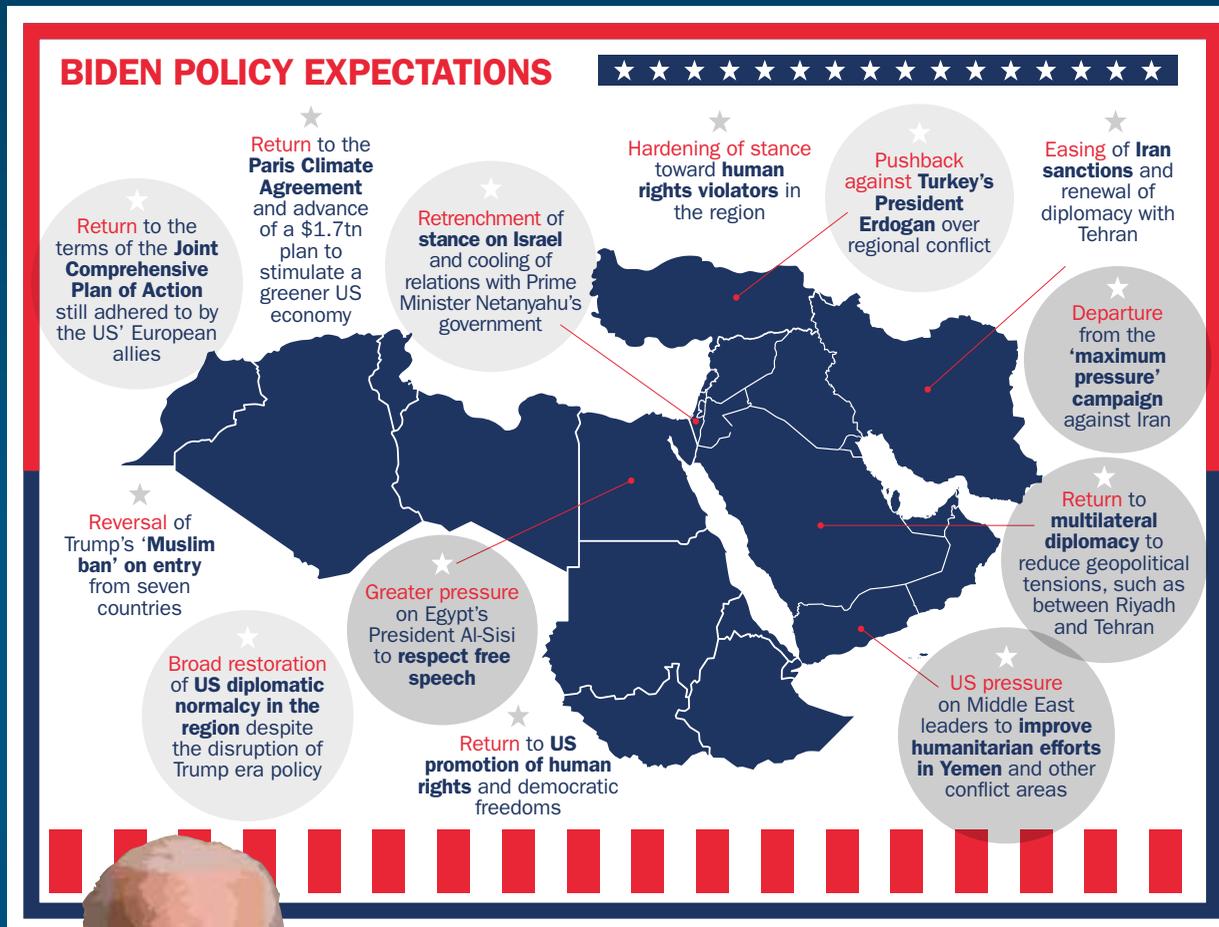
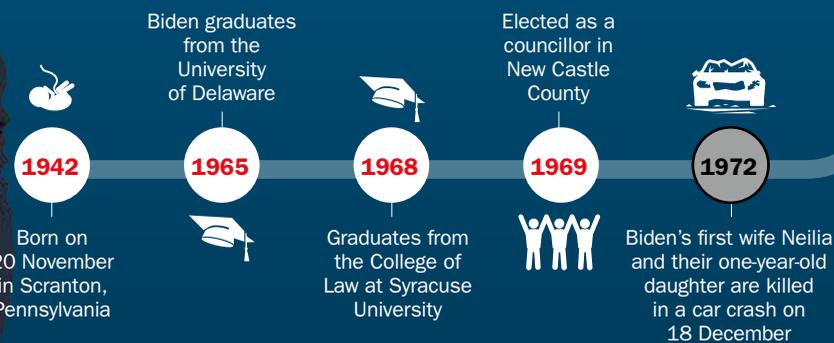


