

A STATE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES: THE HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF ISRAEL'S GLOBAL SECURITY SYSTEM

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Abstract

The relevance of the research lies in Israel's long-standing conflict with hostile neighbours and the need for a robust global security system to ensure its stability and security. The aim of the study is to examine the development of Israel's global security system, exploring the current security challenges faced by the country, the strategies employed to counter potential threats, and the effectiveness of its security approach. The leading research methods are the historical and logical analysis, periodization, induction, deduction, comparison, and systematisation of approaches, which will help determine the history of the formation of Israel's security and its military-industrial complex. The study presents various approaches to the study and interpretation of the process of formation of Israel's global security system; analyses the works of historians, political scientists, and researchers dealing with the security of this country; describes the threat from neighbouring Arab countries and regional terrorist groups; focuses on various conflicts in which Israel was involved; suggests various methods and ways to avoid threats from Arab countries; describes current challenges to Israel's security; diagnoses parts of the systemic problems of Israeli security. The study's materials



are of practical and theoretical value for historians, political scientists, politicians, and diplomats, which will help them create optimal conditions for the development of their own country's security system. In addition, the information may be relevant for scholars and scientists who are interested in considering the historical significance of Israel as a country that independently defends its interests and is an important factor in the system of international politics.

Keywords

military conflict, Palestine, Arab-Israeli relations, Iran, Middle East.

Resumo

A relevância da investigação reside no conflito de longa data de Israel com vizinhos hostis e na necessidade de um sistema de segurança global robusto para garantir a sua estabilidade e segurança. O objetivo do estudo é examinar o desenvolvimento do sistema de segurança global de Israel, explorando os actuais desafios de segurança enfrentados pelo país, as estratégias utilizadas para combater potenciais ameaças e a eficácia da sua abordagem de segurança. Os principais métodos de investigação são a análise histórica e lógica, a periodização, a indução, a dedução, a comparação e a sistematização de abordagens, que ajudarão a determinar a história da formação da segurança de Israel e do seu complexo militar-industrial. O estudo apresenta várias abordagens ao estudo e à interpretação do processo de formação do sistema de segurança global de Israel; analisa os trabalhos de historiadores, cientistas políticos e investigadores que se ocupam da segurança deste país; descreve a ameaça dos países árabes vizinhos e dos grupos terroristas regionais; centra-se em vários conflitos em que Israel esteve envolvido; sugere vários métodos e formas de evitar as ameaças dos países árabes; descreve os actuais desafios à segurança de Israel; diagnostica partes dos problemas sistémicos da segurança israelita. Os materiais do estudo são de valor prático e teórico para historiadores, cientistas políticos, políticos e diplomatas, o que os ajudará a criar condições óptimas para o desenvolvimento do sistema de segurança do seu próprio país. Além disso, a informação pode ser relevante para académicos e cientistas que estejam interessados em considerar o significado histórico de Israel como um país que defende os seus interesses de forma independente e é um fator importante no sistema de política internacional.

Palavras-chave

conflito militar, Palestina, relações israelo-árabes, Irão, Médio Oriente.

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Introduction

Over the past two decades, Israel has established itself as a leading player in the international arena. Israel's foreign policy in the twenty-first century is well thought out and coherent. This is what allowed it to reach a high level of interaction with the world's leading countries. The state pays special attention to three areas: diplomacy, tourism, and religion. The multi-vector policy has led to active improvement of foreign and domestic issues. As a result, Israel has a high level of cybersecurity and significant security strategies. It is worth noting that one of the key threats to the security of Israeli citizens is terrorism. Such illegal and inhumane actions are typical for every continent of the world, but it is in the conflict-ridden Middle East that a large number of terrorist groups operate.

