

CHAPTER

9

WHY ISRAEL AS IT EXISTS TODAY IS NOT VIABLE IN THE LONG RUN

**(THE PROBLEMS ISRAEL FACES IF THE CURRENT
GEOPOLITICAL STATUS QUO IS NOT CHANGED)**



How can the currently strongest military power in the Middle East be so vulnerable?

What makes Israel weak, even though security experts believe it has the nuclear weapons capability to blow up many who hate it, is that to exist as a healthy nation—to be a viable state—Israel’s security *and* well being, including social, political, economic, moral, and military needs must be unassailable.

Noam Chomsky writes that it is obvious that neither Israel nor any other small country can guarantee its own security: “Talk of ‘guaranteeing one’s own security’ is either a sign of serious confusion or a euphemism.” As international interdependence grows, it is clear that security is not strictly a military concept. Its foundations are political and economic. International opinion is important, regional cooperation with

neighbors is important, and ultimately, the interests of the Powerful nations are important.¹

Donald Rumsfeld, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, acknowledged that even the United States could not defend itself without partnerships with other countries.²

What chance then does Israel have to defend itself in light of hostile neighbors who refuse to be its partners? If Israel isn't afforded the opportunity to be a full partner in the world, how can it not wither in the long run?

If the “two-state” status quo—forcing Israel and a future Palestinian state to co-exist within the geographic confines of Israel and the territories—is kept in place, and events are simply left to run their course, Israel is almost certain to fail.

Today, Israel lives under the constant stress of many threats, some of which are existential, and some of which are unique to it. Major threats include: 1) a large-scale nuclear attack (which may amount to one or several detonations) that renders vast parts of such a small and demographically-concentrated state uninhabitable, 2) a major conventional war, 3) biological attacks, 4) continued and increased terrorism, 5) continued and increased Katyusha, Fajr and Zelzal rocket attacks, whether or not there are effective international monitors in Southern Lebanon, 6) an internal demographic threat from disgruntled Arab citizens, 7) an external economic threat such as boycotts or sanctions, 8) a loss of identity as a Jewish state among Jews—including separation of Israelis from the Diaspora Jewish community, 9) environmental threats common to desert countries such as an inability to meet the water needs of its population from internal sources, and 10) a flight of Jewish citizens leaving Israel to get a “better” economic life, or simply succumbing to the psychological pressures of Arab attacks of attrition.