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# MIDDLE EAST 2025 | OCTOBER 7 AND THE DOMINO EFFECT

SPECIAL BRIEFING BY AVI MELAMED | MARCH 4, 2025



**JEWISH  
NATIONAL  
FUND  
USA**



## 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 | WEAKENING 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



## EDUCATIONAL MISSION

- Q&A



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# | SESSION AGENDA



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# MAP OF ISRAEL | WEST BANK | GAZA



| A BRIEF FRAMING

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# 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





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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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# THE AXIS OF RESISTANCE *AL-MUQAWAMAH* (MODERN)



| 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 ARENS' | IRAN'S DOCTRINE TO ELIMINATE ISRAEL



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## | 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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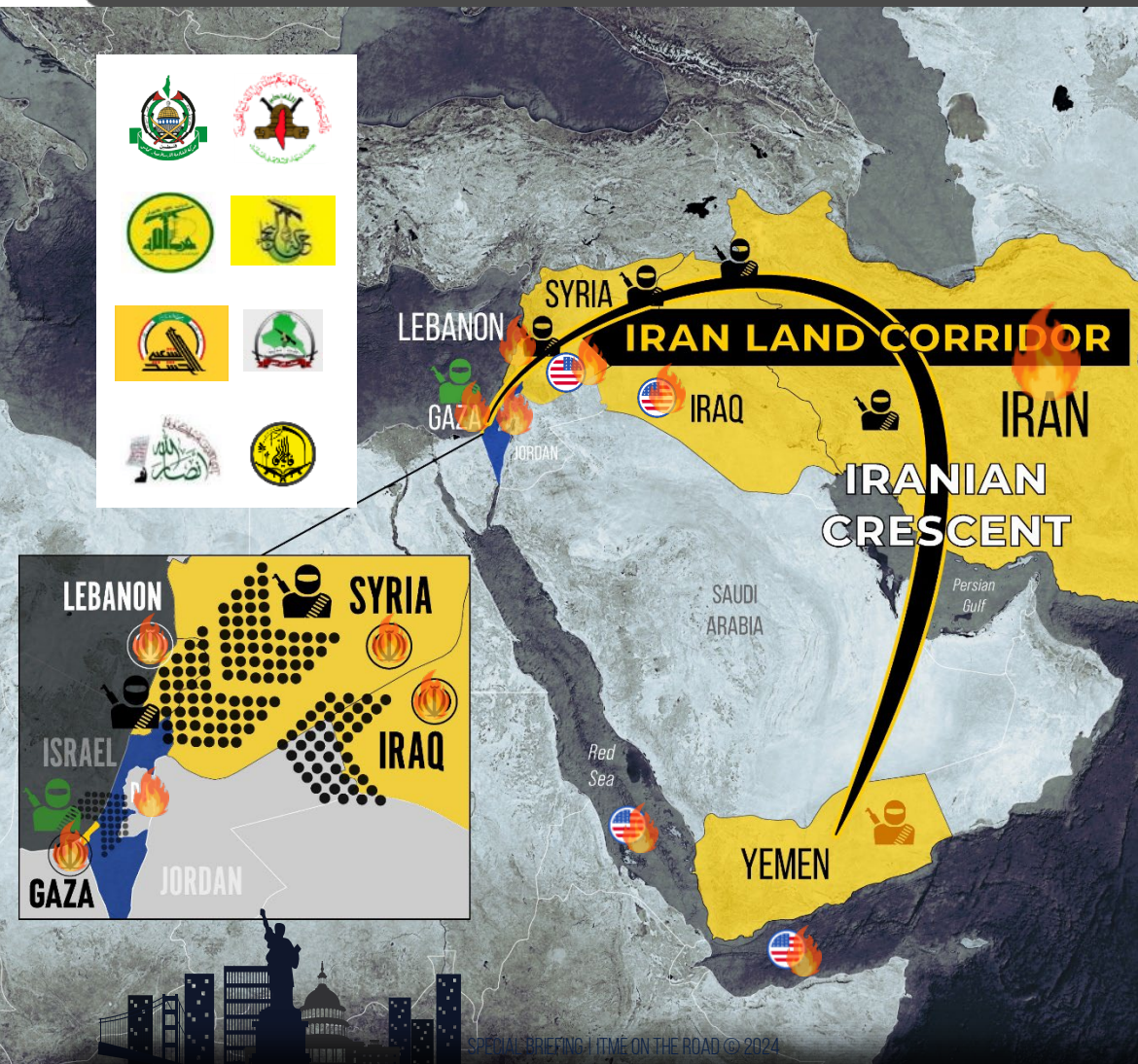


