

## Understanding How Israel is redrawing the Middle East

The fall of Bashar al-Assad in Syria serves the Israeli government's medium-term goals.

Ximena Sampson / Dec. 12, 2024

Israel has wasted no time after the fall of Bashar al-Assad to place its pawns in Syria. In recent days, Israel has repeatedly bombed Syrian territory, carrying out more than 350 strikes against military installations in Damascus.

[...]

We must remember who these rebels [who have taken power in Syria," said **Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv. They belong to branches of the Islamic State armed group and the Muslim Brotherhood, which want to eliminate the State of Israel.

Even if their priority at the moment is the stabilization of Syria, Israel cannot run the risk of allowing the Islamists of Hayat Tahrir Al-Cham (HTC) or anyone who heads the country to form a military arsenal on its borders, explains. **Michael**.

[...]

This is not an occupation at all, but rather a temporary control of strategic sites, **Kobi Michael** argues, echoing what the Israeli government is saying.

Once the situation in Syria has stabilized, we can reach a reliable agreement with the Syrian regime, he says.

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