

# Israel Needs a New Strategy

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Mar 13, 2024

*Also published in Foreign Affairs*

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Dennis Ross, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama, is the counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute.



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## Netanyahu's “total victory” is not possible, but demilitarizing Hamas and stabilizing Gaza still are, especially with help from Egypt and other key players.

In February, Israeli military intelligence reportedly informed the country’s leaders that Hamas will survive as a terrorist group after the war. Despite this assessment, Prime Minister Netanyahu continues to declare that there will be “total victory” over Hamas, and that it will take “months, not years” to achieve. If Hamas is going to persist as a terrorist group in Gaza, as Israeli intelligence forecasts, then Netanyahu must come to terms with the fact that no victory in the territory can be total. Similarly, while making sure that Hamas is not able to preserve its military presence in Rafah, Israel must also ensure that the border with Egypt is no longer a sieve through which huge amounts of material can be smuggled into Gaza. If nothing else, that imperative points to working out a joint regime or a coordinated approach with Egypt to stop the smuggling from the Sinai into Gaza. As such, Israel needs a strategy, not slogans, for ensuring that its military efforts (and achievements) in Gaza translate into a new political reality...

[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/israel/israel-needs-new-strategy\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/israel/israel-needs-new-strategy) ❖

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