

Israel Middle East Dilemma: Israel between Sunni coalition and Iranian Middle East expansionism policy

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Everything is NEW

- New Conflict: Intra-state (Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt & Turkey)
- New actors: Old authoritarian regimes replaced with violent secular/religious Non-state actors (ISIS, Hashed, Bait Maqdis, Libyan rebels, Syrian many actors)
- New Security Approach: How to tackle the new Middle East
- New types of War: Symmetric vs. Asymmetric

Unclear US Middle East Policy

- Traditionally:
 1. Preventing Moscow from gaining a foothold in the Middle East
 2. Placating growing nationalism and controlling modernization
 3. Maintaining access to oil

Three different perspectives

Yaakov Lappin - Defense and security analysis

- The Low-Profile War Between Israel and Hezbollah
- “The War Between Wars,” which monitors and occasionally disrupts the transfer of advanced weapons to Hezbollah.

AND

- This campaign has allowed Israel to reportedly exhibit **the extent of its intelligence penetration of Hezbollah** and the prowess of its precision-guided weaponry, thus boosting its deterrence, but has not weakened Hezbollah's determination to expand its vast missile and rocket arsenal. It also carries the calculated risk of setting off escalation that could rapidly spin out of control.

Curtis R. Ryan

- Regime security and shifting alliances in the Middle East during Arab Spring
- MBS is shifting alliances in order to consolidate power in his hands.
- Sunni coalition and Israel is MBS's and SISI's survival strategy

Dr. Mordechai Kedar

- The US Betrayal of Kurdistan Is a Warning Sign for Israel
- We have no intention of interfering in internal Iraqi affairs

- But let us suppose the Iranian threat disappears because Israel launches a successful attack on Tehran's nuclear facilities. As a result, war breaks out between Israel and Iran (including Hezbollah), Israel sacrifices hundreds of soldiers and civilians – and the Iranian problem ceases to exist. Will the Arab and Western worlds be grateful to Israel and act to protect its interests?
- The answer is simple: look to the Kurds. What happened to them will happen to Israel. The Kurds fought ISIS, sacrificed their soldiers and people, and were thrown to the wolves once they had outlived their usefulness. That is exactly what will happen to Israel once it saves the Arab states from the Iranian threat