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## ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel*  
*From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of*  
*Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

### Commentary...

#### In Utah, Israel Lost Its Biggest Supporter in the MAGA Movement By Amit Segal

Also, why Israel decided to finally strike Doha, leaked documents show Hamas admits to using hospitals in Gaza, and more.

I want to send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Charlie Kirk, who was tragically shot and killed yesterday at Utah Valley University. He was taken from us in a horrific act of violence that sought to silence his voice, but his legacy will continue to speak loudly for the values he held dear.

For many Americans, Charlie was a devoted patriot and defender of his country. For Israelis, he was a true friend of the Jewish state and Jewish people, and Israel's most prominent defender within the MAGA movement—something that Israelis did not take for granted. (You can watch a video of him defending Israel here).

But most importantly, Charlie was a father, husband, son, and friend. May his memory forever be a blessing, and may his loved ones find comfort in the legacy that he left behind.

Why did Israel decide that now was the right time to target senior Hamas figures in Qatar? After all, it's no secret that for years, Doha has hosted Hamas leadership.

Here's the story on why Israel decided to strike on Tuesday.

First, it's important to note that until now, Israel had a policy of not eliminating senior Hamas figures in Qatar and Turkey. In Turkey, the fear was that such a move could lead to severed relations and flight bans, whereas the concern with Qatar revolved around its status as a mediator and its relationship with the United States.

Now let's go back to January 18, 2025. As Israel considered Steve Witkoff's interim Gaza deal, Religious Zionism MKs Bezalel Smotrich and Orit Strock threatened to abandon the government. But after agreeing not to jump ship, one piece of compensation they received was the security cabinet deciding to eliminate senior Hamas officials abroad.

And while Qatar wasn't mentioned by name, nor were any specific Hamas leaders, the meaning behind the agreement was clear to all.

Now let's skip forward to June. After the 12 Day War in Iran, Jerusalem was discussing whether to end the war in Gaza or intensify operations in the strip. Then comes in IDF chief Eyal Zamir with a specific request. His resources in Gaza are limited, he said, and he'd like Israel to expand its operations to assassinations abroad. It would, Zamir argued, give Israel more tools with which to pressure Hamas leadership.

And now we're back in this week. After Monday's horrific terror attack in Jerusalem (for which Hamas claimed responsibility), the same small forum gathered and decided to carry out the strike in Doha, despite the Mossad's opposition and reservations from Zamir that executing the mission now could harm prospects for a deal in Gaza.

And with that, Israel crossed a line it had long avoided.

(It's Noon in Israel Sep 11)

#### Israel Is Remaking the Map By Abe Greenwald

It's becoming clear that Israel is in the process of creating a new world. In the pre-October 7 world, legitimate governments let terrorists kill a little, then hide a little, negotiate a little, and kill a little more. And Israel was expected to play along. In the world being born, Israel kills terrorists, wherever they are and at whatever point in their cycle. This is to be a world of greater moral coherence, swifter justice, and more enduring security.

In short, it's a saner, more civilized world. Which means the unstable populations of the West can't bear to watch it take shape. Too bad.

You can wrap yourself in a keffiyeh and chant Hamas slogans from freshman year until you're eligible for Social Security. But Hamas, that entity that Israel supposedly couldn't destroy, is all but

destroyed. Hezbollah is on its way out, the Houthis are under attack, Iran is under rubble, Assad's Syria is history, and Qatar is out of the terrorist-resort business.

You can board flotillas, declare phantom states, boycott companies, publish blood libels

and propaganda images, blackball artists, re-litigate the entire history of the 20th century, and even attack Jews on the street. But none of it will stop the proud men and women of Israel from ridding the world of your terrorist heroes. None of it will defeat the Jews or extinguish the enduring flame of Zionism.

And if you couldn't accept the long-established fact of a Jewish state, you're really going to hate what comes next. Instead of Israel being "erased from the map," as Iran's leaders have long promised, Israel is redrawing the map and erasing its enemies as it goes along. It's toppling the Iranian imperium, reestablishing Lebanese sovereignty, laying the ground for a potentially stable Gaza, ensuring the Druze's place in Syria, and more.

I could note here that, in taking out its enemies, Israel is also taking out enemies of the United States. But that's an argument in defense of Israel's actions, and I no longer feel compelled to defend Israel for anything it's done since October 7, 2023. If you find yourself defending the very idea of Israel's survival, you're wasting precious breath on a weak mind or a wicked heart. The first cannot be made to understand righteous force, and the second understands but abhors it. You're having an argument that doesn't matter.

