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MIDDLE EAST 2025 | OCTOBER 7 AND THE DOMINO EFFECT

SPECIAL BRIEFING BY AVI MELAMED | MARCH 19, 2025



TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY 2004-2024

Southwest Florida
Chapter



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 IMPACT | DISINTEGRATION OF THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE

- MULTI-FRONT ESCALATION
- DEFEAT OF HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH
- IRAN'S DETERRENCE CAPACITY COMPROMISED



OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | GEOPOLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS

- REGIONAL PLAYERS
- ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN ARENA



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- Q&A



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MAP OF ISRAEL | WEST BANK | GAZA



| A BRIEF FRAMING

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



| 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

Caliphate

RESOLUTE ANIMOSITY & BLOODSHED SINCE 680



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SUNNI CALIPHATE [ANCIENT]

SHI'ITE IMAMATE [ANCIENT]

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



AL QAEDA



HAMAS



ISIS



HEZBOLLAH



AL-HASHD AL SHAABI (PMU)



ANSAR ALLAH (HOUTHIS)



ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS
(IRG/IRGC)

BOTH GOVERNED BY SHARIAH LAW



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| ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | 3 RADICAL IDEOLOGIES CONVERGE

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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”



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| ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | 3 RADICAL IDEOLOGIES CONVERGE

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MOMENTUM | SUNNI & SHI'ITE MILITIAS | AFTER 1979 ISLAMIC REVOLUTION



| ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | 3 RADICAL IDEOLOGIES CONVERGE

NETWORK OF TERROR | MILITIAS TO POSITION IRAN AS SUPERPOWER



| IRAN & THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE

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



| THE RING OF FIRE & UNIFYING OF ARENAS

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”



| UNIFYING ARENAS & PALESTINIAN POWER STRUGGLE



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OCT 7 IMPACT | MULTIFRONT ESCALATION DICTATED BY IRAN



- ❑ Iran ordered the Axis of Resistance to increase attacks - targeting Israel, U.S. assets, & maritime trade in Red Sea.
- ❑ Iran's goal. Pressure US & international community to pressure Israel to end war in Gaza & thereby save Hamas' rule in Gaza.

| OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | DISINTEGRATION OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE







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OCT 7 IMPACT | WEAKENING OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE



ESCALATION HAD THE OPPOSITE IMPACT

- ☐  Israel Defeats Hezbollah
- ☐  Israel Destroys Hamas Military Capacity
- ☐  Israel Weakens Iran's Deterrence Posture
- ☐  Israel Restores Deterrence Posture

| OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | DISINTEGRATION OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE





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DOMINO EFFECT | DOWNFALL OF ASSAD REGIME



**DOMINO EFFECT:
DOWNFALL OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE [ALA AL-LAQTA]**



**SYRIAN REVOLUTION KICKS OUT IRAN
AND ITS MILITIAS [IBRAHIM DEGHWARI]**



| OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | DISINTEGRATION OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE



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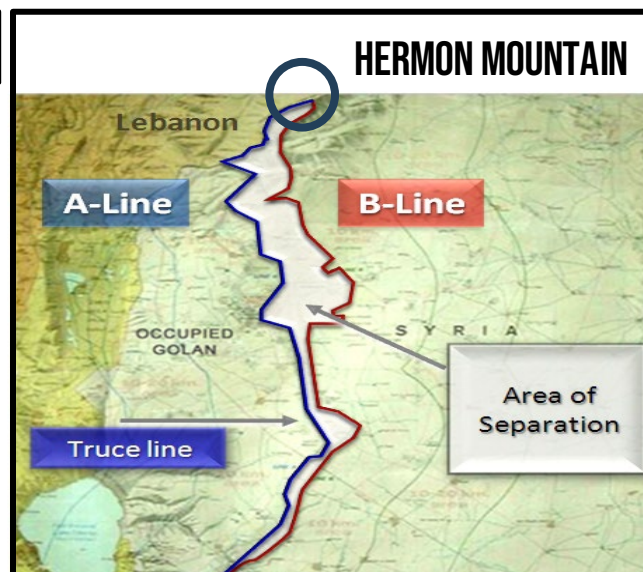
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CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND...

