlashPoints is a bi-monthly update on the most critical national security issues facing the United States. Author and military expert John Antal will provide you with insights and a quick synopsis of the top three flash points in the world at the time of each report. FlashPoints will list the greatest danger to the USA, and then list risks of medium and serious danger. Keep abreast of the latest impending international crisis by reviewing FlashPoints

as of October 1, 2013

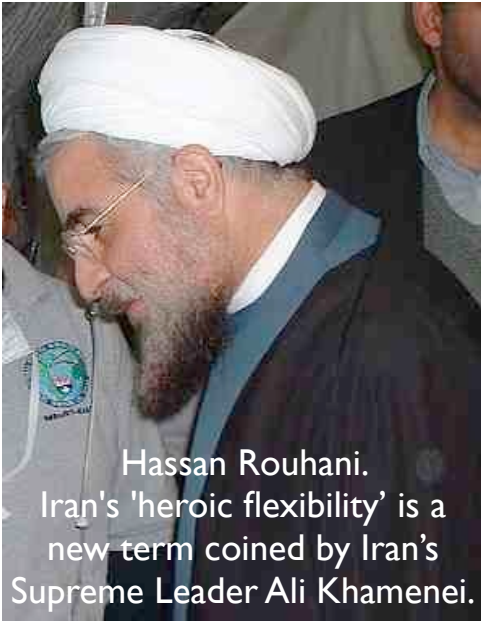
1. Iran and Nuclear Weapons

3. Syrian Civil War

2. The Rise of Terrorism in Africa - Westgate Mall



I. Iran and Nuclear Weapons



• **At the UN on September 24, 2013, Hassan Rouhani President of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated:** “Iran's nuclear program - and for that matter, that of all other countries - must pursue exclusively peaceful purposes. I declare here, openly and unambiguously, that, notwithstanding the positions of others, this has been, and will always be, the objective of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nuclear weapon and other weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran's security and defense doctrine, and contradict our fundamental religious and ethical convictions. Our national interests make it imperative that we remove any and all reasonable concerns about Iran's peaceful nuclear program.”



• On Friday, September 27, 2013, President Obama called Rouhani. They had a 15-minute phone call -- the first top-level conversation between the US and Iran since the Iranian Revolution in 1979.

• Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that **Rouhani is a "wolf in sheep's clothing"**... the pressure on Iran should be intensified and not eased.”

• Many experts agree that Iran is **months away** from the break-out point where they can develop multiple nuclear weapons.

as of October 1, 2013



Israel is nervous. Iran's President Rouhani seems to have the upper hand in the international arena and has executed an effective charm offensive. The Israelis will have to make some very difficult decisions when Iran goes "nuclear."

What is the US response if Iran goes nuclear?

What will the Israelis do?



**2. Terrorism in East Africa -
Westgate Mall Nairobi, Kenya**



al-Shabaab, "The Youth" or "The Boys", is the Somalia-based cell of the militant Sunni Islamist group al-Qaeda, formally recognized in 2012.

- Their current leader is Somali born Muktar Abdirahman Godane
- Al-Shabaab is said to have many foreigners within its ranks, particularly at the leadership level.
- As of 2011, the group's foreign recruitment strategy was active in the US, where members attempted to recruit from the local Muslim communities. Minneapolis, Minnesota is a key recruiting area.
- The group has also been suspected of having links with Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb and Boko Haram.

- Al-Shabaab's composition is multiethnic, with its leadership positions mainly occupied by Afghanistan- and Iraq-trained ethnic Somalis and foreigners.

- **The attack on the Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya was a well planned, extremely ruthless and bloody suicide attack** designed to gain notoriety and increase recruitment of foreign fighters for al-Shabaab. At least 72 people were killed and over 200 wounded. Casualty reports are still being assessed.