The only argument that matters—the only one that ever mattered—is the one Israel is making in the skies and on the battlefield. Not because "might makes right," but because eliminating terrorist organizations and terror sponsors is a win for decency and humanity, no matter what jihad-supporters have to say about it. Israel was morally in the right from the start of this war, whether or not it proved to be mighty as well. Thank God, it did.

So I'm not arguing; I'm praising. I'm praising Israel for its strength and clarity, and for its steadfast vision of a world that refuses to accept terrorists as anything but targets in a gun scope. (Commentary.org Sep 9).

#### Our House is on Fire, and the Cavalry isn't Coming

By Charles Jacobs

The failure of the Jewish establishment—the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Community Relations Councils and Jewish Federations—to protect and defend the Jewish community against the decades-long build-up and the current surge of hatred in the United States has become a subject of public concern and analysis. The organizations that have claimed to speak for us and guard us against antisemitism have proven unwilling or unable to meet the challenge.

The Jewish Leadership Project, along with others across the country, for years has sought to persuade, pressure, and, when necessary, shame establishment leaders into prioritizing the defense of our community. We believed that if they could be made to see the growing danger with clarity, they would recalibrate and lead. But they have not, even after the explosion of antisemitism following the atrocities of Oct. 7, 2023, and even as their supposed progressive allies turned on us.

Our leaders have refused to pivot. I believe that they will not and cannot.

Many resist this conclusion. It is far easier to cling to the hope that our old structures still work—that the powerful organizations of the past can still deliver security and stability. Abandoning that means accepting that the responsibility to protect our families and future now rests on us all. And the sooner we face this truth, the better.

But first, the community needs to understand why the Jewish establishment won't change. Effective leadership of any enterprise requires a sober recognition of errors and a concerted effort to analyze why the leadership's assumptions failed and the courage to

chart a new course. It is human nature to resist acknowledging catastrophic mistakes, especially when you have raised hundreds of millions of dollars promoting yourselves as the most competent to do the work. Jewish leaders fear that when the enormity of their errors becomes broadly known, their community support might collapse, their (often) lucrative jobs will be at risk, and they will feel public shame.

Leadership is about knowing the territory so you can develop effective paths forward. Jewish leaders, however, have failed to grasp the obvious tectonic shifts in the American political culture. They assumed—and then placed all our bets on—the notion that classical liberalism, which had for so long protected Jews, would endure.

But classical liberalism—with its respect for pluralism, civil rights and the rule of law—has been eclipsed by a radical progressivism that paints Jews as privileged “white oppressors” and portrays Israel as the world’s villain. Even as it gained ascendancy, Jewish organizations deluded themselves by assuming that woke ideology was an exuberance of youth when it was, in fact, brilliantly organized, paid for and operated by nations like Russia, China and Qatar, and wealthy antisemites; and supported by the social justice-NGO complex. It’s not going to fade.

For decades, Jewish leaders invested vast sums of money, communal passion and moral credibility into alliances with leftist agendas and identity groups: feminists, black, Latino, trans activists, LGBTQ+ coalitions and even Muslim organizations. They believed that solidarity with those promoting left-wing agendas would be reciprocated.

But after Oct. 7, these “allies” turned on us with ferocity, branding Jews and Israel as “oppressors,” and openly celebrating our pain. The investment of decades was not just wasted; it actively strengthened these foes who now lead lethal campaigns against us. The community’s resources would have been better set aflame than handed over to organizations that weaponized them against Jews.

Because our leaders yearn to reclaim their seat at the “social-justice victims” table, they abide by the progressive rules that most threaten Jews and America. They refuse, for example, to explain the jihadist threat against Jews and the West. Large portions of the Muslim world embrace a religiously based program that explicitly targets Jews for destruction. This is not paranoia; it is a declared worldview.

Jewish leaders, however, tiptoe around this reality. They abide by the left’s ban on “Islamophobia,” a taboo that prevents any criticism of Islamist-led assaults across the world.

For the same reason, they ignore the “red-green alliance” between radical leftists and Islamists. Both groups seek to destroy America as we know it. Those on the left want to replace the Constitution with global governance, and the Islamists want to replace it with Sharia law. That these movements would join forces was predictable; that Jewish leaders refuse to acknowledge it is unforgivable.