Of particular historical and political interest is Israel's experience in protecting its national security and countering terrorism (Tkachenko et al., 2024). A.V. Kucherenko (2019) describes the fight against terrorism in Israel as a key element of the policy. Among the main threats to Israel's regional security, the scientist identified the following: Palestinian Islamist Hamas; Islamic Movement of Israel (has 2 wings – South and North); Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which is a paramilitary Islamist organisation aimed at the destruction of Israel; "Al-Qaeda (terrorist organisation); Hezbollah (political party and paramilitary group); Syrian anti-government armed groups ("Army of Islam"). D. Menashri (2006) noted that the Islamic Revolution in Iran led to dramatic changes in the country's foreign policy outlook and its participation in the international arena. The country was and remains hostile to Israel. Iran was notable for its rejection of Zionism and the legitimacy



of the Jewish state. This attitude of Iranian politicians towards Israel has become an important factor in creating a strong security system. M. Furlan (2022) argues that Iran and Israel have been trying to strengthen their strategic position towards each other: Israel's attack on targets in Syria, and Iran's creation and development of weapons.

Scholars have explored an aspect of Israel's national success in cybersecurity through a critical look at the blending of military and civilian governance in the field of technology. Israel is a typical country that benefits from a highly interconnected military and industrial complex. Most studies indicate that high military spending negatively affects the economic aspects of countries. F. Cristiano (2021) noted that due to significant monetary investments, Israel's integrated management model has had a positive impact on companies in the global market in the field of cybersecurity. Israel's leadership in the security and cybersecurity system promotes international cooperation, especially with the United States (Arstanbekov et al., 2024). The research relevance is determined by the fact that the problem of Israel's security is not fully studied by scholars and requires further analysis. Since its creation, Israel has been forced to fight for its existence and effectively ensure the stability and peace of the State and its members (Bocheliuk et al., 2020). A.V. Gofman (2021) pointed out that the Jewish people see security as certain guarantees and certainty. The very origin of insecurity and hostility took place in 1948 when the State of Israel was established following United Nations (UN) Resolution 181 (2024). The Arab-Israeli conflict was born then, over disputes over territory and a just partition. R. Tarasiuk (2021) describes the situation with the countries in the Middle East as quite controversial, as each nation wants to emphasise its individuality.

The purpose of the research is to analyze the history of the formation of the global security system of Israel, studying the challenges of the country's modern security, methods of combating potential threats and the effectiveness of Israel's security strategy. The objectives of the article are as follows:

- To assess the impact of Israel's geopolitical position on its security strategy and role in international conflicts.
- To study the components of Israel's security system and assess its effectiveness in the face of modern threats.

Materials and Methods

The study utilized a comprehensive set of methods to analyze Israel's global security system. Theoretical methods were applied to examine political and historical literature, which included articles, monographs, and other scholarly works focused on the history of Israel's security system and its formation. This approach aimed to provide a deep understanding of military conflicts, particularly the disputes with Arab countries, and the evolving security strategies Israel employed. The goal of these methods was to generalize theoretical material and present a comprehensive overview of the challenges and evolution of Israel's security system over time.

The logical method played a crucial role in providing a systematic approach to studying the phenomenon. By applying deduction and the method of periodization, the study identified the historical stages in the development of Israel's relations with neighboring countries and its security system. This allowed the author to outline key periods that



significantly shaped Israel's security approach and its interactions with regional and global powers. Additionally, the systemic and structural method was used to organize and present events and historical facts in a coherent manner, ensuring that the analysis was both structured and comprehensive. This method helped to break down the complexities of Israel's security challenges and frame them within a larger geopolitical context.

The study used the method of comparison to examine various theoretical understandings of Israel's security system and its strategies for combating terrorism. By comparing different scholarly perspectives, the research was able to highlight key similarities and differences in the theoretical foundations surrounding Israel's defense mechanisms. This comparative approach provided insights into the effectiveness of Israel's security strategies and allowed for a deeper understanding of its military and diplomatic actions.

The method of periodization in this study was used to identify and analyze the main stages of the development of Israel's relations with other countries, in particular in the context of the formation and evolution of its global security system. Using this method, the author divided Israel's history into key periods that had the greatest impact on its security strategy and foreign relations. This made it possible to highlight important moments, such as the first military conflicts with Arab states, the creation and strengthening of the state of Israel, as well as the stages of development of relations with great powers such as the United States and the USSR.

The research also relied on diagnostic methods, which involved studying existing works by scholars, reviewing the results of scientific research, and gathering empirical facts. This approach was essential for collecting data on Israel's defense system, regional conflicts, and international relations. By grouping and analyzing this empirical evidence, the study was able to provide a clearer picture of the current state of Israel's security system and its challenges, ensuring that the research was both grounded in established scholarship and supported by real-world data.

