

Israel and the Gulf Crisis:

Changing Security Requirements on the Eastern Front

by [Dore Gold \(/experts/dore-gold\)](/experts/dore-gold)

Dec 1, 1990

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Dore Gold \(/experts/dore-gold\)](/experts/dore-gold)

Dore Gold was Israel's ambassador to the United Nations from 1997-1999.



In-Depth Reports

The Gulf crisis has set into motion several fundamental strategic changes along Israel's eastern front that, taken together, could dramatically alter Israel's security requirements in the West Bank. The Israeli government would then find it even more difficult to offer far-reaching concessions in negotiations with the Palestinians.

Three major changes draw into question Israel's security margin vis-a-vis the West Bank:

- Increasing domestic instability in Jordan and King Hussein's support for Iraq raise doubts about Jordan's ability to engage in an eventual peace settlement as a stable partner cooperating with Israel to contain a future Palestinian entity.
- A rapid rapprochement between Iraq and Iran will permit Iraq's army to reduce its pre-occupation with guarding the border with Iran and instead focus more of its deployments toward the west against Israel.
- A decline in the qualitative superiority of the Israeli Air Force owing to massive U.S. arms sales planned for Saudi Arabia which will reduce Israel's ability to rely on air power to stop Arab armies advancing from the east.

These developments will make military access to the West Bank more important than ever for Israel. As a result, Israel's security requirements in negotiations with the Palestinians will increase, complicating efforts to achieve a settlement that addresses both Palestinian political rights and Israeli security. Understanding Israel's new strategic concerns and taking them into account will present a serious challenge to U.S. diplomacy as it tries to invigorate the peace process in the post-crisis period.

19 pages 

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Tracking Anti-U.S. Strikes in Iraq and Syria During the Gaza Crisis

May 4, 2024



Michael Knights,
Amir al-Kaabi,
Hamdi Malik

(/policy-analysis/tracking-anti-us-strikes-iraq-and-syria-during-gaza-crisis)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Nuclear Agency Chief Visits Iran: Expectations and Next Steps

May 3, 2024



Simon Henderson

(/policy-analysis/nuclear-agency-chief-visits-iran-expectations-and-next-steps)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq Collates a 200-Day Attack Scoreboard

May 3, 2024



Michael Knights

(/policy-analysis/islamic-resistance-iraq-collates-200-day-attack-scoreboard)

TOPICS

Arab-Israeli Relations (/policy-analysis/arab-israeli-relations)

Military & Security (/policy-analysis/military-security)

Peace Process (/policy-analysis/peace-process)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Israel (/policy-
analysis/israel)