



Introduction

The October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks that resulted in the massacre of at least 1200 Israelis has again made an incredibly tough issue one of the primary concerns of policymakers focused on international security. The attacks were extremely gutting due to the barbaric nature of the murders and horrific images and stories that continue to come out every day. Because of the





goals would include getting back its kidnapped soldiers, getting Hezbollah to withdraw from the region, having Lebanon deploy its military in the South to the situation, a heavy blow to

given to what the termination of hostilities by the military and political leadership would look like and it showed. Though the war was short lived, it was in no way a success despite the conflict being completely asymmetric. The coming months and years included a dissecting of the war in Israel and what changes needed to be made to improve their security.

Winograd Commission Report

The Winograd Report, which analyzed the failures and successes of the 2006 War with Hezbollah was a great shock to Israelis and served as a giant wake up call to political and
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2008). In other words, he argued that by striking at targets with more might than their enemies are even capable of, this will create a strong deterrent to attack Israel. And while it is true a strong deterrent should be key to Israeli foreign policy, one could see how this doctrine of bombardment could cause chaotic and undesirable consequences for innocent civilians.

In response to hostilities between Israel and Hamas in 2008, a UN report criticized Israel for its humiliation and terrorization of a civilian population, radical diminishment of economic capacity both to work and to provide for itself, and to force upon it an ever-increasing sense of dependency. One-handed attacks, that are claimed to be a response and intended to be a deterrent, are actually just a collective punishment that is eroding human rights in the area and not actually deterring continued terrorist attacks against their own civilians.

Application to 2023 War with Hamas

Given the rise of blatant antisemitism in academic settings and internationally at large, it is pertinent to first say that the barbaric terrorist attacks committed by Hamas on October 7 and since then with their treatment of hostages are completely abhorrent. Israel was attacked within its own borders and innocent civilians, some not even Israeli or Jewish were the targets. Given the scope and nature of the attacks, Israel, of course, has a right to defend itself. As this primary security goal is its survival and it appears this fight with Hamas, given its proximity and connections to Iran, will be yet another war of survival. But in order to reduce casualties, prevent the war from spreading, and preserve hope for the future, attention must be paid to lessons of the past.

conflict. Israeli leaders have described the destruction of Hamas as the goal, but this seems rather broad and unattainable. Hamas is funded by Iran and its supplies will be replenished until Iran decides to stop, whether of their own accord or being forced to. The ground invasion of Gaza has been argued to be the only possible way to achieve this goal due to the complex tunnel system Hamas uses underneath Gaza. This operation already appears to be a continuation of the Dahiya Doctrine and thousands of civilians have already lost and will continue to lose their lives due to the density of the Gaza Strip. So, is the destruction of Hamas attainable?

This paper would echo what many Middle East analysts believe to be true, and that is, it depends on the scope of the word destruction. The leadership can be killed, the structure can be destroyed, but the ideology cannot. Experts have also argued that for operation to be successful, it is imperative to create a schism between the Palestinian population and Hamas. Doing so would likely require there being a broad belief of the possibility for a Palestinian state in the near future (CSIS, 2023). But it is clear that this is currently not happening. Instead, the Israelis are painting Gazans and Palestinians with a broad brush and because of this are causing

