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Lessons from Syria, Lebanon:

Resistance is the only guarantor of sovereignty

Israel's actions in the wake of Syria's collapse exposed a calculated Zionist thrust for regional expansion and domination. Without Resistance to Tel Aviv's unchecked aggressions, the sovereignty of every West Asian state will come under threat of economic, military, and political occupation.



Photo Credit: The Cradle

On the heels of thinly veiled threats from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that deposed Syrian president Bashar al-Assad was “playing with fire,” and seizing the

opportunity presented by the sudden [collapse of the Syrian state](#), the occupation army invaded Syrian territory for the first time in 50 years.

The pretext of establishing a “buffer zone” was a transparent attempt to conceal Israel's historic regional agenda: the weakening and fragmentation of Arab states to facilitate Tel Aviv's regional domination.

Exploiting the power vacuum that ensued from the fall of Damascus, Israel launched hundreds of air strikes to cripple Syria's already weakened military capabilities, and patted itself on the back for what it called the largest air blitz in its history. Its land forces and armored vehicles now lay a few kilometers from the Syrian capital, having literally driven through border terrain without a single challenge by opposing troops.

For many observers in neighboring Lebanon – and perhaps Iraq and other regional states – the Israeli rout answered a critical question: if they relinquished the will or capacity to defend themselves, would this too be Lebanon's fate?

A legacy of expansionism

The concept of ‘Greater Israel’ is deeply rooted in Zionist ideology. From Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, to revisionist figures like Ze'ev Jabotinsky, and even Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, expansionist ambitions have been a consistent theme.

Oded Yinon's [plan, A Strategy for Israel in the Eighties](#), further solidified this vision. First made public in the magazine *Kivunim* (Directions) of the World Zionist Organization in February 1982, the plan was based on the vision of Herzl, and the founders of the Israeli state in the late 1940s, among them Polish-born, US Zionist leader Jacob Fishman.

From North Africa to the Levant to the Arabian Peninsula, Yinon advocated a strategy of breaking up and chronically weakening Arab states in order to ensure Israel's long-term security.

“Israel’s policy, both in war and in peace, ought to be directed at the liquidation of Jordan under the present regime and the transfer of power to the Palestinian majority ... The dissolution of Syria and Iraq later on into ethnically or religiously unique areas such as in Lebanon, is Israel’s primary target on the Eastern front ... Iraq, rich in oil on the one hand and internally torn on the other, is guaranteed as a candidate for Israel’s targets. Its dissolution is even more important for us than that of Syria ... The entire Arabian peninsula is a natural candidate for dissolution due to internal and external pressures, and the matter is inevitable especially in Saudi Arabia ... Egypt is divided and torn apart into many foci of authority. If Egypt falls apart, countries like Libya,

Sudan or even the more distant states will not continue to exist in their present form and will join the downfall and dissolution of Egypt.”

This destructive and expansionist drive is not confined to historical Israeli figures. Current Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has openly stated his desire for Israel to control territory [extending to Damascus](#) and including Jordan. In a 2016 interview, he is quoted as saying: “Our great religious elders used to say that the future of Jerusalem was to extend as far as Damascus.”

More recently, following the fall of Damascus, Smotrich [pressed](#): “It is time to seize control of Gaza and strip Hamas of its civilian authority, cutting off its lifeline,” and to launch an all-out offensive in the occupied West Bank.

Such pronouncements, far from being isolated incidents, reflect a core Zionist principle that resurfaces with increased intensity during times of conflict.

The ongoing war in Gaza exemplifies this. Nearly 10 months after the start of the war, Netanyahu said of the Occupied Palestinian Territory: “It is part of our homeland. We intend to stay there.” Smotrich's display of a ‘[Greater Israel](#)’ map encompassing all of historic Palestine and Jordan during a 2023 visit to Paris further illustrates these ambitions.

Historically, these far-right expansionist fantasies are rooted in religious beliefs that the ‘Promised Land’ stretches from the Nile River in Egypt to the Euphrates River in Iraq. These beliefs have been seeded and advanced by the leaders of the Zionist movement since its inception more than 120 years ago.

Breaking up West Asia

Their expansionist fantasies are not merely ideological. The Yinon Plan outlined a strategy for breaking Arab states into weak, sectarian ones, each dependent on Israel for survival. Iraq is to be divided into Kurdish, Sunni, and Shia states, Lebanon reduced to fragments, and Syria obliterated. This is not a theory – it’s a Zionist roadmap for domination, and the occupation state’s aggression in Syria is a direct implementation of these sinister goals.

Israel’s actions in Syria lay bare the insatiable greed of the occupation state. Without resistance movements in neighboring Lebanon, Israeli tanks would undoubtedly have rolled deep into Lebanese territory, seizing lands far beyond the south of the Litani.

The evidence is clear. Since the [ceasefire](#) between Israel and Lebanon took effect on 27 November, the Israeli occupation army has [violated](#) Lebanese sovereignty at least [195 times](#). These violations include airstrikes, drone incursions, artillery bombardments, and the destruction of homes – acts of terror meant to keep Lebanon on its knees.

The Lebanese government and armed forces, shackled by limited capacity and international neglect, have been unable to halt this aggression. International mechanisms like the five-member committee – comprising the US, France, Lebanon, Israel, and [UNIFIL](#) – are nothing more than diplomatic theatrics.

Resistance: The barrier against occupation

A day after the committee meeting on 9 December, the Israeli army committed [12 violations](#) of the ceasefire agreement.

They meet, they talk, but they fail to act. While these parties dither, Tel Aviv tightens its grip, proving time and time again that [the only language it understands](#) is the language of force. This is why Lebanon's resistance remains the only genuine national safeguard against Israeli aggression.

Southerners in Lebanon know this truth intimately: [without the resistance](#), Israel's greed knows no bounds. Every incursion, every violation, is a reminder that resistance is not just a choice – it's a necessity.

The unrelenting aggression of the occupation state reveals a harsh reality; in a world dominated by power, weakness invites exploitation. Realists in international relations argue that power is the only currency that matters, and Lebanon's experience validates this view.

Resistance movements have demonstrated that the balance of power is the sole way to curb Tel Aviv's appetite and ambitions. Israel's expansionism will not end with Syria or Palestine. It eyes every vulnerable nation in the region, seeking to carve it up and dominate.

The lesson is clear. Only through resilience and force can sovereignty be defended. Resistance is not just a shield – it is the only path to survival against an entity that thrives on destruction and occupation.

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