LEBANON



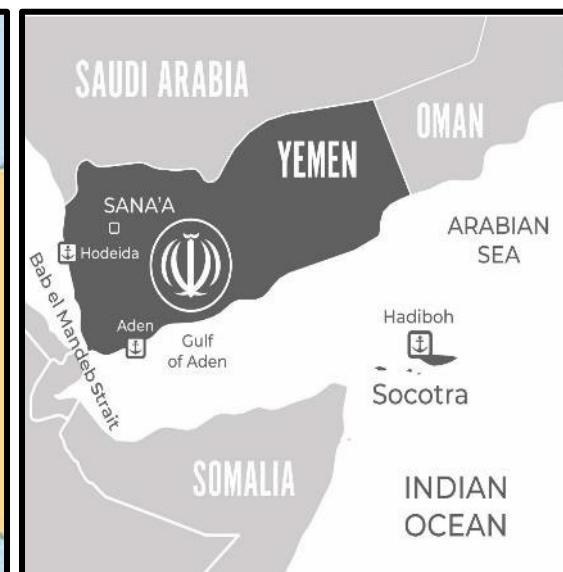
SYRIA



IRAQ



YEMEN



11/27/2024 – TODAY
CEASEFIRE

ISRAEL EXPANDS CONTROL
INTO “AREA OF SEPARATION”
& HERMON MOUNTAIN

ATTACKS SUSPENDED

FOLLOWING HOUTH
THREATS, US ATTACKS
HOHTIS



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| MIDDLE EAST 2025 | GEOPOLITICAL RECONFIGURATION

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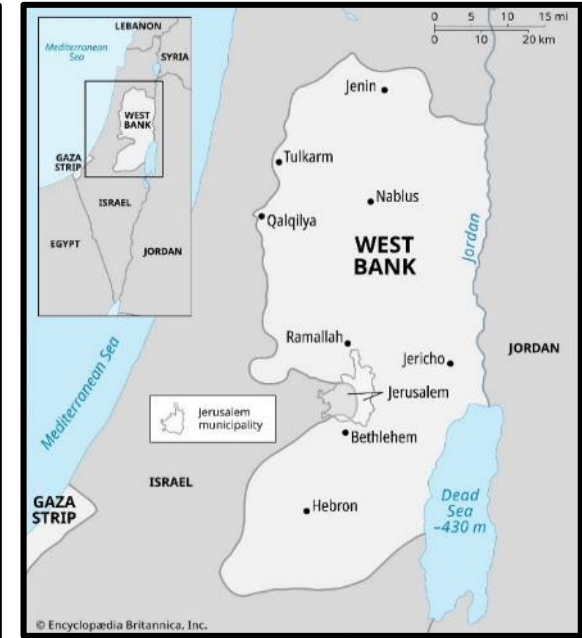
CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN ISRAEL...AND GAZA & WEST BANK



THE GAZA STRIP



FIGHTING RESUMED
59 ISRAELIS STILL IN CAPTIVITY



WEST BANK
OPERATION IRON WALL



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| MIDDLE EAST 2025 | GEOPOLITICAL RECONFIGURATION

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DOMINO EFFECT | REGIONAL PLAYERS

TURKEY ?

Boosts regional influence

SYRIA ?

Towards radicalization or pragmatism?

IRAN ✓

Weakening of Mullah regime

LEBANON ✓

Partial strengthening of sovereignty

IRAQ ✓

Partial strengthening of sovereignty

| OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | REGIONAL PLAYERS

ISRAEL, THE PALESTINIANS, MAJOR ARAB STATES



PALESTINIANS

Hamas weakened but continues to be relevant player. Reshuffling of political structure is subject to the inner Palestinian discussion over the “Resistance.”



ISRAEL

The domino effect potentially strengthening Israel's geostrategic situation. Reshuffling of the political structure.



Major Arab States

Increasing involvement, weakening of Iran's hegemonic vision. Israeli-Saudi rapprochement.



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| MIDDLE EAST 2025 | GEOPOLITICAL RECONFIGURATION

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EQUIP & EMPOWER YOURSELF THROUGH EDUCATION & UNDERSTANDING

- **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 SIDES (ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN) WERE MISTAKENLY VIEWED AS REASONS FOR ESCALATION.**
 - ❑ **DISCUSSION SUBJECT TO BUZZWORDS, SLOGANS & THEORIES EXEMPTED FROM THE TEST OF REALITY**
 - ❑ **DISCUSSION DRIVEN BY EMOTIONAL REACTIONS RATHER THAN FACTS AND CONTEXT**



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| COMPLEX REALITY CAN'T BE EXPLAINED THROUGH SLOGANS

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NARRATIVES VS. REALITY | ITME EDUCATION

“FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA”	HAMAS’ GOAL (A CALIPHATE) THREATENS PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST CAMP AND JORDAN
“INTIFADA”	KILLED THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS
“RESISTANCE”	INFLICTED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST — INCLUDING PALESTINIANS
“LIBERATING PALESTINE”	AN EXCUSE / PAWN IRAN USES TO BECOM THE SUPERPOWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST
“KEFIYYEH KUFFIYEH”	ARAB RESENTMENT FOR DISRESPECTING INDIGENOUS & NATIVE SYMBOL OF NOBILITY & HONOR
“SAMEDUN”	SUBJECTING INDIVIDUAL RIGHT’S TO PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS TO A POLITICAL NARRATIVE
“FREEDOM FIGHTERS”	ARABS HOLD HAMAS ACCOUNTABLE. EXEMPTING HAMAS FORM GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY PERPETUATES VIOLENCE & DEATH



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| PATH TO CONSTRUCTIVE & PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE

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



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| PATH TO CONSTRUCTIVE & PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE

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



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TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST

>> **WE WOULD LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!** >>



PLEASE TAKE OUR 5MIN SURVEY



COMING SOON THIS WINTER



SCAN NOW TO STAY TUNED

FROM THE CREATORS OF
"THE SEAM LINE"

AND THE WRITERS OF
"INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST,
ENTERING A NEW ERA"

INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST
THE PRIMER

CREATED BY ITME
WRITTEN BY AVI MELAMED & MAIA HOFFMAN
PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY DIDIER BODIN & BENJAMIN LIDSKY
MUSIC BY YAIR DALAL

FEATURING
JASEM ALJURAID ABDULLAH ALKHAMIS MANAR AL SHARIF HAYVI BOUZO HUSSEIN ABDUL HUSSEIN
WALID PHARES JASSIM MUHAMAD MOHAMMED NAJIB GIDEON RAHAT DALIA ZIADA





JCC Association
of North America



NJY CAMPS



Jewish
Federations
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Hillel
International



Beth El
CONGREGATION
קהילת בית אל



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