

The power of Israel

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If This Is Victory...

Thesis: Israel has won. The second Intifada has ended in the suicide of the Palestinian cause. Terrorism hasn't torn apart Israeli society nor has it crushed its economy. The wall - or "separation barrier" in the rhetoric of Jerusalem - is a success. Arab public opinion is increasingly less inclined to get enthused for the Palestinians. Bush is aligned with Sharon. Arafat has been buried, Saddam has been eliminated, Baššār al-Asad's Syria has been marginalized, ayatollah Iran has been surrounded by the extraordinary deployment of American bases and troops between Afghanistan and the Persian gulf; and with the Egyptian and Saudi regimes caught up in the fight for survival against the same radical Islamic networks that wish to destroy the "Zionist entity", who still threatens the existence of Israel? Moreover, the Jewish State is expanding its sphere of influence in the Middle East, almost taking on the role of chief regional power.

Antithesis: Israel has only gained time. Arabs and Muslims will never accept the "Zionist entity". The hatred of the Jews remains common currency in Middle Eastern society. The jihadists have hijacked the Palestinian cause. The police States, which in the region feel caught in the vice of Islamic radicalism and democratization sponsored by the United States, cannot accede to real peace with the Jewish State without risking their own overthrow. And if they could really vote freely, in many Arab countries the archenemies of the West and Israel would triumph. In any case, Bush won't be around forever, nor can he continue to unconditionally side with Sharon. In the end, demography remains the lethal weapon of the Palestinians: by 2020, in the area between the Mediterranean and Jordan (including Israel and the Occupied Territories), there will be a clear Arab majority. The old debate - that has plagued the Zionist movement since its origins - of whether the future State should be Jewish or for Jews (Judenstaat), will be resolved in favor of the Arabs: that is, with the end of Israel and the birth of "Israelestine", as Gheddafi in his time hoped for, and in accordance with the formula "two peoples in one State".

Synthesis: the future remains uncertain, but today the Jewish State is stronger than ever.