



Mathurin Hybrid Initiative

Global Advisory Report

Israel-Hamas: Russia 's Advantage.

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An Advantage and an Exposed Hypocrisy: Russia's Gain from Israel's War:

President Vladimir Putin waited a whole three days before commenting on the Hamas-Israeli conflict and he immediately pointed the finger at the United States: “This is a clear example of the failed policy in the Middle East of the United States, which tried to monopolise the settlement process”. It took a further six days for Putin to offer condolences to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the deaths of around 1,200 Israelis. Ten days later, a Hamas delegation was in Moscow for talks. Israel slammed the decision, calling it “an act in support of terrorism”. It would appear as if Putin were using the war as an opportunity to escalate Russia's existential battle against the dominance of the West in attempt to progress a new world order of multilateral relations – effectively ending US dominance. U.S and EU support for Israel is malicious and Russian policy experts suggest that Putin is aiming to differentiate Russia from the U.S. and the EU, aligning with constituencies in the Middle East and beyond who share views on the Palestinian issue.

The crisis in Gaza provides Russia with an opportunity to score points in global public opinion and challenge what it perceives as double standards in Western foreign policy, particularly regarding Israel and Russia's actions in Ukraine. Support from the US and the West for Israeli actions has dealt a blow against Western foreign policy in the eyes of the Arab world and the entire Global South. One could argue that the West has fallen into a trap of its own making, exposing double standards on how different countries are treated depending on selfinterested Western political preferences.

Russia also sees economic benefits and a chance to increase its influence in the Middle East by positioning itself as a potential peacemaker with ties to all parties involved. Furthermore, Western financial and military resources will be drawn away from Ukraine. Axios reports that the Pentagon has chosen to dispatch tens of thousands of 155mm artillery shells, initially intended for Ukraine, to Israel. This move comes at a time when there is already a shortage of artillery ammunition across Western nations, and both Israel and Ukraine require similar weapons systems. Despite the challenges posed by the limited supply, Pentagon officials assert their commitment to supporting both Ukraine and Israel simultaneously. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin emphasized this during a press conference in Brussels on October 11, stating, "We can address both situations, and we will." Increases in the price of oil as a result of this war will also benefit Russia.

However, these actions have strained Russia's traditionally close ties with Israel, with Moscow's reception of a Hamas delegation causing displeasure in Israel. The deterioration in relations includes mutual summoning of ambassadors, questioning Israel's right to defend itself, and a halt in routine warnings about air strikes against Russian ally Syria. Tensions escalated further when a suspended Israeli junior minister hinted at the possibility of a nuclear strike on Gaza, prompting Russia to express concerns and question Israel's nuclear weapons status. Amid these developments, there are warnings from Israeli figures about potential consequences for Russia's stance on the conflict.

Reference material:

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