

**Letter**

## Letter: Netanyahu's regional policy reflects strategic realities

From Daniel Aronoff, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, US



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Gideon Rachman describes Israel's "outside-in" regional policy; the idea that pursuing agreements with Gulf Arab states would help solve its internal conflict with Palestinians, as having failed ("Netanyahu's master plan has failed", [Opinion](#), May 18).

In support of his claim, Rachman points out that Israel's policy has not prevented Hamas's rocket attacks and clashes with Israeli Arabs. Nor has it quelled international condemnation of Israel's military response.

While it is evident that Israeli policies have not purchased internal tranquility, it is less evident that its policies have utterly failed.

First, the thawing of relations with Sunni Gulf Arab states reflects new strategic realities in the region and confer myriad benefits on to Israel, not the least of which is unified opposition to the spread of Iranian influence, including its surrogate allies, like Hamas, which call for Israel's destruction.

Notably, the current conflict does not appear to have strained relations between Israel and its new Arab allies.

Second, the recent outbreak of violence is taking place amid the backdrop of a contest for power over Palestinian affairs between Hamas and Fatah.

If Israel severely cripples Hamas and Fatah emerges the winner of that contest, it will be an improvement from the standpoint of Israeli security, since Fatah is not committed to the goal of destroying Israel.

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