On July 8, 2014, following incessant rocket fire from Gaza at Israel, the IDF initiated Operation Protective Edge. On the 10th day of the operation, after continued terrorist assaults on Israel from land, air and sea, the IDF commenced the ground phase of the operation.

### The Operation's Goals

- 1. Restoring security to Israeli civilians living under Hamas rocket fire.
- 2. Dismantling the Hamas tunnel network used to infiltrate Israel.

### **Hamas Rocket Fire Towards Israel**

- 1. Over 4,382 rockets were fired at Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza.
- 2. More than 70% of Israelis live within range of Hamas' rockets. This includes Israel's largest cities and population centers.
- **3.** The Iron Dome missile defense system has intercepted **692** rockets. Each rocket intercepted by the Iron Dome would have hit a populated area.

### **Hamas Terror Tunnels**

- **1.** Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel through tunnels **4** times, with the intention of carrying out attacks
- 2. The IDF has destroyed 32 of Hamas' terror tunnels in Gaza. 14 of those tunnels had openings in Israeli territory.

Hamas has violated **11** ceasefire agreements, firing at Israeli civilians and forces during ceasefires and UN-declared humanitarian windows.

The IDF has targeted more than **5,085** terror sites in the Gaza Strip

64 Israeli soldiers fell while fighting to protect Israeli civilians.

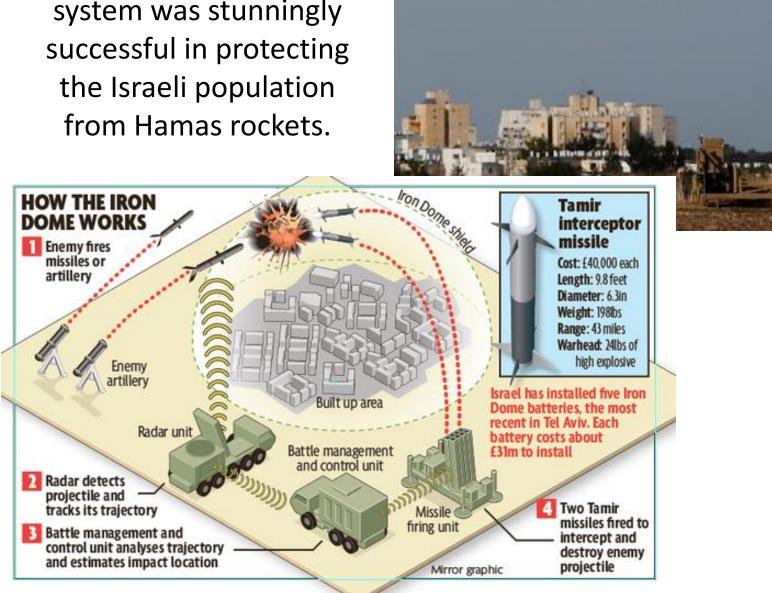
### **Top 9 Surprises In The Gaza Conflict**

While the recent conflict in Gaza was similar to other past conflicts—Hamas fires rockets, Israel responds, Israel gets condemned for civilian casualties, ceasefire negotiations take place—it was different in these 9 unexpected ways.





#1 The Iron Dome system was stunningly the Israeli population





### Does Israel's Iron Dome actually work?



22 April 2013 Last updated at 05:03 GMT

The new US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel is starting a tour of the Middle East.

He begins in Israel where the United States has just announced that is its planning to bring its investment in the Iron Dome anti-missile defence system to several hundred million dollars in the coming years.

Kevin Connolly has been taking a closer look at Iron Dome.





# IRON DOME OF HAMAS





### Obama signs funding package for Israel's Iron Dome

US passes \$225 million assistance package for Israeli missile defense system.

Associated Press

Published: 08.05.14, 01:29 / Israel News





President Barack Obama signed a bill Monday granting an additional \$225 million in US taxpayer dollars for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system.

### Arab Leaders, Viewing Hamas as Worse Than Israel, Stay Silent

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK JULY 30, 2014

CAIRO — Battling Palestinian militants in Gaza two years ago, Israel found itself pressed from all sides by unfriendly Arab neighbors to end the fighting.

Not this time.

After the military ouster of the Islamist government in Cairo last year, Egypt has led a new coalition of Arab states — including Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — that has effectively lined up with Israel in its fight against Hamas, the Islamist movement that controls the Gaza Strip. That, in turn, may have contributed to the failure of the antagonists to reach a negotiated cease-fire even after more than three weeks of bloodshed.

