

How Israel Lost the Syrian Civil War

by [Ehud Yaari \(/experts/ehud-yaari\)](/experts/ehud-yaari)

Jun 2023

Also available in

[العربية \(/ar/policy-analysis/kyf-khsrt-asrayyl-alhrb-alahlyt-alswryt\)](/ar/policy-analysis/kyf-khsrt-asrayyl-alhrb-alahlyt-alswryt)

Also published in *Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Ehud Yaari \(/experts/ehud-yaari\)](/experts/ehud-yaari)

Ehud Yaari is a Lafer International Fellow at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

As part of its strategic blueprint against Israel, Tehran is prepared to pay a steep price to continue consolidating its military presence in Syria, and Arab normalization with Assad will not change that trend in the least.

Apart from the Syrian people themselves, Israel comes out of the 12 years of civil war as the biggest loser. The survival of the Assad regime amounts to nothing short of an Israeli strategic failure. Assad's survival turns Iran into Israel's next-door neighbor, exercising growing influence on the rebuilding of Syria's armed forces. It allows for land corridors through Iraq and an air bridge for equipping Hezbollah's heavy missiles with precision guidance kits, making them far more accurate. It enables Shi'ite militias sponsored by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps to mount large-scale campaigns to smuggle weapons (and drugs) into Jordan intended to supply Palestinian groups in the West Bank. In brief, the threat to Israel is increasing, and the military challenges faced by the Israel Defense Forces are becoming more complex...

[Read the full article and accompanying graphics on the Jerusalem Strategic Tribune website.](https://jstribune.com/yaari-how-israel-lost-the-syrian-civil-war/)
[\(https://jstribune.com/yaari-how-israel-lost-the-syrian-civil-war/\)](https://jstribune.com/yaari-how-israel-lost-the-syrian-civil-war/) ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Salvaging the Safer: The UN's Plan to Avert Environmental Disaster in Yemen

Jun 22, 2023



Noam Raydan

(/policy-analysis/salvaging-safer-uns-plan-avert-environmental-disaster-yemen)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

New Poll Shows Lebanese Frustrations with Government, Iran, and Other Powers

Jun 22, 2023



Catherine Cleveland

(/policy-analysis/new-poll-shows-lebanese-frustrations-government-iran-and-other-powers)



IN-DEPTH REPORTS

Cash Cabal:

How Hezbollah Profits from Lebanon's Financial Crisis

Jun 22, 2023



Samara Azzi,
Hanin Ghaddar

(/policy-analysis/cash-cabal-how-hezbollah-profits-lebanons-financial-crisis)

TOPICS

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

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

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Iran (/policy-
analysis/iran)

Israel (/policy-
analysis/israel)

Syria (/policy-
analysis/syria)