



*Flashpoints*

- **Flashpoints**  
by  
John Antal

Greatest Danger to USA

1

Medium Danger to USA

2

Dangerous to USA

3

**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 flashpoints 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 2013-07-22

Greatest Danger to USA

1

Medium Danger to USA

2

Dangerous to USA

3

*“Tactics is fighting, blood and death. Strategy is the art of finding the gaps in the enemy’s thinking and exploiting those gaps. The best strategy avoids fighting and still secures the goal.”*  
John Antal

*“Be gardeners and not mechanics.”* Advice that George Kennan gave American foreign-policy makers in 1954

# Top 3 Flashpoints

---



1  
Iran Nuclear Weapons  
Development  
*Red Lines Crossed*

2  
Egypt Unrest  
*Big Trouble Ahead*

3  
Syrian Civil War  
*Expanding Regional War*

## 1 - Iran Nuclear Weapons Development

### ***IRAN Has Crossed EVERY RED LINE....***

- Open Source Intel believes that Iran successfully tested its latest nuclear device in North Korea in February 12, 2013. The joint Iran-NK development program is code-named “Green Chariot” & started in 2008
- A second program, code-named “Silk Cocoon,” expands the first program by developing intercontinental ballistic missiles with technological help from NK and China.
- Iran is estimated to be months away from possessing a workable nuclear device that is small enough to be placed in a ship and detonated off the coast of Israel
- Iran is 10-12 months away from being able to launch a nuclear warhead by their largest rocket the Shahab 3, but their **target date for matching warhead and missile capability is reported to be January 2014.**

Once Iran has a viable nuclear arsenal, with 4-10 warheads deliverable by rocket, how will this affect the balance of power and the arms race in the Middle East?

What will Israel do?



## When will Iran have a nuclear capability?

- “THE resounding victory of Hassan Rohani, the most moderate and outward-looking of the presidential candidates deemed fit to contest the election by the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has raised hopes for a nuclear deal between Iran and the international community...but ... **The die is already cast: nothing is likely to stop Iran getting the bomb if and when it decides it wants one...** Yet the inconvenient truth is that while the talks seem destined to continue, Iran is close to what is known as “critical capability”—the point at which it could make a dash to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for one or more bombs before the IAEA or Western intelligence agencies would even know it had done so.” Iran’s Nuclear Programme Breakout Beckons, *The Economist*, June 22, 2013.
- **China, North Korea and Iran will all soon have nuclear missiles capable of reaching the U.S., according to a report published by the Pentagon Thursday, July 12, 2013.** The report added that Iran will be ready to test an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with the capability to strike the U.S. by 2015. see: [http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/NASIC2013\\_050813.pdf](http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/nukes/nuclearweapons/NASIC2013_050813.pdf)

## What is the US doing about this?

- **Talking about reducing our Nuclear arsenal in the “Zero Option.”**
- **Remember what Ronald Reagan once said:** “Experience has taught us that preparedness deters aggression and that weakness invites it.” Ronald Reagan 1988
- **ANTAL’S OPINION:** *The US should make a clear statement that any nuclear attack on the USA or our Allies will result in immediate and overwhelming retaliation. No half measures. No bluff. Full response. Deterrence requires fear.*

# ***Flashpoints 2013-07-22***

---

## 2 - Egypt Unrest with the fall of political Islam (Muslim Brotherhood removed from power by Army Coup)

- Egyptians took to the streets to oppose Morsi's Islamization of politics. Army responded.
- Military Coup opposed by Iran, Turkey, Tunisia & radical Islamists -- Coup Supported by Saudi Arabia & UAE. USA tentative?
- **Next 3 months** - High Possibility of unrest, killings, terrorism & sabotage
- **Next 6 Months** - Medium possibility of Civil War if Army does not bring about elections and if Brotherhood are supported by \$s & weapons from Iran, fighters from worldwide Jihadis & political support from Turkey.

### **QUESTIONS:**

**Will** Egypt devolve into civil war like Syria?

**Will** the Egyptian Military be able to maintain stability and set conditions for democratic elections?



## 3 - Syrian Civil War

- Free Syrian Army and Radical Anti-Assad foreign Jihadis are fighting each other. Jihadis are extremely brutal, enforcing strict sharia law & turning the Syrian people away from the Rebel cause.
- Assad's government forces are on the offensive
- Possibility of larger war with Jordan and Israel as Hezbollah & Iranian Quds Forces strike rebels fleeing main battle areas

### **QUESTIONS:**

**Will** Iran leverage the Syrian civil war to force Israeli intervention in Syria & therefore a larger Middle East war?

**Will** the USA do anything to try to stop the war and keep it from spreading?

## What are the risks to the USA concerning Egypt?

- Support the Egyptian military, which is the only source of stability of Egypt, there is a chance for stability and transition to democracy.
- If the US does not support the Egyptian military, then Egypt may devolve into a civil war and emerge as a fervent enemy of the USA, with the possibility of the unpredictability of traffic through the Suez Canal and the possibility of a greater war with Israel.
- If we half-heartedly support the military, the same occurs.
- If we support the Islamists, the same occurs.

