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MIDDLE EAST 2025 | OCTOBER 7 AND THE DOMINO EFFECT

SPECIAL BRIEFING BY AVI MELAMED



Tampa
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
& FEDERATION

BETTER TOGETHER



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



EDUCATIONAL MISSION

- Q&A



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The
Middle
East
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5/18/2025

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

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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The
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5 / 18 / 2025

SUNNI CALIPHATE [ANCIENT]

SHI'ITE IMAMATE [ANCIENT]

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



AL QAEDA



HAMAS



ISIS



HEZBOLLAH



ISLAMIC RESISTANCE

BRIGADES



ANSAR ALLAH (HOUTHIS)



ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS
(IRG/IRGC)



GOAL IS GLOBAL ENTITY



GOVERNED BY SHARIAH LAW



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| ROAD TO OCTOBER 7 | 3 RADICAL IDEOLOGIES CONVERGE

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5 / 18 / 2025

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

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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EDUCATIONAL MISSION

- Q&A



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Inside
The
Middle
East
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5/18/2025

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.







| ESCALATION TO SAVE HAMAS LEADS TO DOMINO EFFECT

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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- ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN ARENA

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The
Middle
East
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5/18/2025

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?

LEBANON ✓

Partial strengthening
of sovereignty

IRAQ ✓

Partial strengthening
of sovereignty

IRAN ✓

Weakening of
Mullah regime

YEMEN !

Houthis
destabilizing factor

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



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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
of North America



Hillel
International



Beth El
CONGREGATION
קהילת בית אל



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