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# OCT 7 IMPACT | MULTIFRONT ESCALATION DICTATED BY IRAN



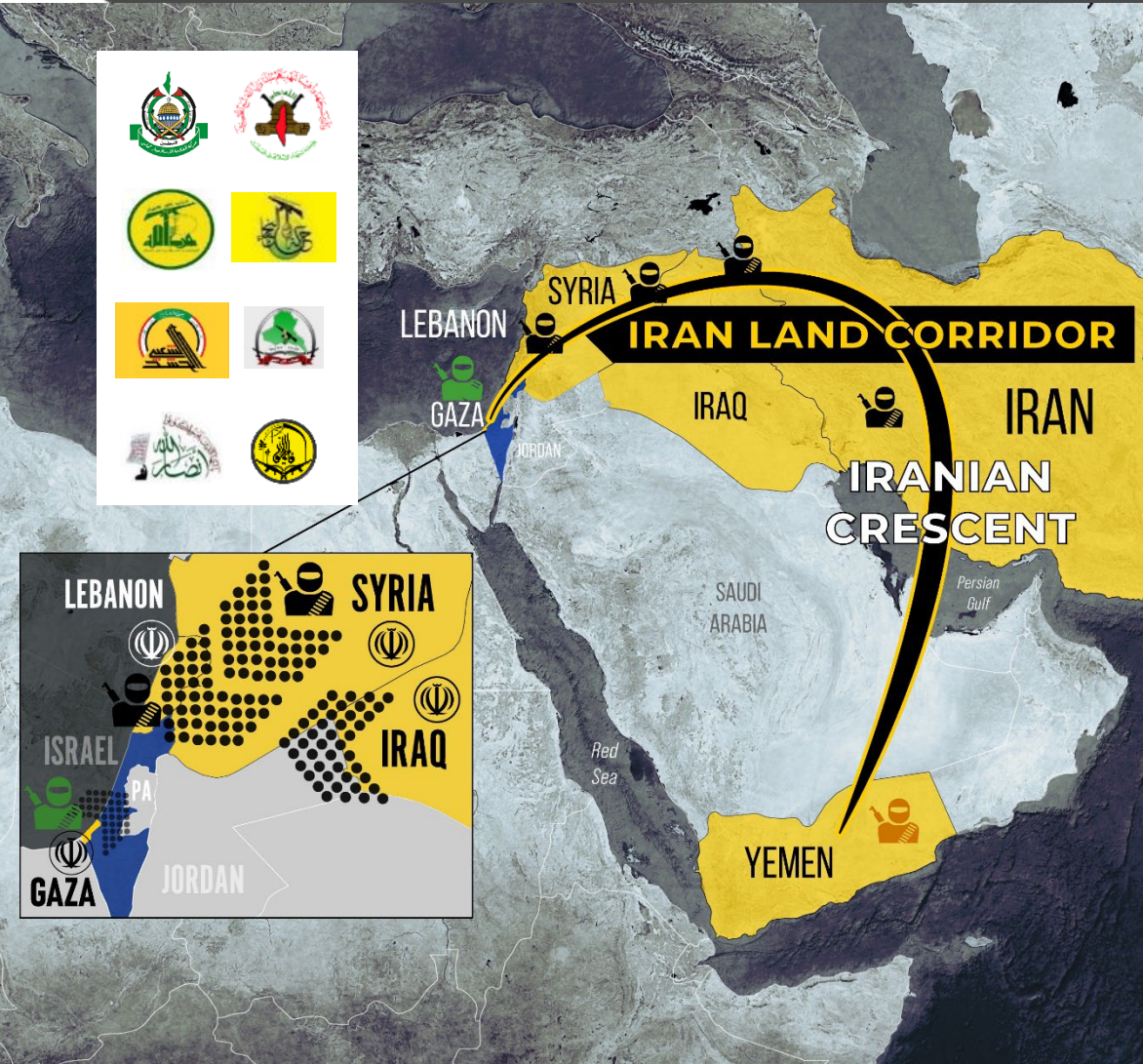
- ❑ Iran ordered the Axis of Resistance to increase attacks - targeting Israel, U.S. assets, & maritime trade in Red Sea.
- ❑ Iran's goal. Pressure US & international community to pressure Israel to end war in Gaza & thereby save Hamas' rule in Gaza.

| OCTOBER 7 DOMINO EFFECT | DISINTEGRATION OF AXIS OF RESISTANCE








# 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





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



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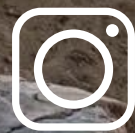
**| PATH TO CONSTRUCTIVE & PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE**

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







**NJY CAMPS**



**Hillel**  
International



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