

Policy experts predict stalemate over success in Russia-Ukraine war, or worse, a ‘frozen conflict’

It’s hard to envision an agreement that would give Russian President Vladimir Putin a win and at the same time satisfy Ukraine, said Steven Horrell, a nonresident senior fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Center for European Policy Analysis.

By David Isaac / March 24, 2022

[...]

“Russia can’t come out of this with an unequivocal victory. What’s realistic is that it can reach some understanding with the Ukrainians,” **Zvi Magen**, senior research fellow at the Tel Aviv-based **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**, told JNS.

Magen, who served as Israel’s ambassador to Ukraine (1993-1997) and Israel’s ambassador to Russia (1998-1999), said that from the first day, when Russia attempted—and failed—to land a large force near Kyiv to take the city, it was apparent that things were not going well. By the third day of its self-initiated war, Russia was calling for negotiations and it is now fighting with one eye toward those talks. (**Magen** said one reason Russia targeted civilian centers is to “soften up the Ukrainians so that they’ll be more flexible in negotiations.”)

“Russia is definitely perceived now as weaker than before, but it wants to leave the impression that it is steadfast,” noted **Magen**.

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