

War, Oil, Peace: 1970s

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MVZ247 Week 5

Decade of Transition

Wars

Oil Shock(s)

Political earthquake

Peace (Egypt)

The October War-- Israeli response

Invincibility shattered

Deep psychological wound for Israeli public upon military and political leadership

Surprise by Egypt and Syria, despite Israeli prior-knowledge

(archival knowledge as of 2014 released to public)

Massive losses (1/4) in men and resources and materials lost also.

Defeat probable until American airlift.

The October War--US

Diplomatic success of Nixon/Kissinger.

Major airlift of weapons and supplies to Israel from the US during the War.

Operation Nickel Grass

Close confrontation between US-Soviet Union

Cease-fire

US no longer neutral. Reaffirmed ally status with Israel and spheres of influence.

1970s: Stagnation

Heavy industry declines

Steel/Iron no longer strong in global markets

Inflation - hyperinflation - recessions = political unrest

Domestic unrest

Corruption and resignation of President Nixon in US = new president

Corruption and public distrust leads to PM Meir resignation in Israel = new PM

Oil

OPEC producing nations 'punished' Western nations in Europe and U.S.A for support of Israel.

Strength of Arab nations (advantage) against outside nations

'Shock' of increased market price for crude oil drove costs for petrol/gasoline high.

No significant warning to prepare domestic markets

OPEC domestic considerations

Unemployment and risk of rebellion fears calmed.

'Stress Test': U.S. Reassessment of Israel in 1975

Sec. of State Henry Kissinger sought a peace deal between Israel and the Arab nations.

'Shuttle' diplomacy throughout 1974 following 1973 October War

The Sinai Interim Agreement was signed on 4 September 1975 between Egypt and Israel.

Reassessment of the US regional policy and relation with Israel 'worst period in American-Israeli relations'

Israel remained ally of US and started road to peace treaty with Egypt.

1977: Domestic situation in Israel

American pressure for negotiations

Gush Emunim movement encouraging settlement in the West Bank

1976 Land Day protest by Israeli Arab citizens

Inflation triggered recession

Corruption within Cabinet and GOI led to disgruntled Israeli public

Rabin government by end of 1976 close to falling. Rabin resigns. Peres leads Labor Party into election.

Likud

Appeal to the Mizrahi (working class living in urban neighborhoods).

Leader was Menachem Begin

Humble and pious vs. totalitarian and extremist

Bloc of right and centre-right political parties of which Begin's Herut party is part of.

Story has that it was Ariel Sharon, who persuaded Begin to form Likud in 1973 and call it that name (The Consolation)

Some polls suggested historic win, conventional wisdom sided on Labor victory.

1977: The Earthquake

Likud won a plurality in the Knesset ending nearly 30 years of left-wing Alignment (Labor) rule.

Known popularly as “the revolution” by TV anchor Haim Yavin who said those words on TV.

The election on 17 May, 1977 saw start of period where left and right wing blocs held roughly equal numbers of seats in the Knesset

Camp David--US

Egyptian leader and Israeli leader bi-lateral meetings with US President Jimmy Carter

Creates myth of US indispensability.

Without US pressure “hardball” of carrot and sticks no deal

Creates negotiations model applied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

President Clinton in 2000

President Bush 43 in 2002

Camp David--Israel

Prime Minister Begin the HAWK turned DOVE...

Peace Accords first significant deal with Arab nation

Creates permanent border.

Defensible border intact

Retains national security aims.