

# National Security Strategy 1948- 1973

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MVZ248 week2

# Strength

Create an 'emergency' conceptual culture in state building and defense

“Israel” is under attack BUT Jews will no longer be victims

Consolidation of paramilitary organizations into the IDF

Irgun and Haganah folded into Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)

Strategic bases throughout the country

North, West, South

Quest for best arms (weapons)

Czechoslovak, French, American

# Realism

The centuries-old application of realpolitik (Morganthau)

Geographical location conforms to the IR paradigm: world is chaotic and anarchic

Ego and emotion of world leaders

Neo-realism (Waltz)

Structural constraints such as regional stability and superpower rivalry

BUT nation-states seek self-interest first and foremost

# 1948-1956

Rejection of Israel by Arab neighbors

War for Independence

No peace treaties despite diplomatic efforts

Neutral or indifferent Western power responses

Arms embargo

UN and national capitals favored Arab nationalism in post-war years

Division of world between USA and USSR

# Arms race: small to BIG

## Small-arms

Czechoslovak, British

## Tanks

Patton tanks

## Missiles

American HAWK missile system 1967

## Planes

French Mirage to American Phantom and Skyhawk

# Nuclear weapons

“Elephant in the room” unspoken acknowledgement by world powers that Israel has nuclear weapons. Policy of ‘nuclear ambiguity’

Dimona (city in Negev)

Preventive (pre-emptive) policy for rest of region. Known as the Begin Doctrine

Iraq in 1981

Iran (present)

# Defensible Borders

Each victory in war expanded boundary for Israel

Sinai and Golan (1948, 1967) from Egypt and Syria

West Bank (1967) from Jordan

Each boundary was defensible AND buffer

Internationally recognized treaties with Arab neighbors create formal borders

Egypt

Jordan

# 1967

Six-Day War was significant since Israel doubled in size

Gained further territory in Sinai and the strategic Golan

Buffer zones with Egypt and Syria

Captured East Jerusalem and West Bank of Jordan river

Reunified Jerusalem and controlled biblical Judea and Samaria



# 1973

'Holocaust' or watershed moment

generational

Survival of nation in the hands of 20-something year olds....

Security strategy failed

Invincible/inconceivable

New national security strategy

Peace-treaties and consolidation of territory