

NAVIGATING THE STORM TO THE HORIZON'S EDGE

SPECIAL BRIEFING BY AVI MELAMED | JANUARY 2025





- OCTOBER 7, 2023 | A BRIEF FRAMING
 - THE ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY FACTORS
 - > CONFLUENCE & MOMENTUM OF THREE RADICAL IDEOLOGIES
 - > THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE | A NETWORK OF TERROR
 - > THE 'RING OF FIRE' DOCTRINE TO ELIMINATE ISRAEL
 - OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | DISINTEGRATION OF THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE
 - > MULTI-FRONT ESCALATION
 - > DEFEAT OF HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH, DOWNFALL OF ASSAD RULE
 - > MULTI FRONT CURRENT SITUATION
 - THE MIDDLE EAST IN 2025 | GEOPOLITICAL RECONFIGURATION
 - > END OF IRAN'S HEGEMONIC PROJECT
 - > STRUGGLE FOR PATH AND SOVEREIGNTY- LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAQ
 - > ISRAELI PALESTINIAN ARENA
 - > TUKEY'S REGIONAL HEGEMONIC VISION
 - EDUCATIONAL MISSION



The Middle East INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES 1/23/2025

SESSION AGENDA







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MAP OF ISRAEL | WEST BANK | GAZA



A BRIEF FRAMING

Inside
The
Middle
East
INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES
1/23/2025

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









OCTOBER 7, 2023 | A BRIEF FRAMING



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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

Caliphatte

RESOLUTE ANIMOSITY & BLOODSHED SINCE 680





ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | HISTORIC & CONTEMPORARY FACTORS



ARAB - PERSIAN - TURKISH POWER STRUGGLE



1/23/2025

ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 HISTORIC & CONTEMPORARY FACTORS

SUNNI CALIPHATE [ANCIENT]

SHI'ITE IMAMATE [ANCIENT]

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



HEZBOLLAH













ANSAR ALLAH (HOUTHIS)







ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS

(IRG/IRGC)



GOAL FOR ALL IS GLOBAL ISLAMIC ENTITY
GOVERNED BY ISLAMIC CODEX —

SHARI'AH LAW



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THE RESISTANCE *AL-MUQAWAMAH* [MODERN]

- **□** ANTI WESTERN VALUES
- ☐ ERADICATING WESTERN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
- ☐ UNRELENTING STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL UNTIL IT IS ANNIHILATED
- ☐ "LIBERATING PALESTINE"







ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | 3 RADICAL IDEOLOGIES CONVERGE

NETWORK OF TERROR | MILITIAS ENTRENCHING IRAN IN ARAB WORLD



| IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE



"LIBERATING PALESTINE" | THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE PROPAGANDA



THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE PROPAGANDA "ON OUR WAY TO LIBERATE AL QUDS" (JERUSALEM'S NAME IN ARABIC)





AXIS OF RESISTANCE | STORM OF CHAOS, DEATH & WAR



IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE



AXIS OF RESISTANCE IRAN'S TOOL TO ACHIEVE HEGEMONY



THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE IS A TROJAN HORSE DESTROYING ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE NAME OF LIBERATING AL-QUDS





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



| THE RING OF FIRE



"LIBERATING PALESTINE" | AXIS OF RESISTANCE PROPAGANDA



THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE PROPAGANDA
"ON OUR WAY TO LIBERATE AL QUDS" (JERUSALEM'S NAME IN ARABIC)





RING OF FIRE | IRAN & HAMAS MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE















- EXHAUST ISRAEL THROUGH REPEATED MILITARY ROUNDS LAUNCHED FROM GAZA (2008-2009; 2012; 2014; 2018; 2019; 2021; 2023 NOW] = 7 MILITARY ROUNDS = THOUSANDS DEAD & INJURED + MILLIONS TRAUMATIZED
- TARGET ISRAEL'S SOFT BELLY CIVILIANS
- BUILD MASSIVE MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE IN AREAS BORDERING ISRAEL
- ☐ "UNIFYING OF ARENAS" ELIMINATE ISRAEL BY LAUNCHING SIMULTANEOUS WAR FROM ALL ARENAS

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WHY DID HAMAS LAUNCH THE WAR ON OCTOBER 7, 2023?

INNER PALESTINIAN POWER STRUGGLE







HAMAS
IDEOLOGY: ISLAMIST
GOAL: CALIPHATE

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
[FATAH IS LARGEST PARTY]
IDEOLOGY: NATIONALIST
GOAL: PALESTINIAN STATE

"UNIFYING OF ARENAS"





























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SINCE OCT 7 | MULTIFRONT ESCALATION DICTATED BY IRAN



- Iran orders members of the Axis of Resistance to gradually expand and increase attacks across the region, targeting Israel, United States assets and forces, and maritime trade in the Red Sea.
- ☐ Iran's tactics aim to pressure US & International community to pressure Israel to end war in Gaza.
- ☐ Iran's goal of escalation is to save Hamas rule in Gaza.
- Expanding hostilities increases the risk of regional war.

OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT DISINTEGRATION OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE



RESULT OF ESCALATION = DEFEAT OF HAMAS, HEZBOLLAH, ASSAD OVERTHROW



DOMINO EFFECT:
DOWNFALL OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE [ALA AL-LA QTA]



SYRIAN REVOLUTION KICKS OUT IRAN AND ITS MILITIAS [IBRAHIM DEGHWAR]



OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | DISINTEGRATION OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE





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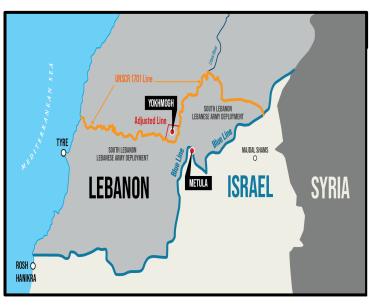
CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND....