"The Arab states' loathing and fear of political
Islam is so strong that it outweighs their allergy
to Benjamin Netanyahu," the prime minister of
Israel, said Aaron David Miller, a scholar at the
Wilson Center in Washington and a former Middle East negotiator under
several presidents.

"I have never seen a situation like it, where you have so many Arab states acquiescing in the death and destruction in Gaza and the pummeling of Hamas," he said. "The silence is deafening."

#2 Arab states and leaders watch from the sidelines while opposing Hamas.



### #4 The United States is sidelined.

# Egypt announces agreement on long-term Gaza truce

Israel and the Palestinians have agreed on a ceasefire that is meant to bring a long-term end to the fighting in the Gaza Strip. The deal was first announced by Hamas, before being confirmed by Egyptian mediators.

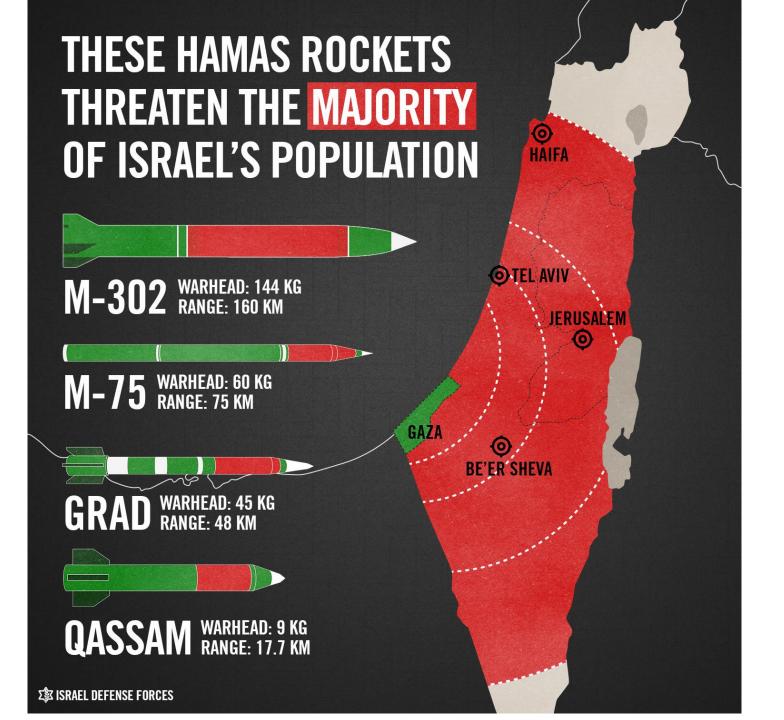


# US, European airlines suspend flights to Israel

By Marnie Hunter, Katia Hetter and Chelsea J. Carter, CNN updated 10:37 PM EDT, Tue July 22, 2014

#5 FAA Bans flights to and from Israel





# Synagogue Burnt in Paris, Anti-Israel Protests in EU and US

Protesters were violent in several anti-Israel/pro-terror rallies in Europe over the weekend, and in a Paris suburb, a firebomb torched part of a synagogue.

By: Lori Lowenthal Marcus

Published: July 21st, 2014

#6 Hateful protests in Europe



Protesters clashed with police at the banned demonstration

## Why Israel should care about US public opinion regarding the war in Gaza

By HAL GOODMAN

LAST UPDATED: 08/14/2014 13:49

According to the Pew Research Center, "Among 18- to 29year-olds, 29 percent blame Israel more for the current wave of violence, while 21% blame Hamas."



Two people wearing Israeli flags are told to leave by a protest organizer during a pro-Palestinian demonstration against Israel's military action in the Gaza Strip Photo: REUTERS

The Washington Post recently published an article titled, "Young Americans take a dim view of Israel's actions," shedding some light upon the growing divide in American public opinion about the war in Gaza.

Although acknowledging that most Americans blame Hamas for the current crisis, according to the Pew Research Center, "Among 18- to 29-year-olds, 29 percent blame Israel more for the current wave of violence, while 21% blame Hamas." #7 Young
Americans
blaming
Israel for
conflict

Finding Common Ground in the Mideast

EWSDAY / JIMMY MARGULIES

### Headstones larger for Palestinians

Kudos to Jimmy Margulies for the editorial cartoon depicting the tombstones of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians ["Finding common ground in the Mideast," July 7]. Usually, in the United States, more media coverage is given to Israeli deaths than to those of Palestinians.

