

# **Time Is on Israel's Side**

**Auszüge aus der Studie „Time Is on Israel's Side“ des BESA Center in Tel Aviv im englischen Originaltext:**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Israel is a small country, and the national security of small countries is more precarious than that of large countries. Indeed, since Israel's establishment it has dealt with existential threats from its neighbors. This study argues that – despite the need for constant political prudence – not only is Israel a big success story, time is definitely on Israel's side. A review of the variables that influence Israel's ability to successfully withstand protracted conflict leaves room for optimism. A survey of the military balance between Israel and her enemies, internal factors that influence national power - such as the economy, social cohesiveness, and the political system - and Israel's standing in the international community indicate long term processes that favor Israel over its regional foes. After sixty-five years of existence, the State of Israel can be confident in its ability to overcome the challenges that stand in its path.

## **„NUCLEAR OPTION“**

Finally, Israel has a well-developed nuclear option, buttressing its image as a powerful state. Such weapons serve as a constant reminder that attempts to destroy the Jewish state could be extremely costly and thus, work as a deterrent against hostile governments.

## CONCLUSION

Despite not everything being perfect in the Holy Land, long term prospects seem bright. Israel is a vibrant democracy that prospers and maintains strong social cohesion. Its international status has improved while support in the United States, its main ally and still the foremost international power, has remained very high. Moreover, the Jewish state is widely recognized as an entrenched reality, even by its Arab and Muslim rivals. It has built a mighty military machine that can parry all regional threats, and the IDF remains the most capable military in the region with the motivation, equipment, and training to overmatch the conventional capabilities of any regional challenger. Israel has managed to contain terrorist activities and has built an effective shield against missiles. Only a nuclear Iran would be a game changer in the strategic equation, and Jerusalem is serious about preventing this scenario. Moreover, in the near future, discontinuities in the political, social, and economic trends reviewed are unlikely. This means that time is on Israel's side. The *zeitgeist* of this epoch that stresses democracy and free market values also favors Israel rather than its Muslim opponents, who continue to be in great socioeconomic and political crisis.

At age 65, Israel is a great success story, and if it can continue to inculcate the Zionist ethos into new generations and make no big mistakes, its future looks bright. While peace is desirable, it is not a necessary condition for survival.