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INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST



BY AVI MELAMED
DECEMBER, 2024

INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST | INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES [ITME]

**UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERLYING FACTORS SHAPING
THE MIDDLE EAST IS CRITICAL TO WESTERN INTERESTS.**

**EXPANDING AUTHENTIC PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST IS
ESSENTIAL FOR ANYONE THAT WANTS TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE REGION'S
COMPLEX REALITY OR MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION.**

**TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL & THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST**



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| ITME'S EDUCATIONAL MISSION

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INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES

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PHILOSOPHY

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL & THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST.

STRATEGY

A POLITICAL, CONTEXTUALIZED, NUANCED, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.

GOALS

FOR PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ISRAEL,
TO SUPPORT ISRAEL FROM A PLACE OF UNDERSTANDING & NOT OBLIGATION.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CRITICAL OF ISRAEL,
TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAEL'S CHALLENGES, NEEDS, POSITIONS
WITHOUT IT CONFLICTING WITH THEIR MORAL COMPASS OR CORE VALUES.



MAP OF ISRAEL | WEST BANK/JUDEA & SAMARIA | GAZA



SPECIAL BRIEFING TIME ON THE MIDDLE EAST

| BASIC GEOGRAPHY & TERMS

THE GAZA STRIP | MAJOR MILESTONES

- ❑ **1948 – 1967**
The Egyptian Military Ruled Gaza | Did Not Annex or Give Gazans Egyptian Citizenship
- ❑ **1967 – 2005**
Following the 1967 Six-Day War | Israeli Military Ruled Gaza
- ❑ **2005**
Israel Evacuated Gaza | Israeli Military & Civilians Resettled in Other Parts of Israel
- ❑ **2005 – 2007**
Palestinian Authority (the largest party is Fatah) Ruled Gaza
- ❑ **2007**
 Hamas Overthrew the Palestinian Authority in a Violent Coup | Hamas Took Control of Gaza
- ❑ **2007 – Today**
 Hamas Governs and Rules Gaza



| WHO RULES GAZA? | 1948 - TODAY

680 | SUNNI-SHI'ITE SPLIT

SUNNI

MERIT BASED

The Best Man for the Position

SHIA

BLOODLINE

A Descendant of the 4th Caliph Ali,
the Son-in-Law and Cousin
Of the Prophet Muhammad

Caliphate

RESOLUTE ANIMOSITY & BLOODSHED SINCE 680



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| IN THE MIDDLE EAST | THE PAST IS PRESENT

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SUNNI CALIPHATE [ANCIENT]

SHI'ITE IMAMATE [ANCIENT]