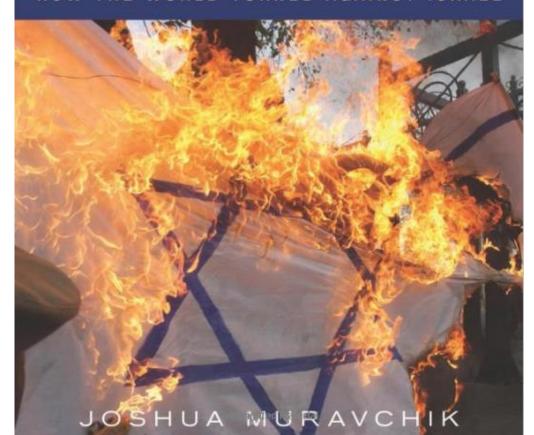
However, if Margulies' cartoon were drawn to an accurate scale reflecting the real number of those killed, the Palestinian tombstone would be six times larger than the Israeli one. According to If Americans Knew, a nonprofit research organization, at least 6,878 Palestinians and 1,110 Israelis have been killed since September 2000.

Remember, the state of Israel has an army, navy, and air force for its defense, all mostly supplied by the United States. Palestinians do not even have a state, let alone regular military



# MAKING DAVID INTO GOLIATH

HOW THE WORLD TURNED AGAINST ISRAEL



# Vast Israeli support for Gaza war eclipses and silences dissenting voices

Published July 30, 2014 · Associated Press



JERUSALEM – Despite Israeli casualties and world criticism, a near-consensus in Israel supports the government's conduct of the Gaza war, views Hamas as the aggressor and considers outsiders' moralizing as hypocritical, ignorant or both. And in an echo-chamber fed by ubiquitous updates on Hamas rocket and tunnel attacks, the minority of local voices that do agonize over Gazans' suffering are being silenced in a way rarely seen in a country long proud of its spirited, democratic debate.

A series of recent opinion polls have shown robust support for the war, reflecting years of frustration over rocket fire from Gaza and a new fear of Hamas' network of tunnels that stretch well into Israel and imperil communities along the border. Opposing views, coming primarily from leftist activists and intellectuals, have been met with threats, insults and charges of treason both in social media and face-to-face

#8 The
Israeli public
strongly
backs the
war

# Photos of ISIS flag at key sites send chill through Israel

#9 The rise of ISIS – A wakeup call in the Middle East



HAIFA, Israel – The chilling black flag of the Islamic State is popping up on social media in Israel, including one image of the terror banner snapped against the backdrop of the nation's holiest site – prompting fears the ultra-violent jihadist group could have sympathizers inside the Jewish state.

"If you look at ISIS as a code, a brand name, or a symbol to identify with, then you can find people in the area [who identify with it] not just in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, but around the region."

Yoram Schweizer, Israeli terror expert

### **United Against Islamic State**

Fear over the spread of Islamic State means parties often at odds now share a common enemy.

### By WSJ News Graphics

Last updated Aug. 29, 2014 at 11:00 p.m. ET | Published Aug







Howard's Journal













### Brutal Rise of Islamic State Turns Old Enemies Into New Friends

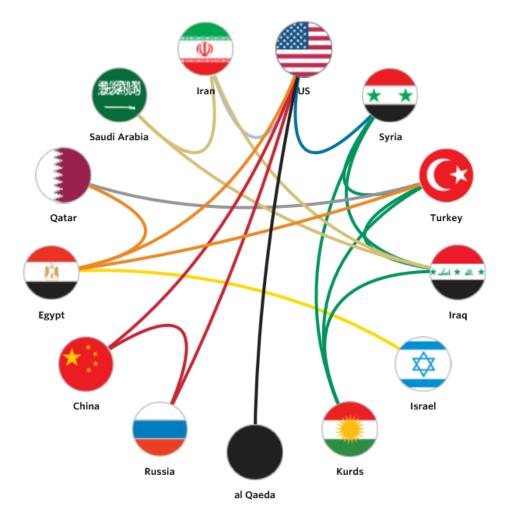
Nations Long at Loggerheads, Such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, Find Common Ground in Bid to Curb Extremists