The study of the problem was conducted in three stages. The first stage involved theoretical collection and analysis of existing approaches in history, political science and international relations on the history of the formation of Israel's global security system; the study of works devoted to this problem, its features, peculiarities and approaches to explanation; consideration of information from books, electronic articles, monographs, conferences, dissertations, which deeply and comprehensively reveal aspects and problems of Israel's political relations with its neighbours; the essence of Israel's leadership in the security and cybersecurity system, which contributes to the development of international cooperation, is shown; the main threats to Israel's regional security are identified; the relevance of this issue is revealed; brief reviews of scholars' research are presented and unexplored issues are identified; the problem, purpose, forms and methods (ways) of analysing this problem are highlighted, and a research plan is developed.

In the second stage, the research, analysis and design of tools to study the problem of the history of the formation of the global security system of the State of Israel were carried out; the features and aspects of this historical and political phenomenon were considered; the factors of the State's emergence and its historical development were identified; the process of international support for Israel was explained; the instability of



the Israeli security system in the past was substantiated; the largest military clashes with Arab states were presented; the results of the analysis were disclosed, which helped to identify the specifics of this problem; three main opposing groups in conflict with Israel were diagnosed; Israel's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran were identified and their conflict was shown; the components of the country's security system were described; the conclusions drawn during the research work were systematised.

The third stage involves systematisation and classification of the material obtained in the course of analysing and studying scientific and theoretical works of scholars; substantiation of theoretical and practical conclusions and results of the study; a comparative analysis of studies and approaches aimed at studying the problem of Israel's political relations with Arab countries; systematisation of the main historical facts and data attesting to the US assistance in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; analyses Israel's diplomatic relations with Lebanon, Syria and Iraq; shows the importance of the Iron Dome technology for combating military threats; summarises and logically presents the results of the analysis of scholars' works and their contribution to political science; presents aspects of Israel's successful confrontations. Furthermore, the organisational principles of the country's national security strategy were described.

Results

Israel's Geopolitical Location and the Evolution of its Security Strategy in the Modern Context

Israel occupies a strategic and often contentious position, bridging the gap between the West and the East. Its unique geographical location has placed it at the crossroads of conflicting interests, with its borders serving as both a defense mechanism and a focal point for global geopolitics. The region has been home to the Jewish people for millennia, but due to a series of religious, political, and military conflicts, the Jewish population was displaced over centuries. The rise of the Zionist movement in the late 19th century was pivotal in fostering the return of Jews to their ancestral land. This movement gained momentum especially during the Enlightenment, when many European Jews began assimilating into broader European society, distancing themselves from their religious and cultural roots. The Holocaust, which began in the 1930s under Nazi Germany, marked a tragic turning point in Jewish history. Hitler's genocidal regime led to the systematic extermination of approximately six million Jews. Initially, proposals such as the plan to relocate Jews to Madagascar were suggested, but ultimately, the brutal Nazi campaign of eradication underscored the need for a safe haven. The trauma of the Holocaust catalyzed global support for the creation of a Jewish state, culminating in the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948, following the United Nations Resolution 181 (2024), which called for the termination of the British Mandate in Palestine and the partition of the land into Jewish and Arab states.

Upon its declaration of independence, Israel was immediately surrounded by hostile Arab states that perceived its existence as a geopolitical threat. The subsequent Arab-Israeli conflict marked the beginning of a series of military confrontations, shaping Israel's defense and military strategies. Israel's resilience in the face of this external hostility can be attributed to both its internal unity and external support from global powers such as



the United States, the USSR, and Eastern European countries like Hungary, Poland, and Bulgaria. This support was driven by multiple factors, including the widespread influence of Zionism, the geopolitical importance of Israel as a bulwark against the Arab world, and the collective desire to provide a homeland for the Jewish people in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Israel's defense and security strategies evolved rapidly after the 1948 War of Independence, as the country faced continuous threats from neighboring Arab states. The ongoing conflicts, such as the Suez Crisis in 1956, the Six-Day War in 1967, and the Yom Kippur War in 1973, were critical in shaping Israel's military doctrines. Each of these conflicts not only secured Israeli territorial gains but also reinforced its strategic alliances, particularly with the United States, which has remained a cornerstone of Israel's security. Through these wars, Israel developed an advanced military-industrial complex, enabling it to maintain one of the most technologically sophisticated and effective defense systems in the world (Koen, 2017).