BOTH GOVERNED BY SHARIAH LAW

SHARIAH "THE PATH" FLAWLESS

DIVINE WILL OF ALLAH "THE GOD" GUIDES EVERY PART OF MUSLIM'S LIFE



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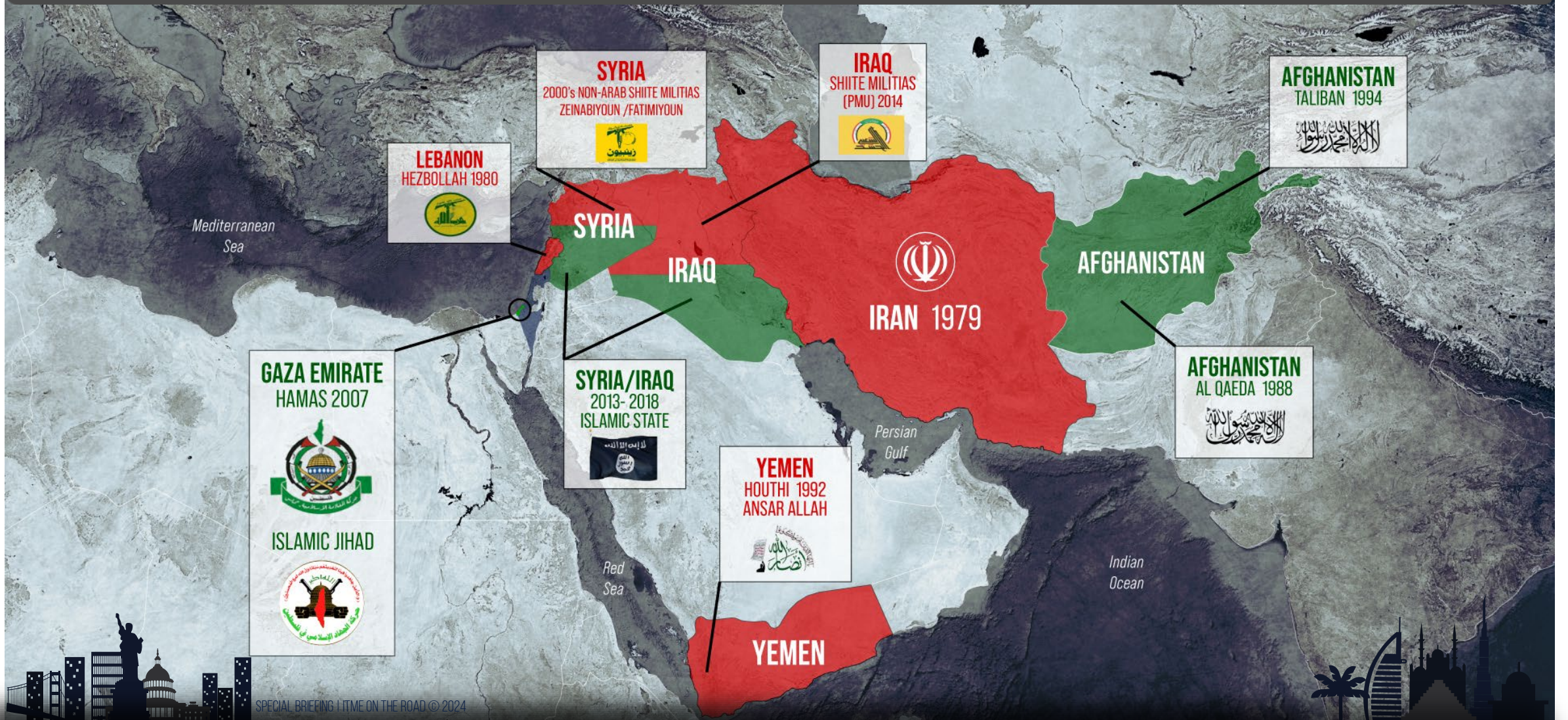
| COMMON GOAL | GLOBAL ISLAMIST ENTITY

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SUNNI CALIPHATE MOMENTUM

1979...SHI'ITE IMAMATE MOMENTUM



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| ISLAMIST IDEOLOGY IMPACTS GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

THE RESISTANCE (AL-MUQAWAMAH)

- ❑ **ANTI WESTERN VALUES**
- ❑ **ERADICATING WESTERN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**
- ❑ **UNRELENTING STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL UNTIL IT IS ANNIHILATED**
- ❑ **“LIBERATING PALESTINE”**



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| RESISTANCE IDEOLOGY IMPACTS GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

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INNER-PALESTINIAN POWER STRUGGLE OVER LEADERSHIP



HAMAS

Governs the Gaza Strip Since 2007



FATAH

Governs parts of West Bank | Largest Party in the Palestinian Authority (PA)



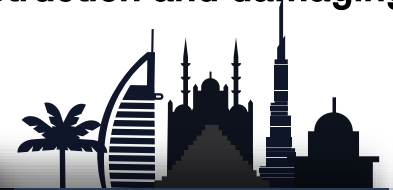
- Islamist Movement, offspring of Muslim Brotherhood (est. 1928), largest movement in Muslim Sunni world
- Rejects nationalism
- Vows to eliminate Israel through Violence
- Accuses PA of 'Betrayal of the Palestinian Cause'

- Nationalist Movement
- Accepts Israel's existence
- Civil Resistance
- Accuses Hamas of dragging Gaza to destruction and damaging the Palestinian people's interests



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| WHO WILL LEAD THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?



