

The War in Gaza and the Revival of the Two State Solution

Ahmed. Y. Zohny, LL.M., Ph.D., professor of Political Science, Law, and International Affairs, Coppin State University, Baltimore, Maryland

The outcome of the war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas is already apparent after more than 4 months of fighting. Israel is not strong enough relative to Hamas that it cannot both defeat Hamas and create any new security configuration in Gaza that Israel wants to secure its population. Israel does face unlimited threat from attacks by Palestinians in the depth of Israel and in the West Bank, Lebanon initiated missiles attacks by Hezbollah, and the Houthi in Yemen who are preventing any shipment to Israel via the Red Sea. Israel and its prime supporter the US are likely to confront offensive incidents of violence against its assets in the Middle East. In practice, Israel will not be able to create almost any security structure in Gaza that it intends to limit Palestinian action in Israel and the West Bank. And the US is likely to lose its presence (military basis) in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain, and Qatar. The author argues that for the remainder of the Arab World, Israel is likely to confront major direct military threat from Egypt and the possibility of ending the 40 years peace treaty. President Al-Sissy low popularity in Egypt due to his country dire economic position may be motivated to take offensive military action against Israel to raise his popularity at home. Even though, Lebanon is in turmoil politically and economically, Hezbollah supported by Iran can inflict heavy casualties in terms of missile attacks on nearby Israeli settlement and even reaching Tel Aviv despite Israel superiority in air force and anti-Missile Defense system provided by the US. Jordan population which have more than ¾ Palestinians will pressure King Abdulla to take brave offensive attacks against Israels to protect his throne. President Bashar Al-Assad of Syria is still supported by Russia. Putin will not allow Assad regime to fall as a part of his geopolitical rivalry with the US in the Middle East. Bahrain and United Arab Emirate the two Arab Gulf States which formalized diplomatic relations with Israel are likely to face serious pressure from their Shia population (which may turn to Iran for support) to end their diplomatic relations with Israel. Finally, Saudi Arabia as stated firmly by its Foreign Minister lately it will not normalize its relationship with Israel until the later will end its Gaza operations, abide by

International Humanitarian laws, and pursue clear track toward a two states solution for the Palestinian Israeli conflict. A trail which is supported by the US since the Obama Administration, members of the EU, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council of the UN Great Britain, France, China, and Russia, and most members of the UN.