# REALIGNING THE STARS

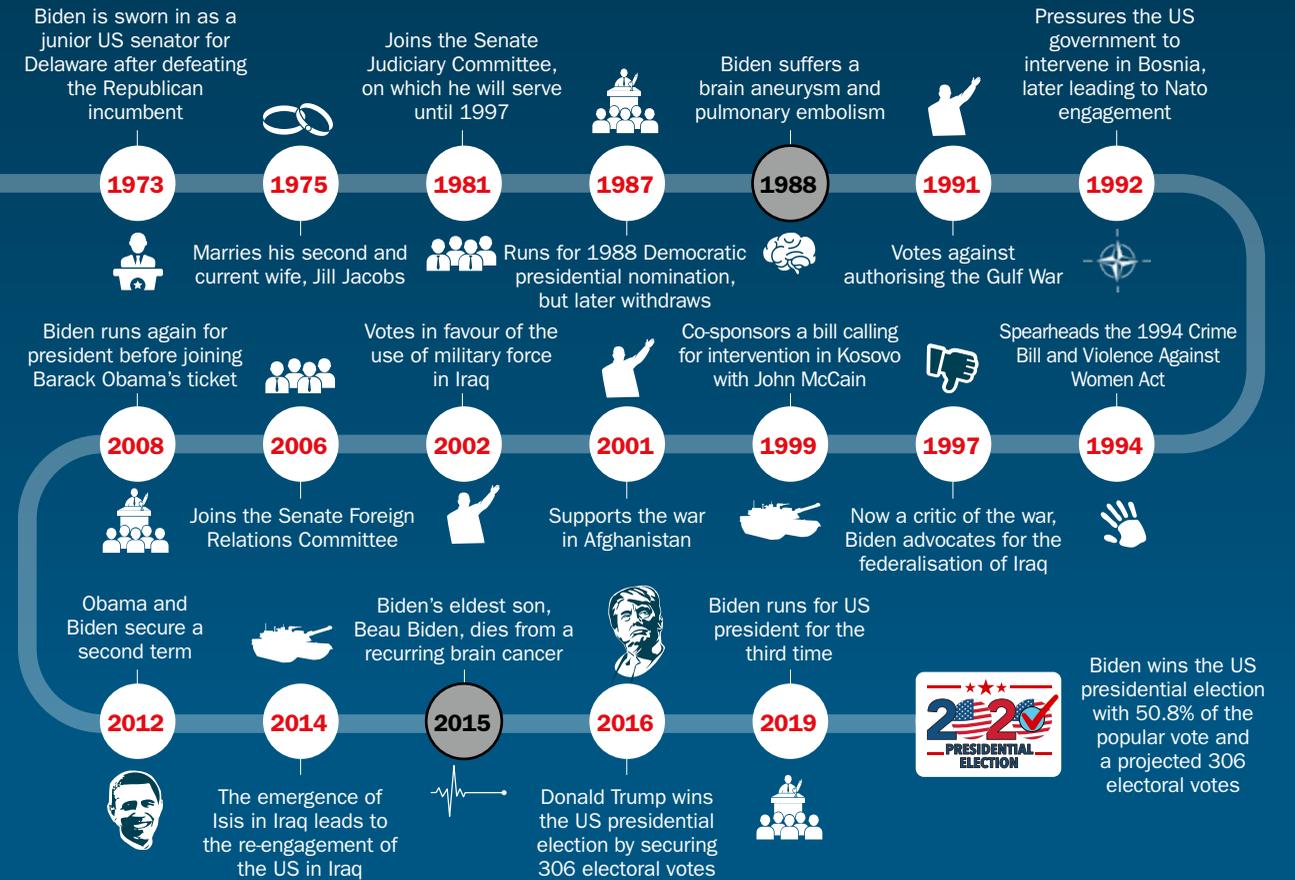
As US President-elect Joe Biden's transition team prepares to enter the White House in January, the Middle East eyes the potential geopolitical implications



## A LIFETIME IN POLITICS



Source: MEED



## REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE US ELECTION

Reactions to Biden's victory from the Middle East have been generally positive, although a number of governments have reason to either be concerned or cautious diplomatically about the power shift

- Egyptian President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi** was the first Arab leader to congratulate Biden, who said on the campaign trail that there would be "no more blank cheques" for the leader
- The UAE's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed** offered swift congratulations amid reports that the UAE has been in contact with Biden since early this year
- King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** took 24 hours to issue a statement congratulating Biden, reflecting concern in Riyadh at the election result
- Lebanese President Michel Aoun** was the second Arab leader to congratulate Biden, reflecting Lebanon's interest in resetting relations after a particularly frictious period
- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** waited more than 12 hours to congratulate Biden, despite the perceived harm done by President Trump to the Palestinian cause
- Iranian officials** refrained from congratulating Biden and instead issued statements welcoming Trump's defeat and positing hope for a rebalancing of relations
- King Abdullah of Jordan**, a long-time US ally, was quick to congratulate Biden, who he will hope can restore funding to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** waited 12 hours before responding to the election result, drawing criticism domestically for the potential harm of the diplomatic snub