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“LIBERATING PALESTINE” | AXIS OF RESISTANCE PROPAGANDA



THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE PROPAGANDA

“ON OUR WAY TO LIBERATE AL QUDS” (JERUSALEM’S NAME IN ARABIC)



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| IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE



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NETWORK OF TERROR | MILITIAS ENTRENCHING IRAN IN ARAB WORLD



| IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE

THE RING OF FIRE | IRAN'S DOCTRINE TO ELIMINATE ISRAEL



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| IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE

MILITIAS CREATING STORM OF DEATH, DESTRUCTION, DISPLACEMENT, WAR

LEBANON FAILED STATE

IRAQ HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS KILLED & DISLOCATED

**ISRAEL
GAZA**

SYRIA HALF MILLION KILLED 13,000,000 REFUGEES/DISLOCATED

DOZENS OF THOUSANDS OF FATALITIES

YEMEN 250,000 KILLED 500,00 DISLOCATED

| IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE



AXIS OF RESISTANCE | IRAN'S TROJAN HORSE TO OCCUPY ARAB WORLD



THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE IS A TROJAN HORSE DESTROYING ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE NAME OF LIBERATING *AL-QUDS* (ARABIC NAME FOR JERUSALEM) TO BECOME SUPERPOWER



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| THE VIEW FROM THE ARAB WORLD

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AXIS OF RESISTANCE | INFLICTS HAVOC IN MIDDLE EAST



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| THE VIEW FROM THE ARAB WORLD

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF OCTOBER 7 ON THE MIDDLE EAST

- **ISRAEL RESTORES DETERRENCE POSTURE & POSITIONS ITSELF AS LEADING POWER IN THE REGION**
- **AXIS OF RESISTANCE WEAKENS**
- **POTENTIAL RIPPLE AFFECT ON LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAQ – STRENGTHENING OF NATIONALIST CAMP OPPOSING IRAN’S INFLUENCE**
- **BOOSTING ISRAELI – SAUDI RAPPROCHEMENT**
- **PAVES PATH FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A REGIONAL ENVELOPE**



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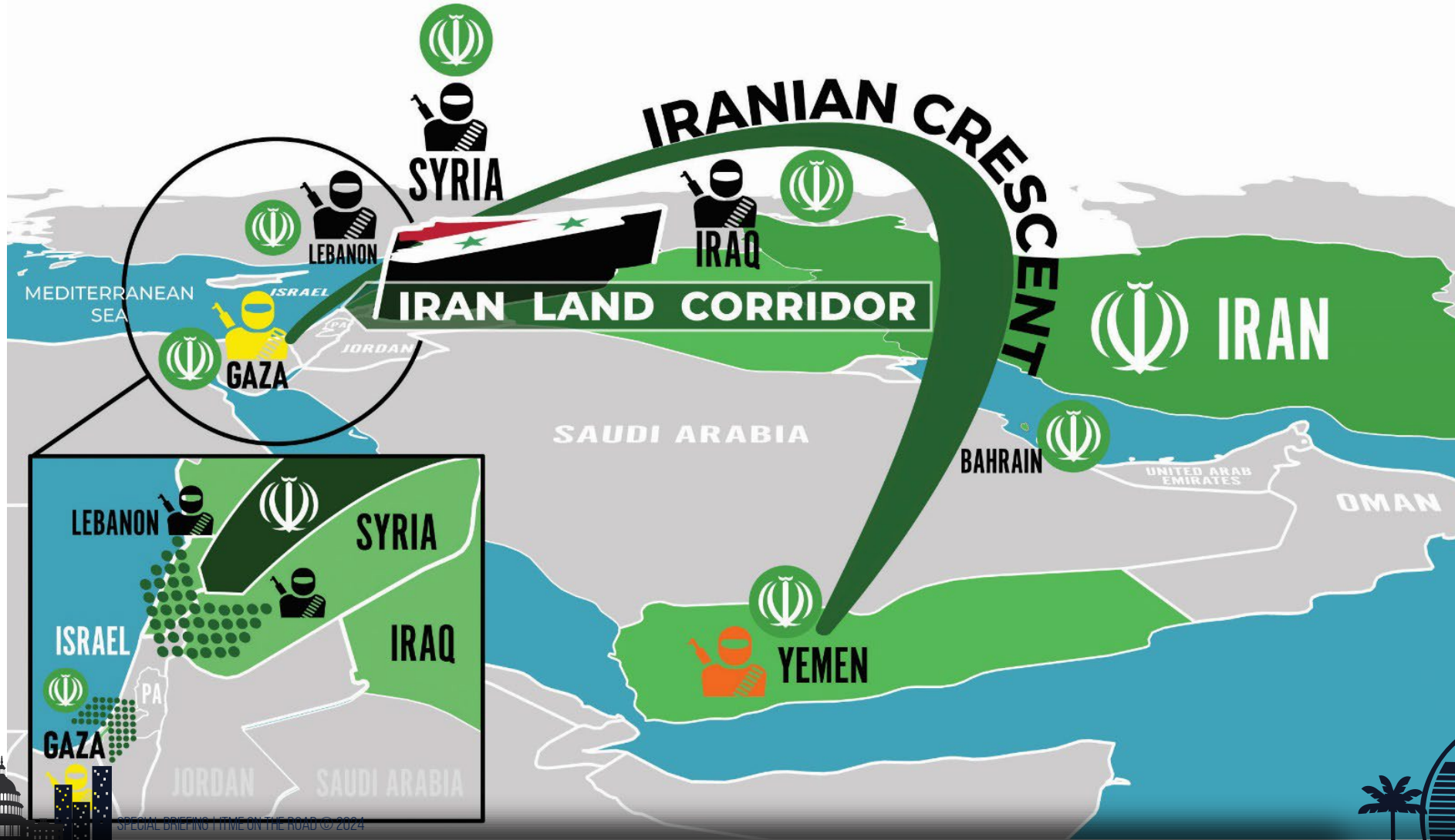
| **LOOKING AHEAD**



