

Israel Security Concept 1948-2012

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What is National Security?

Set of ideas and guidelines designed to combine and channel all the resources and means available to the country, for the purpose of attaining the national objectives.

What is National Security?

The concept is based on an integrative view of army and politics, whereby the military power is only one component of a far wider set of factors.

Approaches to National Security

- **The minimalist approach** – from a military perspective, and in the sphere of military threats.
- **The maximalist approach** – incorporates all the disciplines relating to guaranteeing the existence and quality of life of the country and society.
- **The middle road approach** – national security exists wherever there is a threat to the actual existence of the country, or to interests that are crucial for its existence.

The Israeli concept of National Security

“Ensuring national existence, and protecting crucial interests. National security means a situation in which there is a threat to the existence of a national collective or an interest that is crucial to the existence of a national collective.”

Gen. Israel Tal

National Objectives

- The common and fixed basic objective of all the partners of the nation and the country is to preserve the country's very existence.
- They vary with respect to the basic needs and crucial interests, and according to outside challenges.

National Objectives

- The objectives are impacted by rational motives, as well as non rational motives (emotional and impulses, religious beliefs, social and political values, a sense of power, national honor etc.
- The more a nation sets pretentious and far-reaching targets, the more clashes and conflicts there will be with the surrounding national systems.
- The national objectives have to be realistic and kept within limits.

The Israeli concept of National Security

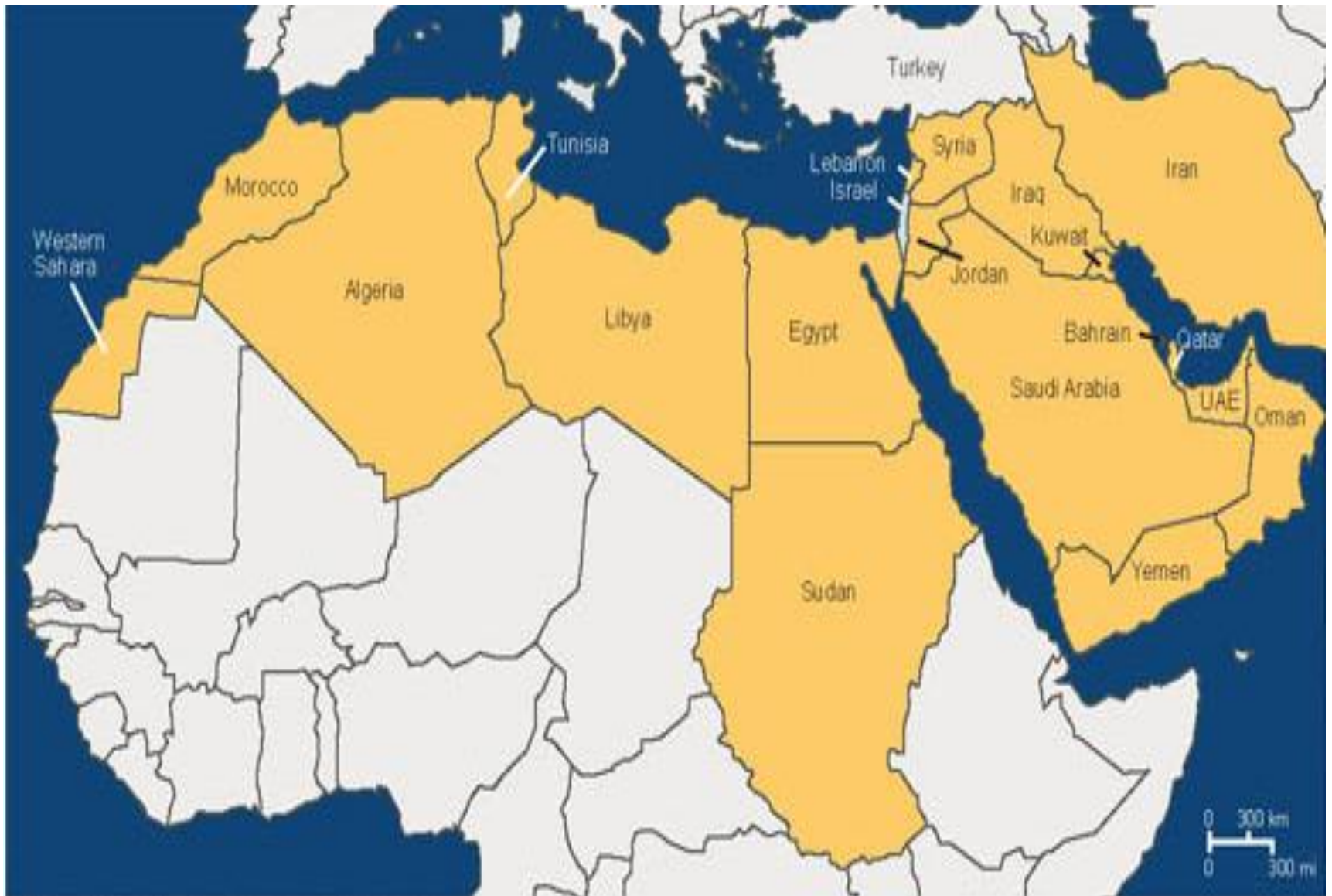
- ✓ Guaranteeing the existence of the state of Israel, and the country's territorial completeness and the safety of its citizens and inhabitants.
- ✓ Maintaining the values and character of the state of Israel, as a Jewish and democratic country, and as a home for the Jewish people.
- ✓ Safeguarding Israel's ability to maintain socioeconomic prosperity as an advanced country.
- ✓ Strengthening Israel's international and regional standing, while striving to achieve peace with its neighbors.

