

What Hamas Wants in Postwar Gaza: The Power to Fight Without the Burden of Governing

by [Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](/experts/matthew-levitt)

May 10, 2024

Also published in Foreign Affairs

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](/experts/matthew-levitt)

Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Senior Fellow and director of the Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

The group is following Hezbollah’s playbook to a tee: first, secure victory simply by surviving, then take hold of the postwar governance structure while retaining its independent fighting force.

With its heinous October 7 assault on Israel, Hamas sought to put itself and the Palestinian issue back at the center of the international agenda, even if that meant destroying much of Gaza. The attack was also meant to thwart a possible normalization pact between Israel and Saudi Arabia that would promote Palestinian moderates and sideline Hamas. But Hamas’s leaders also have political aims that may at first seem counterintuitive. They are trying to relieve themselves of the sole burden of governing Gaza, which had become an impediment to the goal of destroying Israel. And as new Chinese-brokered talks have underscored, the Hamas leadership is also trying to jump-start a process of reconciliation with Fatah and the Palestinian Authority despite years of fierce hostility...

[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/guest-pass/redeem/DI-1wSap4AU\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/guest-pass/redeem/DI-1wSap4AU) ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Tracking Anti-U.S. Strikes in Iraq and Syria During the Gaza Crisis](#)

May 10, 2024



Michael Knights,
Amir al-Kaabi,
Hamdi Malik

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



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[U.S. Returnees from Syria Reveal Much About the Repatriation Challenge](#)

May 9, 2024



Devorah Margolin

[\(/policy-analysis/us-returnees-syria-reveal-much-about-repatriation-challenge\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Iraq's Missed Development Pathway Highlights the Necessity of Unpopular Economic Reforms](#)

May 8, 2024



Mohammed Hussein

[\(/policy-analysis/iraqs-missed-development-pathway-highlights-necessity-unpopular-economic-reforms\)](#)

TOPICS

[Peace Process \(/policy-analysis/peace-process\)](#)

[Terrorism \(/policy-analysis/terrorism\)](#)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