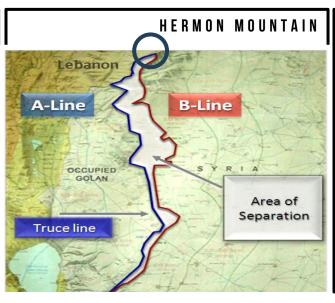
LEBANON

SYRIA

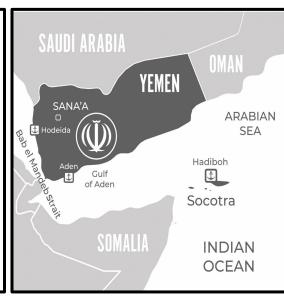
IRAQ

YEMEN









NOVEMBER 27,2024 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

ISRAEL EXPANDS CONTROL
INTO "AREA OF
SEPARATION"

ATTACKS SUSPENDED





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END OF IRAN'S HEGEMONIC PROJECT



- > IRAN RELIES ON ITS INFLUENCE IN IRAQ AND YEMEN TO MAINTAIN ITS ROLE AS A POWERFUL REGIONAL PLAYER.
- > INCREASING UNREST IN IRAN TOGETHER WITH EXPECTED TOUGH SANCTIONS BY INCOMING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS MAJOR CHALLENGE TO THE REGIME.

IRAN'S HEGEMONIC VISION IS SHAKY



IRAN RELIES ON HOUTHIS TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE





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LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAQ | STRUGGLE FOR PATH, SOVEREIGNTY



LEBANON

Partial Strengthening of Sovereignty.

Growing Involvement of Major Arab States.



SYRIA

Gradual Stabilization.

Becomes Stage for Growing Arab – Turkish Involvement and Competition Over Influence.

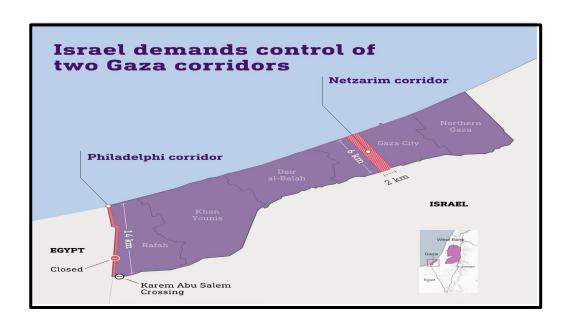


IRAQ

Intensification of political power struggle between supporters of Iranian influence in Iraq and Iraqi nationalists who want to limit Iran's influence in Iraq.



CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND...GAZA





ISRAEL IN GAZA?

ISRAEL HAMAS DEAL



*



THE TURKS RISE AGAIN | ERDOGAN'S HEGEMONIC PROJECT













ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN ARENA



GAZA & PALESTINIANS Hamas weakened. But continues to be relevant player.

Reshuffling of inner Palestinian political structure.

Inner Palestinian discussion over the "Resistance."



ISRAEL Israel's deterrence is restored.

Possible elections.

Next government will likely center around coalition of pragmatic Zionist parties.



ARAB WORLD

Increasing involvement of major Arab states stemming from weakening of Hamas & IJIP & end of Iran's hegemonic vision.

Progress towards Israeli-Saudi rapprochement.





RESTRUCTURED GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF MIDDLE EAST









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EDUCATIONAL MISSION





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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.





NARRATIVES VS. REALITY | ITME EDUCATION

Hamas goal is not palestinian state — it is a caliphate FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA

INTIFADA

<mark>Killed</mark> thousands of <mark>Israelis and Palestinians</mark>

RESISTANCE — AL MUQAWAMAH

HAS INFLICTED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE MIDDLE EA

INCLUDING PALESTINIANS

"LIBERATING PALESTINE"

AN EXCUSE / PAWN IRAN USES TO TAKE OVER THE ARAB WORLD TO BECOME

THE SUPERPOWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

KEFIYYEH KUFFIYEH

RESENTMENT IN ARAB WORLD FOR DISRESPECTING INDIGENOUS & NATIVE

SYMBOL OF NOBILITY & HONOR

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

HOLDING HAMAS ACCOUNTABLE WILL STRENGTHEN ARAB & PALESTINIANIANS

WHO WANT TO TAKE A DIFFERENT PATH. AND IS THE **ONLY**



PATH TO CONSTRUCTIVE & PRODUCTIVE DIALOGE



INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST | INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES [ITME]

TEST OF REALITY CHRONOLOGY







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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PATH TO CONSTRUCTIVE & PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE





TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST

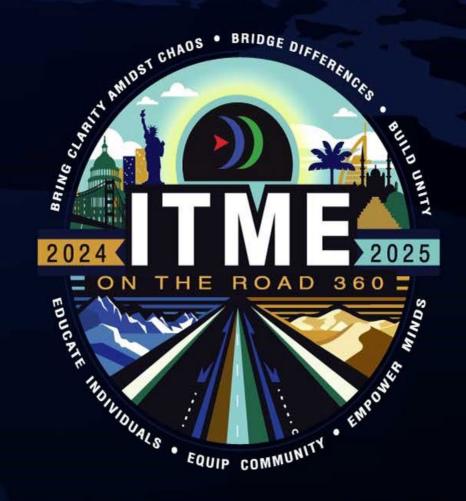


























EDUCATE » EQUIP » EMPOWER

COMING SOON THIS WINTER



SCAN NOW TO STAY TUNED