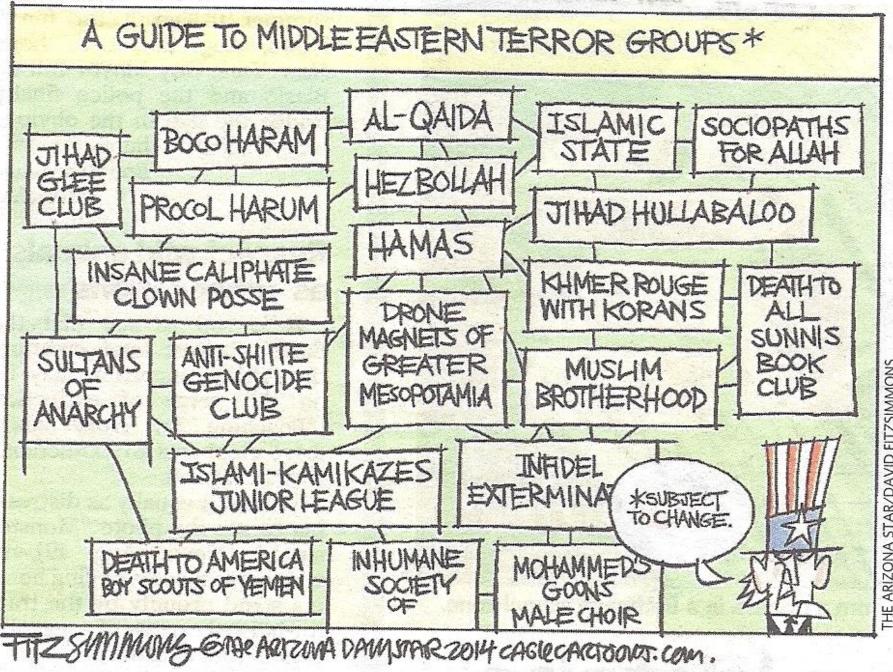
### Strange Bedfellows

Parties that display friction or outright aggression toward one another are finding themselves aligned in a desire to counter Islamic State.

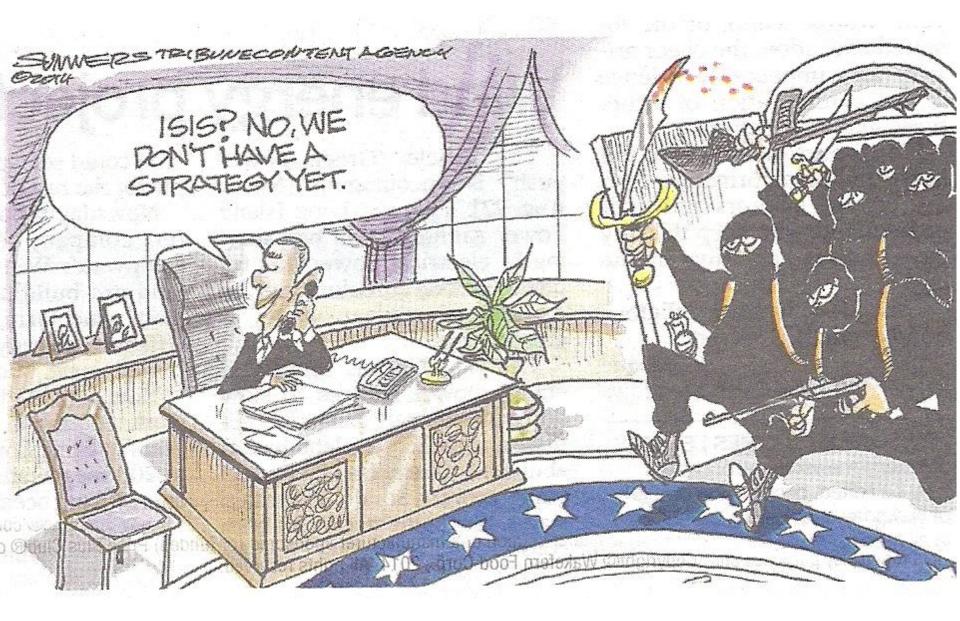
Groups of colored lines between parties represent shared interests.

Next >





STAR/DAVID FITZSIMMONS THE ARIZONA



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### Why Don't I Criticize Israel?