Adding to the problem of their left-leaning ideology is their lack of courage. To admit mistakes, to rethink lifelong, deep-seated beliefs and to break with old allies requires fortitude. Instead, our leaders cower before the woke army, collapsing into silence and appeasement as their safest posture. They have—and they will continue to prioritize leftist agendas over Jewish interests, whether from belief or a lack of imagination and courage.

The responsibility to protect our families and our future then falls to the rest of us. This is not a cause for despair; it is a call to action. Jewish history is filled with moments when ordinary men and women rose to the challenge of defending their people when institutions failed. We can and must do so again.

The time to face reality is now. The old cavalry is not coming. But we are not helpless. We have strengths and talents, and we have allies across the world who want to defend us as a way to defend their own freedom from this newer emerging tyranny.

We must build new coalitions with those who truly share our values and our foes; people who believe in freedom, democracy and the survival of the Jewish people, and people who understand that the burning Jewish house is meant to be the kindling to burn down America. We, each of us, must now decide to act. Time is short, but we can win. (JNS Sep 8)

## **If ‘Palestine’ is Born in Blood, the World will Reap the Whirlwind** By Dalia Ziada

Every day seems to bring a new, deluded world leader pushing a flawed framework on the Middle East, a region they do not understand. These leaders endorse recognition of a Palestinian state without any peace negotiations with Israel, which is effectively a reward for Hamas carrying out the atrocities of Oct. 7.

Countries worldwide, even unexpected ones like Japan, Canada and Australia, continue to say they may conditionally recognize such a state in the near future. But do they realize what they are endorsing?

Recently, Germany reversed its pledge to recognize a Palestinian state in the immediate future, as it came to realize what a dangerous precedent was being enacted.

Almost two years ago, I was forced to flee my homeland of Egypt at the hands of the radical Islamists, the same chauvinist fanatics who once vowed to “sabotage Western civilization from within.” As a liberal Muslim scholar of the Middle East, who cherishes the values of classical liberal democracy, and who owes the United States my education, my professional growth, and, most recently, my very life, I feel an obligation to sound the alarm against the Muslim Brotherhood and its most dangerous offshoot: Hamas.

Hamas, the Palestinian faction of the Muslim Brotherhood—designated by the U.S. as a Foreign Terrorist Organization—has run Gaza with an iron fist after it violently seized control from the rival Fatah party in June 2007 following a series of armed clashes. It was the mastermind behind and key perpetrator of the barbaric Oct. 7 massacre in Israel in 2023.

Hamas leaders purposefully exposed innocent civilians in Gaza to war so they could use their blood to gain legitimacy for their acts of terrorism, as well as win the sympathy and approval of the international community.

These facts are crucial to recall as several world leaders, under the deception of the Gaza war narrative cleverly crafted by Hamas’s propaganda machine in Qatar, seek to reward terrorism with the premature recognition of a Palestinian state.

Such a move will not bring the peace we all wish for. It will only serve to entrench Hamas, empower the Islamic Republic of Iran, deepen the region’s most chronic geopolitical conflicts and strip the Palestinians of the only real hope they deserve: a future free from Hamas’s tyranny.

Born in blood, this offer will give rise to more blood. The particular rotten proposal being offered would end the prospects for any final settlement short of violence because it essentially demands that Israel sign its own death warrant.

The declaration approved by sponsoring world governments calls on “the Israeli leadership to issue a clear public commitment to the two-state solution, including a sovereign and viable Palestinian state,” but it never demands that the Palestinian leadership recognize the State of Israel and its right to exist.

The declaration also calls for economic warfare against Israel as long as it has any presence in the contested West Bank or Gaza Strip, calling on all signatories “to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or Parts thereof ... to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel ... .”

Countries “that have established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem” are urged “to withdraw such missions from the Holy City.” This would remove Israel’s right to designate its own capital, which has been Jerusalem since the early days of the state and has always been the symbolic center of the Jewish religion.

Extraordinarily, the document calls for increased funding and full immunity for all staff associated with the United Nations, especially that of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), riddled with Hamas members, whose staff and even buildings have been implicated in Hamas’s hostage-taking efforts. The parties to the agreement even volunteer to protect UNRWA’s media narrative, demanding that they “act to counter mis- and disinformation campaigns and attacks against the U.N., including UNRWA, health

workers and humanitarians.”

The document also calls for the resettlement of generations of Palestinian refugees within the borders of Israel, demographically inundating the Jewish state and leading to its dissolution—an intentional “poison pill” that makes any peace agreement impossible.

Israel’s war against Hamas and radical Islamism in the broader Middle East region should be backed by the international community. Israel is fighting this war on behalf of the free world, including moderate Arabs and Muslims in the Middle East.