- The intent of the 21-24 September Westgate mall attack was to kill and torture non-muslim men, women and children to cause panic and terror. The terrorists did not expect to survive the attack and, before they were all killed or captured, they torched the bodies of their own dead to make identification difficult. A description of what the terrorists did to their captives is too graphic to print.

- **The US has waged a covert war against al-Shabaab in East Africa for several years with some success. Expect Kenya, supported by covert US, Western forces and Israel, to cooperate to act against al-Shabaab in Somalia very soon.**

3. Syrian Civil War

- Assad is still in charge of much of Syria and his forces are in heavy fighting around the country.
- The Civil War has caused more than 100,000 deaths.
- On 27 September 2013 the UN Security Council voted unanimously to secure and destroy Syria's chemical weapons stockpile. "Today's historic resolution is the first hopeful news on Syria in a long time," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "A red light for one form of weapons does not mean a green light for others. This is not a license to kill with conventional weapons."
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, however, made it clear that the UN resolution does not automatically impose sanctions on Syria if Syria does not comply. The resolution is "toothless."
- In the meantime, Syrian rebels are fighting among themselves. Several rebel groups in Syria, including the al-Qaeda linked Sunni Islamist mujahideen al-Nusra, declared that they will not recognize the Istanbul based National Coalition that is backed by some Western countries as the secular opposition to Assad.
- Some reports indicate that al-Nusra militants mishandled Saudi-supplied chemical weapons, causing the accident that killed nearly a thousand civilians on August 21, 2013 and nearly led to a US attack on Assad's forces in Syria. This report cannot be substantiated. see: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/jabhat-al-nusra-rebels-admit-responsibility-for-chemical-weapons-attack/5347485>

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What is the US Strategy? For Iran, Terrorism in East Africa & Syria?



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The Obama Doctrine

On September 24, 2013, President Barack H. Obama laid out his vision of US Strategy in his speech to the United Nations. Key points of this strategy are:

- 1. Resolve the Iranian nuclear issue.**
- 2. Settle the Israeli-Palestinian problem.**
- 3. Craft a multilateral diplomacy for the U.S. that is withdrawing from “a perpetual war” footing.**
- 4. Ensure the free flow of energy from the Middle East to the world.**
- 5. Use “direct action” against terrorists, when necessary.**
- 6. Support governments that supports those core U.S. interests, even if some of those governments do not meet our ideals concerning democracy.**

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But on SEP 3, 2013 at Congressional testimony about Syria:

DEMPSEY: The answer to whether I support additional support for the moderate opposition is yes.

CORKER: And this authorization will support those activities in addition to responding to the weapons of mass destruction.

DEMPSEY: I don't know how the resolution will evolve, but I support –

CORKER: What you're seeking. What is it you're seeking?

DEMPSEY: I can't answer that, what we're seeking.



GEN. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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Drone strikes are a very useful tactic, but not a strategy. The strategy in the conflict in East Africa involves training local troops; providing advanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and kinetic strikes (Special Forces raids, precision munition attacks (from air and sea) and drones). Should the US do the same in Syria to put pressure on Iran?

How the US responds to the pending crises of Iran, Terrorism in East Africa and Syria will shape America's future.

Remember: Pacifism is a Luxury Paid For by Professionals....



If you want to raise your leadership awareness, read:

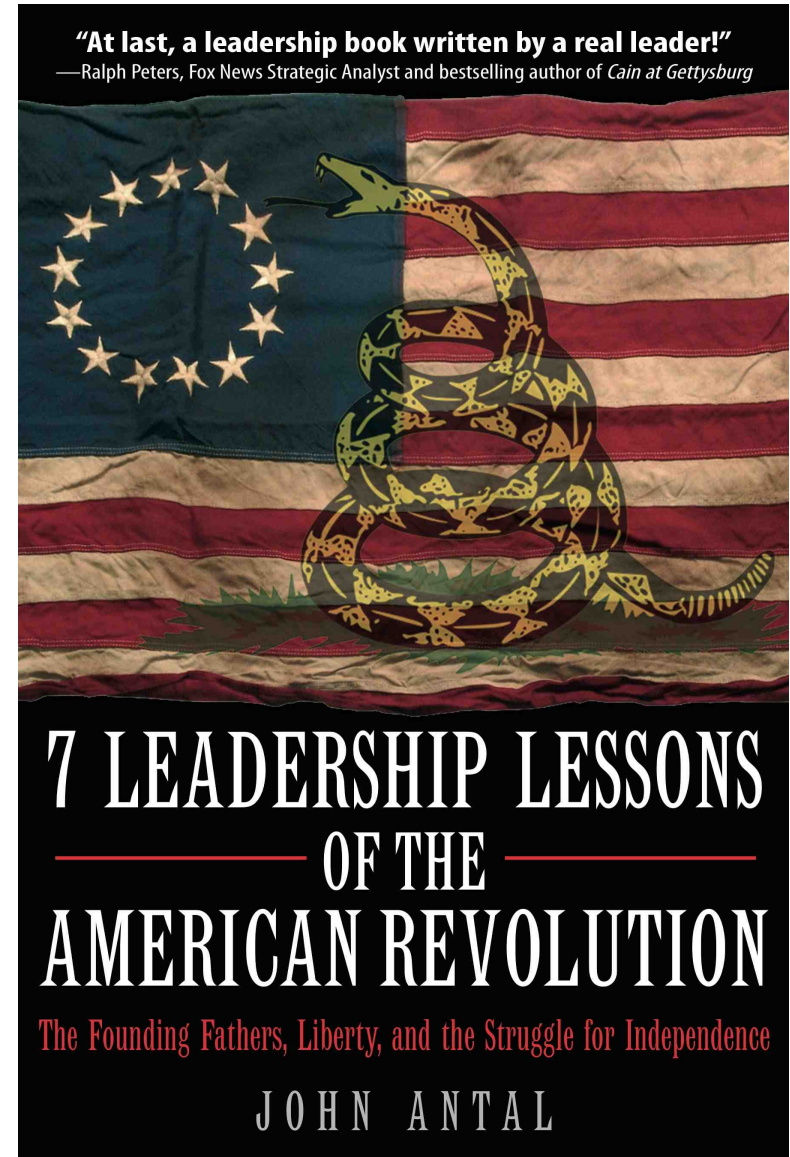
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"At last, a leadership book written by a real leader! A fine historian, delightful writer and, vitally, a superb combat-arms officer revered by his peers in uniform, Colonel Antal has given us a book that's both a pleasure to read and eminently useful for those "in command" of organizations of any kind. A stimulating five-star work you'll keep on top of your desk!" **Ralph Peters, Fox News Strategic Analyst and author of *Cain at Gettysburg***

"If you want to learn about leadership, read this book. If you wish to learn about the leadership that forged the birth of the American Republic, read this book. If you want to be inspired, read this book. John Antal has captured seven timeless stories that will raise your leadership awareness and make you a better leader in peace or war, at home, at work or in your community." **Steven Pressfield, bestselling author of *Gates of Fire* and *The Warrior Ethos***

"John Antal's timely book, *7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution* is succinctly written and easily understood. On the surface, it demonstrates how those who risked all to create this republic used specific leadership principles to overcome tremendous challenges in that endeavor. These same techniques are just as valid in this century as in theirs. Along the way, Antal paints these revolutionaries as living, breathing human beings with high-risk tasks to accomplish. But Antal's study actually goes much farther – because behind his straightforward storytelling lies something much more important: an examination of what principles that leadership came from, and what principles it should serve. You'll come away with the feeling that the founders of this country weren't "historical figures" but living, breathing human beings with huge problems to solve, for which they used methods available to any one of us who cares to learn."

Bradley Thompson, television writer and producer and the co-writer for the hit TV series' *Battlestar Galactica* and the second season of *Falling Skies*.

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