

Martin S. Indyk's diplomatic legacy: Lessons from Kissinger's Middle East strategy - opinion

It's been a month since Indyk passed away. He will be sorely missed by his many colleagues and students in the United States and Israel. May his memory be a blessing.

By Ted Sasson / Aug. 26, 2024

During a talk a few years ago at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Martin S. Indyk distilled the central lesson he learned from a long career as a diplomat and scholar of the Middle East. It is particularly relevant today, as Israel faces great challenges on several fronts and seeks to balance short term needs with longer term strategic goals.

After serving twice as the US ambassador to Israel and later special envoy for the Obama administration, Indyk stepped back to analyze an earlier and more productive phase of American diplomacy in the region. From his perch at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he held the position of Lowy distinguished fellow in US Middle East diplomacy, he examined the voluminous records of Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy following the Yom Kippur War.

As a naturalized American citizen and a Jew, Indyk's career in Middle East diplomacy echoes that of Kissinger's. The resulting book, *Master of the Game: Henry Kissinger and the Art of Middle East Diplomacy*, included stories from Indyk's personal diplomatic journey alongside a captivating account of Kissinger's sometimes flawed but ultimately successful campaign to end hostilities between Egypt and Israel while keeping the two countries firmly within the American orbit.

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