If the free world tries to impose a Palestinian state upon Israel in these circumstances, Israel will be forced to fight for its survival against it. Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, who seek to destroy Israel, will not stop their aggression if they somehow succeed in their goals. In fact, they will get much closer than ever to their objective of destroying the West and building their sought-after global caliphate on its ruins. (JNS Sep 9)

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### **A Member of Congress Applauds Terror Sympathizers**

By Tal Fortgang

A strain of thought has gained popularity in progressive circles that’s fairly summarized by this post on X: “If there’s a Nazi at the table and ten other people sitting there talking to him, you got a table with eleven Nazis.” The principle is that some views are so abhorrent that failing to challenge them on any given occasion is tantamount to accepting them.

This line of thinking should raise an uncomfortable question for Israel bashers. What does it mean when a sitting member of Congress speaks at a conference attended by hundreds of terrorism sympathizers?

The question isn’t rhetorical. Michigan representative Rashida Tlaib appeared at the People’s Conference for Palestine, which took place over the last few days of August in Detroit. Despite its anodyne name, the event was no routine political gathering. My Manhattan Institute colleague Stu Smith has documented the conference’s many shocking moments.

Richmond, California, mayor Eduardo Martinez set the tone by comparing Hamas, a U.S. designated terrorist organization, to a righteous child confronting a bully: “If Palestine were a schoolyard playground, I would be a Palestinian. And that part of me that couldn’t endure the abuse anymore would be Hamas.” Even before leading the October 7 atrocities and taking hostages (many of whom remain in captivity today), Hamas operated as a kleptocratic dictatorship. The organization has made life unbearable for ordinary Gazans by stealing aid, using resources to build terror infrastructure, and waging eternal war against Israel rather than governing.

Yet when Martinez alluded to Hamas’s violence against Israel by way of analogy, the conference crowd erupted in cheers. He wasn’t alone: Raja Abdulhaq, founder of the Islamic Jihad-linked Quds News Network, echoed the love for those who “push back against American hegemony” in the Middle East, “groups like Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad and Hamas in Palestine.”

The applause was just as loud when moderators introduced Omar Assaf as a “freed political prisoner.” Assaf is allegedly a former member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—until 1999 a U.S.-designated terrorist organization—and regularly criticizes the Palestinian Authority for being too conciliatory toward Israel, even as the PA continues its “pay-for-slay” program underwriting terrorism.

The crowd offered similar applause for Mumia Abu-Jamal, a convicted cop-killer who recorded a message from prison and was introduced as one of the movement’s great “teachers, guides, and reminders.”

Other speakers pushed boundaries further. Nidal Jboor, a Michigan physician and activist, called for Israeli, American, and European leaders to be “taken out” and “neutralized” for supporting Israel’s

post-October 7 response.

A smiling Thaer Ahmad, another doctor, urged the crowd to look into the meaning of the word *nidal* to understand its “profound meanings and deep connection to [Palestine].” Follow his advice to “look up what *nidal* means later” and you will see that at one level it simply means “struggle,” but it also refers to the Abu Nidal Organization, a terrorist group responsible for hundreds of casualties, including the 1985 Rome and Vienna airport attacks where terrorists bombed and gunned down civilians at El Al ticket counters.

Sachin Peddada, a Ph.D. student at UMass–Amherst, summarized the conference’s sentiment: “We live in an evil country,” he said. “We have to destroy the idea of America in our heads, in our neighbors’ heads, in our comrades’ heads.” He encouraged criminal “resistance” against the American “empire,” calling for “action” like Palestine Action UK’s campaign against defense manufacturer Elbit. (The group is proscribed as a terrorist organization in the U.K.) Another unscrupulous activist even called on attendees to “intervene” in—that is, disrupt—American defense production supply chains.

One would expect anyone with pro-Western sympathies to avoid such blatant terrorist sympathizers. Politicians and activists have distanced themselves from far less controversial statements and movements. Even former Missouri representative Cori Bush decided not to attend this conference, apparently at the last minute.

Yet Congresswoman Tlaib not only failed to distance herself from the conference—she also amplified its message from the podium. “Every genocide enabler,” she thundered, “look at this room, motherf---ers. We ain’t going anywhere.” She received a standing ovation. “We are just growing and growing and growing.”

Who are “we”? At a conference where terrorist organizations, criminals, and revolutionary groups were celebrated, Tlaib didn’t merely attend; she explicitly identified herself as part of their movement, even as its spokespersons called for “taking out” Western leaders and supporting America’s sworn enemies.

