

## Commentary | We Must Talk About the “Day After” Plan

It is impossible to have a serious discussion about the IDF's exit strategy from Gaza without discussing Israel's goals regarding the Palestinian question and the shaping of the region. Brig. Gen. (ret.) Shlomo Brom explains

By Shlomo Brom / Oct. 22, 2023

One of the frequently quoted statements from the 19th-century German strategist Carl von Clausewitz is "War is not merely a political act but a real political instrument, a continuation of political intercourse, a carrying out of the same by other means."

Meaning, there is a close connection between policy and the goals of war. The policy should define those goals, and should also outline diplomatic activities that are built upon the military achievements to serve the national objectives.

Israeli governments have generally refrained from providing a clear definition of their policy goals in the Israeli-Palestinian arena, as well as of the diplomatic-military strategy chosen to achieve these goals.

At times, it was possible to infer certain strategic outlines from decisions in ongoing matters, and occasionally, there have been rare candid expressions by an Israeli Prime Minister that could be understood as a strategy.

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*The author of this article, Brigadier General (ret.) Shlomo Brom served as Director of the Strategic Planning Division in the IDF Planning Directorate and was a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)*

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