The rise of modern threats, including terrorism and regional instability, has further refined Israel's security strategy (Yevseiev et al., 2022). The Palestinian issue, particularly the status of Gaza, remains at the heart of Israel's security concerns. This issue not only fuels conflicts with neighboring Arab nations but also contributes to the broader instability in the Middle East. Iran, a regional power with strategic interests in challenging Israel's existence, has become a key adversary. Iran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities, coupled with its support for groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, has deepened the divide between the two nations. Israel's security policy, therefore, is shaped by its need to counter Iran's nuclear ambitions and its support for proxy militant groups, which Israel perceives as existential threats.

In addition, Israel's military strategy has adapted to new threats, including asymmetric warfare and cyber threats. The country's advanced technological capabilities, including its renowned Iron Dome missile defense system, have played a crucial role in mitigating attacks from Hezbollah, Hamas, and other militant groups. Israel has also become a global leader in cybersecurity, creating a robust defense against cyberattacks that could target critical infrastructure.

Israel's international role today is multifaceted, extending beyond military and defense matters. The country has established itself as a key player in international diplomacy, particularly through its alliances with Western powers like the United States and its growing relationships with former Arab adversaries, such as the UAE, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, following the normalization of relations under the Abraham Accords. This shift represents a significant change in the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, highlighting Israel's strategic importance in regional stability and security. Israel's security strategy is not just a response to immediate threats but a complex, evolving framework shaped by its historical experiences, regional challenges, and global partnerships (Koen, 2017). Its role in contemporary geopolitics is firmly anchored in its defense capabilities, its alliances, and its strategic position in the Middle East, which continues to influence global security dynamics. The evolution of Israel's military and security strategies has made it a powerful, resilient state with a profound impact on both regional and global politics.



Formation of Israel's global security system

Israel, since its establishment, has faced numerous security challenges due to its geopolitical location and the ongoing regional conflicts. Over the years, Israel has developed one of the most advanced and effective defense systems in the world, largely driven by its military-industrial complex. The country's armed forces are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including missile defense systems like the Iron Dome, designed to counter rocket and missile threats from hostile neighbors. Additionally, Israel has developed advanced cyber defense capabilities, contributing to its reputation as a global leader in cybersecurity.

The four major military confrontations that have defined Israel's defense strategy the War of Independence in 1948, the Suez Crisis in 1956, the Six-Day War in 1967, and the Yom Kippur War in 1973 highlight the central role of territorial disputes, particularly over the land allocated for the creation of a Palestinian state by United Nations Resolution 181 (2024). These wars shaped Israel's security policy and helped solidify its military doctrine. The disputes over Palestinian territories and the Gaza Strip remain core issues that continuously challenge Israel's national security (Vilks et al., 2024; Bilan et al., 2017).

A significant empirical factor contributing to the security threats Israel faces today is the ongoing issue of Palestinian statehood, which remains unresolved. This unresolved issue fuels hostility between Israel and various Arab countries, particularly in the context of territorial claims and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. According to data from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel has fought several conflicts with neighboring Arab countries, which have consistently opposed its right to exist. In 1948, the first Arab-Israeli war broke out, and Israel's survival was at risk, as it faced an alliance of Arab nations that sought to dismantle the newly established state.

In addition to traditional state-based adversaries, Israel now faces non-state threats such as the rise of radical groups. Iran, which plays a pivotal role in the Middle East, is a principal source of regional instability. It has consistently opposed Israel, and its nuclear ambitions have been a significant concern for Israeli security. Iran has also supported groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, which are designated as terrorist organizations by Israel. The empirical data on Iranian support for such groups indicates that they receive substantial funding and military support from Tehran, enabling them to continue operations against Israel. Turkey, a regional power, has increasingly engaged in confrontation with Israel, particularly over issues of geopolitical dominance in the Middle East. Although Turkey and Israel had strong diplomatic and military ties in the past, tensions have risen in recent years due to disagreements over Syria, the status of Jerusalem, and the treatment of Palestinians. These tensions have led to a growing divide between the two countries, with both sides increasingly engaging in military posturing and rhetoric.