(Meridor 2006)

Geo-Strategic facts about Israel

- The country is surrounded by hostile countries.
- Long and narrow borders; Lack of strategic depth.
- Main centers of population in Israel, including the capital, are close to the border.
- An attacker may disconnect and split parts of Israel, being long in structure.
- Israel's water sources are a strategic asset (60% of groundwater is located outside the 1967 borders)

Israel and the Arab States



The Aerial Threat To Israel*



Country	Airport	Distance (miles)	Arrival Time (Minutes)
Syria	Damascus	46	7
Iraq		250	35
Amman		43	6
Saudi Arabia	Guraet	87	14
Saudi Arabia	Tabuq	125	18

***All The area of Israel is currently covered by missile threat**

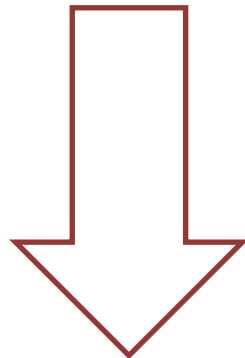
Limitations of military strength

- Israel has a small population and maintains a very small regular army.
- Inability to provide personnel for a large standing army, which will ensure the future and safety of the country.
- Israel's population does not have unifying and common elements (a land of immigrants).

Ben Gurion's security doctrine

Assumptions:

- 1. Arab hostility toward the State of Israel will likely to continue for decades**
- 2. Israel suffers from chronic inferiority in both territory and demographics**



B.G's Principals of National Security

- Exhibiting conventional superiority and self-reliance - quickly transferring the war into enemy territory.
- In the absence of a big standing army, most units would be comprised of Reserve Forces.
- Special relationship with a Superpower.
- Obtain technological superiority.
- Possess moral and ideological certainty that Israel's struggle is inherently just.

Operational Concepts

➤ Deterrence

➤ Early warning

➤ Decision

The outcome should leave no room for interpretation: Victory/defeat should be undisputed, heavy price paid by the beaten: destruction of military power, conquering territories, threat on the Capital and prestige. It should be sufficiently heavy to avoid the next round.

Israel's Security Concept over time

- *Israel's security doctrine served the country well during the first four decades.*
- In both 1956 and 1967, Israel initiated preemptive strikes when it felt threatened.
- 1956 - Israel went to war only after it secured the direct military cooperation of two European powers.
- 1973 – Early warning system failed, American assistance, quick mobilization of reserve units, and the IDF seizes the initiative and transfer the battle to enemy territory .