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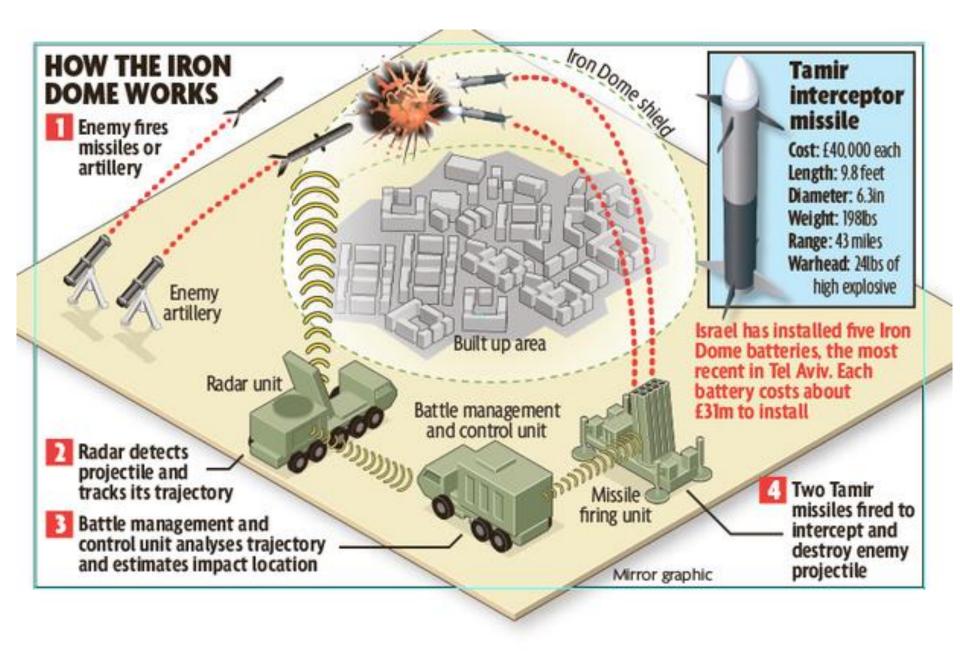
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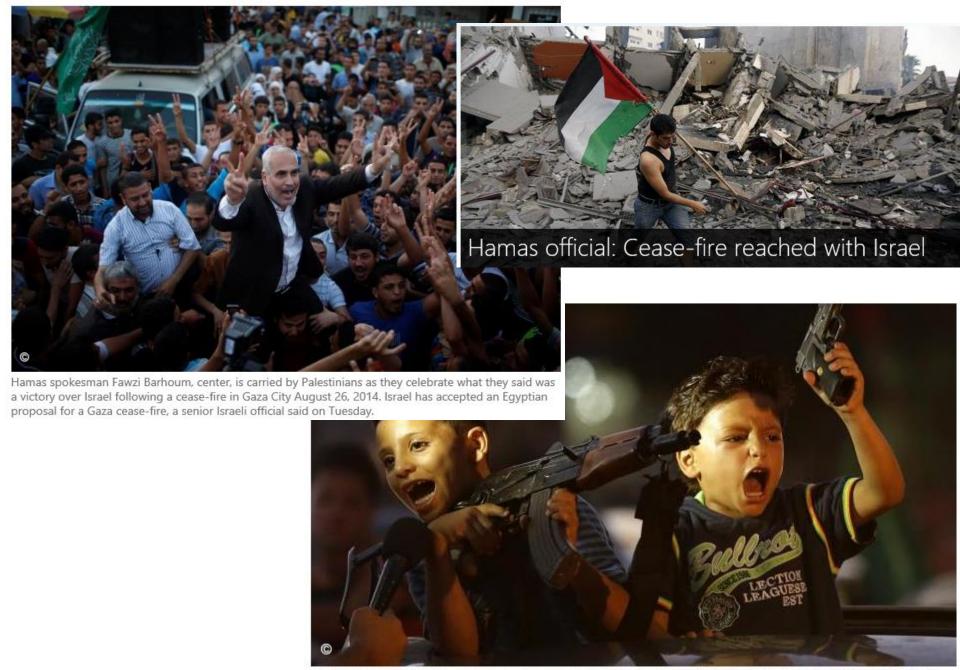


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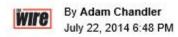


Children hold up guns, one with an empty magazine, from a car as Palestinians gather in the streets to celebrate after a deal had been reached between Hamas and Israel over a long-term end to seven weeks of fighting in the Gaza Strip on August 26, 2014 in Gaza City.

### Hamas Rockets Found in Second United Nations School

Today, in the course of the regular inspection

of its premises, UNRWA discovered rockets





We're officially through the looking glass here with rockets and United Nations Relief and Works Agency schools in Gaza. For the second time in a week, the United Nations agency disclosed that rockets were discovered in one of their vacant schools. From the U.N.R.W.A. statement:



# IRON DOME OF HAMAS