Another emerging challenge comes from the Islamic State, which has expanded its reach beyond Iraq and Syria. Although IS does not directly pose a major existential threat to Israel, its affiliate groups, particularly "Wilayat Sinai" on the Egyptian Peninsula and the "Yarmouk Martyrs' Brigade" in Syria, operate near Israeli borders. These groups have carried out minor terrorist acts, but the overall threat from IS has been limited in comparison to other regional actors. However, the presence of these groups has



highlighted the volatility of Israel's security environment and the risks posed by transnational terrorist organizations.

The empirical data on terrorist activities against Israel confirms the ongoing nature of the security threat. According to reports from the Israeli Security Agency (Shin Bet), there have been hundreds of terrorist attacks in recent years, primarily from groups operating in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and neighboring countries. These attacks range from small-scale bombings to larger-scale coordinated assaults aimed at undermining Israeli security.

H. Shalizi (2015) concluded that this "state" sometimes attacks oil production facilities in Iraq and Syria, sells energy carriers, and weapons, and is engaged in theft of property. Outside of Iraq and Syria, the IS controls territories in Sinai, Afghanistan and Libya and has representation in Turkey, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan. G. Allison (2018) points out that Israel faces two IS affiliates on its immediate border: "Wilayat Sinai" on the Egyptian peninsula and the "Yarmouk Martyrs' Brigade" on the Syrian side. However, the IS does not pose a particular threat to Israel, conducting only minor terrorist acts.

Arab countries have very complicated relations with Israel due to religious and moral views and non-recognition of the existence of the state of Israel, as they consider these lands to be Palestinian (Zhukorska, 2024). It is worth noting that some countries find it unprofitable for economic and political reasons to oppose Israel, which destroys the unified position of the Arab world. In addition, all Arab countries that were members of the UN did not support United Nations Resolution 181 (2024), on the creation of two independent states near Palestine in 1947. This meant an aggressive attitude of the countries towards Israel (since 1948) when the Arab-Israeli conflict began to develop. After the official announcement of the establishment of the State of Israel, the Arab League (Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon) announced the deployment of its troops to Palestine, but in 1948 Israel won the war of independence, as it was supported by European countries and the United States. In addition, the unity of Arab countries was destroyed in the process of developing the Arab-Israeli conflict. For example, in 1967, the Six-Day War took place, where, after the defeat, Egypt and Jordan signed a ceasefire agreement with Israel. At the end of the war, the state of Israel established control over the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and Egypt and Jordan were sharply criticised by the rest of the Arab world. At that time, the Arab League changed its position on Israel and began to put forward other conditions for political relations. An example is the creation of the Arab Peace Initiative, which agreed to end the Arab-Israeli conflict with the recognition of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are also rather specific. The following periods are worth highlighting here:

- Iran's vote against the UN Resolution on the partition of Palestine;
- in the 1950s, Iran de facto recognised Israel and opened a representative office in Tehran;
- after 1979, relations became more tense and reached the "nuclear" level (the peak of Israel's regional confrontation with Iran).



These relations between the countries have always been ambiguous, because before the 1979 revolution, Iran had good relations with Israel. After the normalisation of Israel's relations with certain Arab countries and due to changes in the regional geopolitical situation, Iran and Israel became enemies. A. Arnold et al. (2021) argue that Iran has begun to produce its nuclear weapons, having access to foreign models of such weapons. This state also supports radical groups and terrorist organisations in the Middle East (Hamas, Hezbollah).