Israel's Security Concept 21st century

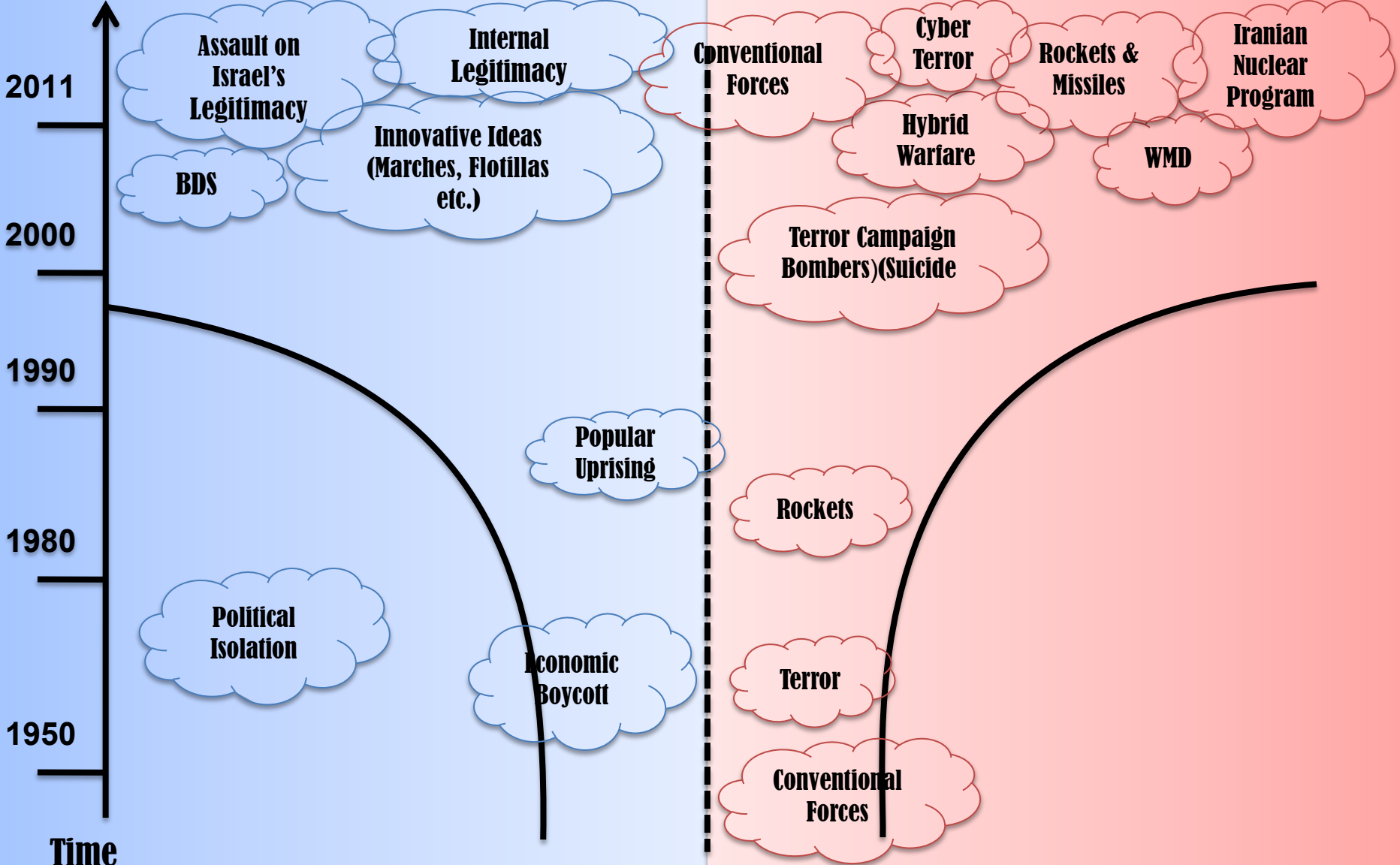
The doctrine from the 1950s, is not compatible with processes taking place at the beginning of the third millennium:

1. Military technology enables to attack Israel from their own territory using long range missiles with sophisticated and evil warheads.
2. The quality gap between Israel and the conflict countries has been closed.
3. There may be a threat of weapons of mass destruction which find their way into the hands of extreme Muslim countries, principally Iran.

Israel's Spectrum of Threats

Political

Military



The Middle East in The Near Future

Today, Israel is faced with complex and difficult political and military threats:

- ❖ Guerilla and Terror warfare
- ❖ Threats of Missiles and Nuclear attack
- ❖ The future of the Peace Process is unclear
- ❖ Spreading Islamic fundamentalism

Israel will have to continue maintaining a large and sophisticated army, a super-modern army, for many more years .

Thank You

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