## Why is Egypt Important to the USA?

- Egypt has the largest population (84 million people) of any country in the Middle East. Iran is 2d with 76 million. **As Egypt goes, so goes the Middle East.**
- US Access to the strategically important Suez Canal – both militarily and commercially. Price of oil will skyrocket if the strategically important Suez canal is closed
- US Access to Egyptian airspace.
- Preserving Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. For example, Egypt was crucial to ending the 2012 fighting between Israel and Hamas.

***Flashpoints 2013-07-22***

---

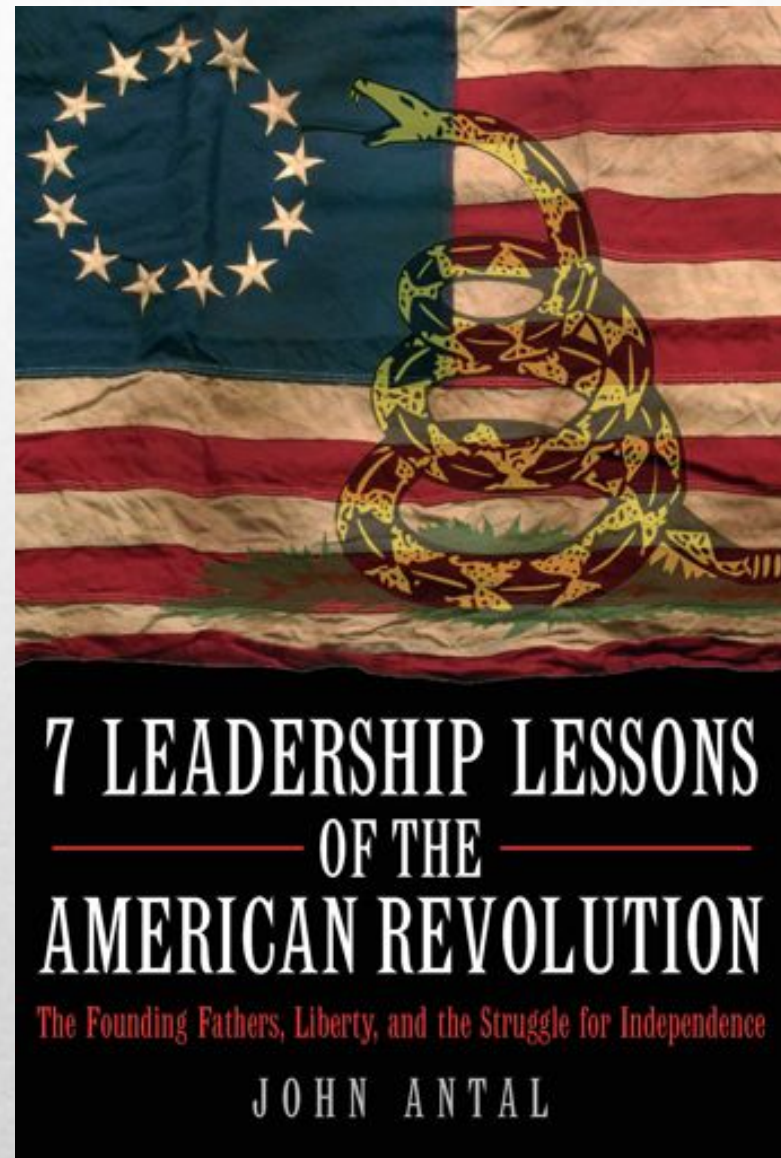
- John Antal is the author of the new book:

*7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution: The Founding Fathers, Liberty, and the Struggle for Independence*

Available on Amazon.com and at American-Leadership.com

Published by Casemate Publications

**7 Leadership Lessons  
of the American Revolution**



To order go to: [www.American-Leadership.com](http://www.American-Leadership.com)



- "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***

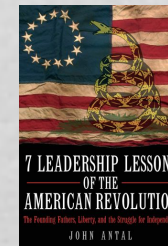
"If you want to learn about leadership, read this book. If you wish to learn about the leadership that forged the birth of the American Republic, read this book. If you want to be inspired, read this book. John Antal has captured seven timeless stories that will raise your leadership awareness and make 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*.**

## Reviews of

# 7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution by John Antal



To order go to: [www.American-Leadership.com](http://www.American-Leadership.com)