E. Kuvonchbek (2022) points out that the Israeli security system has several components, each with its specific tasks. The first is the Israeli Armed Forces, which directly guarantee the security, sovereignty, and integrity of the state. The second area is law enforcement agencies (police and special services), which ensure the internal security and stability of the country. They can identify new threats and challenges to the country's security. The third component is the diplomatic service, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which pursues a policy of preventive diplomacy and defends Israel's interests at the international level.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was founded during the War of Independence of the State of Israel. The main threats are Iran, the Hezbollah group, and the Hamas movement, so it is important to provide the IDF with the strongest ground forces, which use advanced fighter aircraft and other aircraft technologies. Israel's law enforcement agencies maintain order in society and contribute to internal security (Apakhayev et al., 2017). In addition, such services can conduct intelligence activities and identify hidden threats and challenges. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially performs the following tasks: improving the country's foreign policy position and its international legitimation; taking preventive measures against Iran's nuclear programme; ensuring regional stability and strengthening mechanisms to prevent terrorist activities; and maintaining the alliance with the United States as the country's mainstay. It should be noted that it is the role of the United States that is important in ensuring Israel's security, as it is this country that provides systematic financial and technological assistance.

Discussion

Israel has established itself as a military and defence stronghold in the Middle East, which has a strong security system, as its existence is threatened by the Arab world. The study revealed the historical aspects of the formation of Israel's security and its interaction with Arab countries. The author proved the strength and resilience of the Jewish people, who are ready to fight for their land and existence. In addition, the tasks of the country's security system were demonstrated and the importance of the IDF was substantiated. Prospects for further work and research should be to identify possible processes for resolving the conflict between Arab countries and Israel.

As a result of regional challenges and problems in the Middle East (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), the Syrian refugee crisis), many Arab states rely on Israel for resources to fight terrorism, create intelligence and receive military support. M. Klein (2018) points out that Egypt is Israel's strongest ally. This is confirmed by the signing of a peace treaty in 1979. The two countries share common goals and can conduct military operations against ISIS. In addition, they have both restored diplomatic relations and embassies, and Egypt has enlisted Israel's support in their common commitment to



defeat Hamas (the Palestinian Islamic movement and political party). It is also worth highlighting the secretive relationship between Saudi Arabia and the Jewish state, where the common interest is to combat Iranian influence in the region. As a result of this need, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia are seeking to overcome the challenge of Palestinian statehood and propose normalising political relations. Jordan is also worth mentioning, as it faces serious terrorist threats at home and has enemies among its neighbours. It needs to have a partnership with a country that has the most effective forces in the field of technologies and methods of fighting terrorism. After the 1994 peace treaty, Jordanian-Israeli relations were shaky, but relatively recently Israel has donated attack helicopters and military equipment to Jordan, which has helped stabilise relations between the two countries. The present study reveals the phenomenon of Israel's military conflicts from a radically different perspective, pointing to the existing positive dynamics in relations with Arab countries.

An important issue of discussion is the Arab-Israeli conflict, which was considered by the author. According to historical data, it originated in 1967 or even with the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. A. Dowty (2020) notes that the first roots of the conflict can be seen in the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century when there were constant clashes between religious and ethnic groups in Palestine. It has been proven that the existing Arab inhabitants considered the new Jewish settlers to be Europeans and had a negative attitude towards them. In addition, Jewish settlers wanted to minimise all obstacles to their settlement. This study demonstrates that the Middle East is still dominated by an irreconcilable conflict. B.A. Sandoval (2021) examined the current militarised response of the United States and Israel to Palestine, identifying the negative impact of this policy on the Palestinian and Israeli people, as well as the military-industrial complex that benefits from the US-Israeli relationship. It is also the military industry that profits greatly from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but despite billions of US dollars, Israel has not been able to build peace in the region. This research offers several alternatives to US and Israeli foreign policy towards Palestine and the military industry. According to the author, political influence and support for Israel should be focused on moving away from Israeli armed digital technologies and military capabilities and looking for other alternatives.

Yu.S. Skorokhod (2011) focused on the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. This study analysed the approaches of the parties to the conflict and the Security Council member states to resolve the confrontation. In July 2006, Israel launched a military action against Hezbollah. The reason was the launch of several rockets from Lebanon towards Israel and an attack on an Israeli patrol that resulted in the death of soldiers. Lebanon argued that Israel's actions were a manifestation of aggression and should be immediately resolved. The document did not demand the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory but only stated that the UN Security Council would make efforts to resolve the conflict. Moreover, the resolution allowed Israeli troops to remain in the occupied territory for a certain period. Most importantly, the resolution called for an end to the conflict and hostilities based on an immediate cessation of Hezbollah's activities and an Israeli offensive. The emphasis was placed on offensive actions, which is why Arab politicians believe that Israel had official permission to carry out military actions in southern Lebanon. The experience of the UN Security Council's settlement of the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah only proved the indecisive position of the Security Council members, who tried to adjust



events to their advantage and resolve the conflict following their interests. This experience only gives grounds for distrust in effective decision-making in the institutional sphere. The study partially reveals Israel's conflictual relations with other countries.