Tlaib has made clear that she stands with these anti-Western radicals. Who else sits at her table? She and her Democratic colleagues should explain. (City Journal Sep 8)

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### **The End of the Five-Star Jihad in Qatar** By Gregg Roman

Israel struck Hamas in Doha on the morning of September 9, 2025, targeting the terror group’s senior leadership. The strike killed the architects of the October 7, 2023, attacks. This assassination was an act of self-defense, long overdue.

The operation against Hamas leaders like Khaled Mashaal and Khalil al-Hayya was a necessary act of war. It dismantled a command center that directed a genocidal campaign from the safety of a five-star hotel. The explosions in the Katara District ended the fiction of Qatar as a mediator. They proved that for the masterminds of terror, there is no safe harbor.

This strike brings the end of the October 7th war closer. It demonstrates strategic and moral clarity. A nation’s right to defend itself does not stop at the border of a state sponsor of terror. For years, Hamas leaders plotted murder from a protected sanctuary. That sanctuary is now gone.

To understand this strike, one must understand Qatar’s role. For thirteen years, Doha served as Hamas’s global headquarters. A naive Obama administration sanctioned this arrangement in 2012, believing a communication channel was a strategic asset. Instead, it created the single greatest enabler of Hamas’s war against Israel.

Qatar was not a mediator. It was an active enabler, providing the material support that fuels any terror enterprise. This support had three pillars: financial, diplomatic, and operational.

Qatar’s patronage was direct and substantial. The state funneled over \$1.8 billion to Hamas-controlled Gaza.

Financially, Qatar’s patronage was direct and substantial. The state funneled over \$1.8 billion to Hamas-controlled Gaza. The world accepted the cover story of humanitarian aid. Yet Israel knew the truth. Suitcases of cash, delivered with Israeli approval in a failed policy to “buy quiet,” were meant for salaries and aid. But Israeli

intelligence warned that Hamas siphoned millions directly to its military wing. The policy continued. October 7 was the price of that policy. Qatari funds helped purchase the tools of mass murder.

Diplomatically, Qatar gave Hamas legitimacy. From suites at the Sheraton and the Four Seasons, Khaled Mashaal held court like a statesman. He met with foreign delegations. He used Al Jazeera as a propaganda arm. After the October 7 pogrom, Hamas official Ghazi Hamad declared from Doha that Hamas would repeat the massacre “again and again.” Qatar offered him protection. It provided a diplomatic shield, refusing to designate Hamas as a terror group while using the United Nations to condemn Israel. This was not mediation; it was advocacy.

Operationally, the Doha sanctuary was the command-and-control center for the war. From the comfort of their offices, Hamas leaders watched the October 7 attacks unfold. They used Qatar’s infrastructure to coordinate with commanders in Gaza and patrons in Tehran. This was not a passive safe haven. It was an extraterritorial military headquarters, protected by the diplomatic and economic might of a petrostate. This violates United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, which requires all states to deny safe haven to terrorists. For thirteen years, Qatar has violated this law while hosting America’s largest regional military base.

Mediators, led by the terror group’s own host, proposed deals. Every time, Hamas said no.

Hamas’s intransigence paved the road to this strike. For twenty-three months, Israel fought a difficult war in Gaza. It took measures to avoid civilian casualties that no other army would contemplate. In return, the international community condemned Israel. Mediators, led by the terror group’s own host, proposed deals. Every time, Hamas said no.

Hamas rejected proposals to free all the hostages. It rejected deals to end the war. The strategy, conceived in Doha, was to leverage Gazan suffering to isolate Israel. Yahya Sinwar was the commander in the Hamas tunnels. But the strategic leadership—the men with the ultimate veto—sat in Qatar. From their safe perch, they had no incentive to end the war. Their families were safe. Their money was secure. The war for them was a spectacle.

This dynamic made a military conclusion impossible. Israel could clear every tunnel, but Hamas would regenerate as long as its head remained protected. The terror group promised it would.

The United States was slow to grasp this. For over a year, Washington maintained the fiction of Qatar as a mediator. Only in late 2024, after negotiations collapsed, did the pressure mount. Reports that Qatar had asked Hamas leaders to leave were a diplomatic feint. The game had already changed. Diplomacy had failed. The Doha office was no longer a political address. It was a military target.

