

Why Israel's Attack on Iran Has Been a Success

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

Jun 17, 2025

Also published in Boston Globe

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

Just as with the Hezbollah missile threat in Lebanon, completely eliminating the Iranian nuclear threat is not the best yardstick for Israel's current campaign.

The prequel to the current strikes against Iran came last July, when Israel so degraded a decades-long threat from Lebanese Hezbollah that the group is now a shadow of its former self. Israel did not completely destroy Hezbollah then, and it is unlikely to completely destroy Iran's nuclear program now. But those are not the yardsticks by which the Israeli operations should be measured. A better question is whether Israel significantly set those malign projects back and created opportunities to further constrain Iran and Hezbollah's militancy. If that is the measure, both operations should be deemed successes...

[Read the full text on the Boston Globe website.](#)

[\(https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/06/17/opinion/israel-iran-hezbollah-nuclear-program-war/\)](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/06/17/opinion/israel-iran-hezbollah-nuclear-program-war/) ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

From Diplomacy to Military Force: The Future of Iran's Nuclear Program

Jun 16, 2025



Michael Eisenstadt,
Zohar Palti,
Dennis Ross,
Dana Stroul

(/policy-analysis/diplomacy-military-force-future-irans-nuclear-program)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Under the Pretext of "Morality": Morality Rhetoric and Freedom of Expression in Iraq

Jun 15, 2025



Azhar Al-Rubaie

(/policy-analysis/under-pretext-morality-morality-rhetoric-and-freedom-expression-iraq)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

Can Israel Destroy Iran's Nuclear Program?

Jun 14, 2025



Richard Nephew

(/policy-analysis/can-israel-destroy-irans-nuclear-program)

TOPICS

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

Proliferation (/policy-analysis/proliferation)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