Israel's security challenges are not only defined by external threats but also by the complex dynamics within its own population and society. The interplay between internal social changes and national security concerns has profound implications for the country's stability and future (Maulenov et al., 2024; Alekseeva et al., 2023). Israel's population, characterized by a diverse mix of ethnic, religious, and political groups, plays a critical role in shaping its national security strategies. As Israel continues to grow both economically and demographically, it faces significant internal divisions, particularly between Jewish and Arab populations, as well as between different social classes. These divisions can undermine national solidarity, making it difficult to align strategic goals with available resources. Addressing these internal tensions is essential for ensuring that Israel's security strategies are not only effective but also inclusive and sustainable (Hunko, 2023). This complexity is compounded by Israel's ongoing territorial disputes and its need for defensible borders, which remain central to the national security discourse. Thus, understanding the social fabric of Israel and its internal cohesion is as crucial as addressing the external threats it faces.

Israel also faces major security challenges from Iran's aspirations for regional hegemony, as evidenced by the country's nuclear development (since 2003). The second deep problem is related to the Palestinians and regional conflicts. These conflicts affect Israel's identity as a Jewish democratic state that is facing internal social changes. Although the country is experiencing population growth and economic and scientific advancement, there are also divisions of national solidarity that are exacerbating social class divisions. Therefore, Israel needs to develop a national security strategy to find the right balance between national goals and resources. In addition, the cohesion of the nation, and the link between strategic goals and resilience are equally important. The problem of securing defensible borders has long been a major issue for Israel as a result of territorial conflicts and confrontations. The core of the state's national security strategy is revealed through the activities of the political leadership. The information presented here clarifies the principles and approaches to the strategic development of Israel's security system, which complements the data on tasks in this area.

Israel's conflicts with other countries should also be emphasised and considered in more detail. M. Berger (2020) notes that Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq have no diplomatic or friendly ties with Israel. The state of Israel occupied part of southern Lebanon for 15 years. In addition, tensions remain high between Israel and Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shiite militant group. There is also a long-standing enmity with Syria, as Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1967. Although relations with Iraq are tense, strong alliances have been forged with the Kurds in northern Iraq based on trade. It is also worth noting the conflict between Iran and Israel, which arose in 1979 when a revolution overthrew the Shah of Iran. The majority of Iran's population is Shiite Muslims, so this country is the main threat against the backdrop of a growing alliance with like-minded United States and other Arab states. Turkey and Israel have unofficially had close military relations, but in recent years they have deteriorated as Turkey seeks to play a more prominent regional role. A.O. Khudoliy (2018) notes that there were also deeper differences between the countries over Iran, Israel's nuclear programme, and the issue of Israeli settlements in the West



Bank. All these issues created obstacles to the normalisation of relations. Relations with Iran in the last three decades have been built on certain principles of situational benefit. V.O. Mustipan (2020) points out that during the Iran-Iraq war, Israel supplied modern weapons to Iran. In addition, it refused to impose sanctions on Iran. These actions are taken not to harm the large Jewish diaspora in Tehran. At the time of the Islamic Revolution, their relations were quite friendly, then secretly partnered (until 1992), and from 1993 to the present day they have become hostile.