An operation of this complexity requires years of intelligence and months of preparation. It bears the hallmarks of Mossad and the Israeli Air Force. Mossad gathered the intelligence. Pinpointing a high-level Hamas meeting in a hostile capital requires human sources, signals intelligence, and constant surveillance. On-the-ground assets likely confirmed the target. The targets—figures like Zaher Jabarin, Mashaal, and al-Hayya—ran Hamas’s finances and foreign operations. Eliminating them decapitates the organization’s external wing.

The message is clear: Terrorist leaders are not safe.

The Israeli Air Force delivered the strike. The precision required to hit a single building in the Katara district points to advanced, guided munitions. This was a scalpel, not a bomb, likely delivered by an F-35i Adir that could evade regional air defenses.

The message is clear: Terrorist leaders are not safe. Not in Damascus, not in Beirut, and not in Doha. Israel will find you. Israel will hold you accountable.

This was the only move. It recognizes the world as it is.

The strike brings the war’s end closer. It destroys Hamas’s greatest strategic asset: its leadership. The terrorists in Gaza no longer have a protected command structure. Their leaders are dead or running. This creates a new incentive: surrender.

To those who cry “escalation,” one must ask: escalation of what? The war began with the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

Iranian proxies already fire on Israel from three sides. Weakness invites aggression. For two years, Israel’s enemies believed its hands were tied regarding Qatar. They were wrong. This action re-establishes Israeli deterrence more than any diplomatic cable.

For Qatar, this is a reckoning. For years, it played a cynical game, funding American universities and terror movements. It hosted the World Cup and Hamas. That game is over. The strike humiliates Qatar. It exposes the limits of its checkbook diplomacy. Qatar must now choose: remain a purveyor of radical Islamist ideology or join the community of nations. Its security depends on the choice.

As the smoke clears over Doha, clarity remains. The war against Hamas is a war for Israel’s survival. Israel must fight it on all fronts. In the tunnels of Gaza. In the halls of diplomacy. And in the capitals that give succor to its enemies. The strike in Doha was not a new chapter. It was the beginning of the end. (Middle East Forum Sep 9)

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## **Israel’s Surprising Economic Resilience** By Nimrod Sapir

You would expect the Israeli economy to be on the brink of collapse. For almost two years, the Jewish state has been embroiled in conflict on seven fronts. Yet its economy has defied expectations and displayed remarkable resilience. It is one of the reasons Israel has been able to fight on.

This resilience is rooted in solid economic fundamentals: a debt-to-GDP ratio of about 60% at the conflict’s onset, a roughly 3% unemployment rate, and a relatively low budget deficit. Nearly two years into a multifront war, these indicators remain strong, with only modest debt growth. The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange is among the best-performing markets worldwide, and the TA-125 and TA-35 indexes have surged by more than 28% this year to date, far outpacing the S&P 500, the Nikkei and most other exchanges worldwide.

For three decades, Israel’s high-tech sector has been its engine of growth—and it remains so. Even as citizens sheltered from rocket fire, Israel’s tech industry secured impressive M&A deals. The sales of Wiz and CyberArk, valued in the tens of billions of dollars, reflect international investor confidence. Tourism has declined, but exports remain robust, and domestic private consumption continues to drive healthier-than-expected GDP performance, with the Bank of Israel projecting 3.3% growth this year.

Demographics further bolster Israel’s prospects: a growing, youthful labor force. Israel has the highest population growth rate among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, and that growth goes far beyond the Haredi and Arab sectors. Surging global demand for Israeli defense systems likewise strengthens the export base and opens new markets.

Israel’s military achievements—particularly in neutralizing Iran’s nuclear ambitions and diminishing threats from its proxies—are reshaping the geopolitical landscape. For the first time in decades, investors can anticipate a gradual easing of geopolitical risks that have long weighed heavily on Israel’s economic potential.

Financial markets already reflect this shift. Credit default swap spreads, long elevated due to persistent regional threats, are in decline. Further reductions, and corresponding drops in yields on 10-year Israeli government bonds, are expected. As tensions ease, foreign capital inflows have accelerated and are likely to further fuel growth in innovation, consumption, and exports.

The war Israel faces was imposed on it. No one in Israel sought such a conflict, and its toll on reservists, families and communities has been profound. Israelis are united in wishing for the war’s end with all hostages released, and for peace and security in the entire region. The country’s economic resilience should be attributed not to indifference but to resolve in the face of adversity—and to a remarkable potential for growth.

Investors would do well to recognize that Israel’s future is bright and that the years ahead may unfold as one of the most promising economic narratives on the global stage. (Wall Street Journal Sep 9)  
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