

Opinion |

## **Divide the Land, Separate From the Palestinians: What Israel Should Do After Gaza**

The steps that must now be taken in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Iran can't be left to an incompetent government

Yair Golan, Chuck Freilich / Aug 26, 2024

The Israel Defense Forces thwarted an attack by Hezbollah on a number of strategic targets in Israel's north and center on Sunday. Had the attack succeeded, we would have already been in the midst of a major conflict, one that may still be unavoidable – and which we may have to be the ones to initiate.

The price will be high and the current timing is not opportune. Israel lacks international legitimacy for a full-scale war, even from the United States, which is preoccupied with the upcoming elections; the Israeli public and IDF need a respite; and the economy is close to recession. To the extent that we can shape events, we should thus postpone the confrontation to a time in which circumstances are more conducive.

In the meantime, we should try to weaken the links between the components of the Iranian-led "axis of resistance" (Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis and sundry Shi'ite militias) and strive for maximum coordination with the U.S. If, however, Hezbollah's actions force us into an escalation, we must strike it hard.

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