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- [In the 'Fog of War' in Gaza, a Rain of Fire, Gary Fields](#)
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There is much uncertainty and confusion in the present economic and geo-political conjuncture. Is the breakthrough in the political situation of many countries in North Africa and the Middle East the beginning of political liberalization as many think and say, or are the recent popular uprisings only an opportunity for the imperialist powers to update and even consolidate their hegemony in these regions? Are the social consequences of the 2008 financial crash now absorbed by repaired economies, or are they yet to come?

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What is clear and certain is that historical change is quickening its pace. Empire is cracking and along with it political institutions are becoming more unstable. What the ultimate political effects will be is hazardous to say, but the months to come will surely bring more dramatic changes. Can the imperial leaders continue to begin more wars as they have in Libya and wish to do in Syria and Iran? And do these wars really strengthen imperial forces or weaken them at home as production for domestic uses continues to decline while arms manufacturers exult? We are presently witnessing important events, but only popular participation in them can ensure positive outcomes.