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SYRIA UPDATE | LYNCHPIN OF THE IRANIAN CORRIDOR



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| LOOKING AHEAD

NARRATIVES VS. REALITY | ITME EDUCATION

- **ESCALATION OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT SINCE 1990'S STEMS FROM CONFLUENCE & MOMENTUM OF THREE RADICAL IDEOLOGIES:**
 - ✓ **SUNNI CALIPHATE, SHI'ITE IMAMATE, THE RESISTANCE.**
- **WESTERN DISCOURSE (ACADEMIC, MEDIA, POLITICAL, ETC.) FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE ESCALATION. THAT FAILURE STEMS FROM:**
 - ✓ **NARRATIVES OF BOTH SIDES (ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN) WERE MISTAKENLY VIEWED AS THE REASONS FOR ESCALATION. THE NARRATIVES ARE NOT THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE ESCALATION.**
 - ✓ **THE CONFLICT HAS BEEN SHAPED BY BUZZWORDS, SLOGANS, THEORIES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN TESTED AGAINST REAL-WORLD FACTS AND OUTCOMES - OFTEN DRIVEN BY EMOTIONAL REACTIONS RATHER THAN GROUNDED IN REALITY.**



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| PATH TO CONSTRUCTIVE & PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE

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NARRATIVES VS. REALITY | ITME EDUCATION

FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA

INTIFADA

RESISTANCE — AL MUQAWAMAH

“LIBERATING PALESTINE”

KEFIYYEH KUFFIYEH

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

HAMAS GOAL IS NOT PALESTINIAN STATE — IT IS A CALIPHATE

KILLED THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

HAS INFLICTED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST — INCLUDING PALESTINIANS

AN EXCUSE / PAWN IRAN USES TO TAKE OVER THE ARAB WORLD TO BECOME THE SUPERPOWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

RESENTMENT IN ARAB WORLD FOR DISRESPECTING INDIGENOUS & NATIVE SYMBOL OF NOBILITY & HONOR

HOLDING HAMAS ACCOUNTABLE WILL STRENGTHEN ARAB & PALESTINIANIANS WHO WANT TO TAKE A DIFFERENT PATH. AND IS THE ONLY WAY TO CREATE A BETTER REALITY FOR ISRAELIS & PALESTINIANS



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KNOWLEDGE
ANALYSIS
CONTEXT
NUANCES
EDUCATION
CRITICAL THINKING
FACTS
TEST OF REALITY
SOURCES
CAUSE AND OUTCOME
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
DATA
CHRONOLOGY