Israel's security strategy is based on a defensive approach aimed at ensuring the existence of the state, engaging in active political and military efforts, and creating an effective system to combat threats. G. Eisenkot and G. Siboni (2019) describe Israel's military strategy as offensive and based on continuous action and improvement. To gain military achievements, Israel needs to demonstrate its victory and succeed at the strategic level. The country has to use the concept of an "iron wall", which will be crucial for maintaining territorial integrity and security in the region. In the national command system, it is the Security Cabinet that is the supreme commander, with the Chief of the General Staff being slightly lower in rank. The Israeli General Security Service (Shabak) and the Mossad are subordinate to the Prime Minister, and the Police Commissioner must follow the orders of the Minister of Public Security. The authors of this study also highlighted the organisational principles of the country's national security strategy:

1. Improving the strength and resilience of the nation by serving national security and identifying the potential of the people.
2. Coordination of actions and efforts to develop national security, which will lead to a quick response and maximum flexibility to respond to various challenges.
3. Ensuring the process of deterring enemies by strengthening the national army and adapting it to the challenges of the present.
4. The determination to use significant military force if necessary.
5. Use of preventive measures during periods of calm (strengthening deterrence against enemies in the regional arena, limiting their actions, damaging their capabilities and communication channels).

The state of victory and convincing other countries of their strength is achieved when the enemy leadership realises that a confrontation with Israel will not be successful and will lead to the loss of assets and the status of the political leadership. Israel proves that it can defend itself in the following ways:

- by having a rapid military operation supported by all security organisations with the IDF on the offensive (military ground manoeuvres, operational and strategic attacks, confrontations, special operations, cyber strikes, psychological pressure);
- by using national defence capabilities to minimise damage to society;
- by creating international legitimacy for Israel's goals.



Such concepts influence clear strategic actions and indicate an effective security system for Israel as a country surrounded by enemies. This deepens the information considered on the components of the security system and its tasks.

I. Slesinger (2022) examined Israel's technologically advanced short-range missile defence system, the Iron Dome, which offers many opportunities to create a secure environment but also has limitations. This system uses algorithmic processing to quickly detect and intercept incoming missiles. It has gained a great deal of media coverage and discourse in the current conflict in Gaza. V. Tkachenko (2022) describes the Iron Dome by providing some facts: On 10 March 2012, the system destroyed 90% of the rockets fired from the Gaza Strip; in November 2012, the system intercepted and destroyed more than 400 rockets. In addition, it can hit aircraft at an altitude of up to 10 km. An important feature of this system is its targeting of specific threats and short-range missiles. This confirms the author's statement about Israel as a powerful country with an effective security system.

That is, Israel is a country bordering Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine, as well as the Gaza Strip, which poses a significant threat to the country's national and regional security. The guiding principles of the state's national security strategy are aimed at creating a domestic and international political coalition that would stop the enemy from achieving its goals. The State of Israel is characterised by actions that are coordinated with the relevant parties in the international space to achieve success in strategic and operational-military directions.

Conclusions

Israel is a country that has conflicting relations with many countries in the Middle East (Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan). Regional threats and challenges are becoming increasingly large-scale and inevitable. All this threatens the country's regional security. In addition, Israel's statehood is being challenged by the Palestinian problem and the Gaza Strip. All terrorist and hostile actions by other countries are aimed at destroying Israel's statehood for ideological reasons and dissatisfaction with the existence of Israeli statehood. The study shows that due to this situation, Israel has developed its strategic security system to ensure its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Although Israel has a strong defence system and a strong army, it should reassess its effectiveness, as hostile actors are rapidly advancing in their technological and military capabilities.

The author states that Israel adheres to the concept of avoiding prolonged wars and is trying to build up its military potential. The military strategy is also characterised by strong army strikes, transfer of hostilities to enemy territory and rapid achievement of goals. Only a deep discussion of national values, initiative and action can strengthen Israel as a democratic Jewish state. Strengthening the ties of diaspora Jewry is becoming a fundamental need for Israel's national security and power. The research materials are of practical and theoretical value for historians, political scientists, diplomats, sociologists, politicians, and international figures, which will help them create optimal conditions for the development of their own country's security system. In addition, the information may be relevant for scholars and scientists who are interested in considering the historical significance of Israel as a country that independently defends its interests and is an important state in international politics.



It is worth continuing the study and deepening it by analysing the historical development of Israel's security system in the process of dynamic improvement. The research conducted does not exhaust all aspects of this historical and political problem and requires further consideration of such issues as the possibility of resolving the conflict with the Arab states; the importance of international assistance and support for improving Israel's defence capabilities and its ability to fight terrorism.

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