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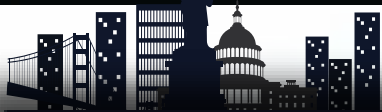
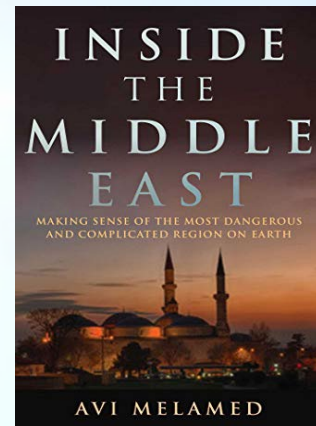
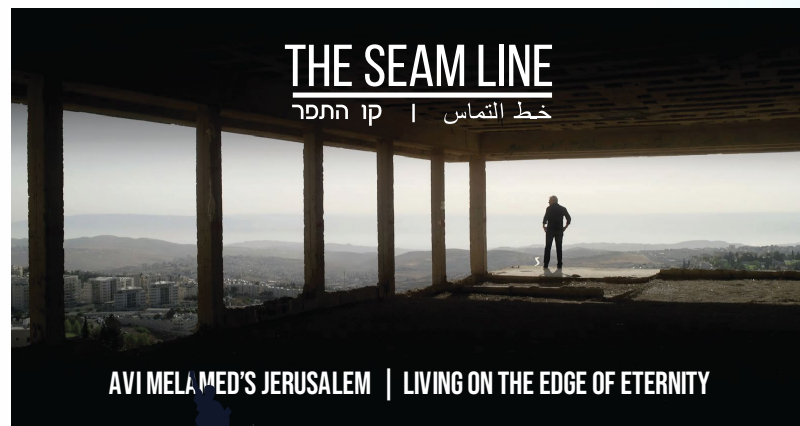
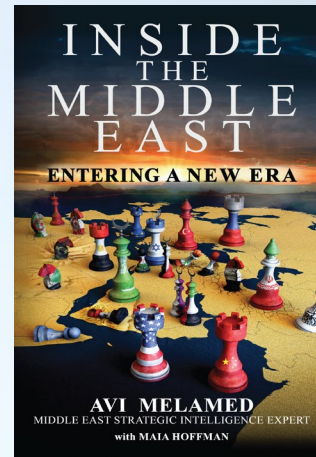
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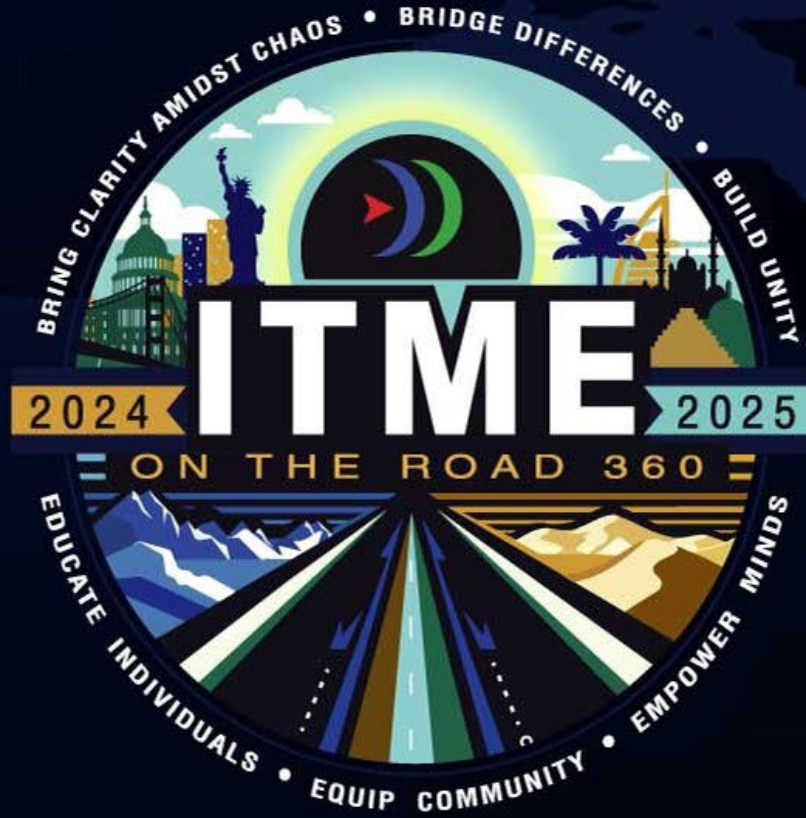
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