

THE DAVID CORRIDOR: A GEOPOLITICAL GAME BEHIND THE GREATER ISRAEL AND ITS IMPACT ON GAZA.

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the controversial yet geopolitically significant theory of the "David Corridor"—an alleged Israeli-backed plan aiming to reshape the Middle East by fragmenting Syria into ethnically distinct regions. Rooted in the ideology of the "Greater Israel" project, the corridor is said to stretch from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights through southern Syria and northern Iraq, reaching close to Iran's border. The so-called "David Corridor"—a purported plan attributed to Israel and its allies to reshape Syria by fostering ethnic and sectarian divisions, especially among Druze and Kurdish populations. By fostering alliances with minority groups, the plan allegedly seeks to counter Iranian influence, weaken Arab nationalist forces, and establish long-term strategic depth for Israel. Although officially unacknowledged, field developments and geopolitical maneuvers lend credibility to the theory. Drawing from the Realist school of international relations, the article examines how states pursue power and survival through influence, fragmentation, and proxy engagement, rather than through moral or ideological goals. The article further contextualizes the corridor within broader regional dynamics, including the Netzarim and Philadelphi Corridors in Gaza, the partitioning of Syria, and Iran-Israel hostilities. The piece argues that whether real or speculative, the David Corridor reflects deeper truths about Middle Eastern geopolitics—where borders are fluid, alliances are pragmatic, and strategies are shaped by shifting balances of power. Ultimately, it invites critical reflection on whether Syria is headed toward reunification or permanent partition as part of a broader restructuring of the region. The Middle East remains a hotbed of geopolitical rivalries, proxy wars, and shifting alliances. Among the many narratives circulating in the area, one controversial concept has emerged: This article explores the idea in detail, its implications for Syria and Gaza in a broader way, and how Realism as an international relations theory explains the motivations behind such regional maneuvers.

Key Words: Greater Israel, Gaza, Syria, David Corridor, Iran, Philadelphi Corridor.

INTRODUCTION

Greater Israel: The Zionist Plan for the Middle East and its executions.

The "Greater Israel" project consists in weakening and eventually fracturing neighboring Arab states

as part of a US-Israeli expansionist project, with the support of NATO and Saudi Arabia. In this regard, the Saudi-Israeli rapprochement is from Netanyahu's viewpoint a means to expanding

Israel's spheres of influence in the Middle East as well as confronting Iran. Needless to say, the "Greater Israel" project is consistent with America's imperial design. "Greater Israel" consists in an area extending from the Nile Valley to the Euphrates. (Chossudovsky M. , March 2013)

A near-century ago, the World Zionist Organization's plan for a Jewish state included: | 5

- historic Palestine;
- South Lebanon up to Sidon and the Litani River;
- Syria's Golan Heights, Hauran Plain and Deraa; and
- control of the Hijaz Railway from Deraa to Amman, Jordan as well as the Gulf of Aqaba. Some Zionists wanted more - land from the Nile in the West to the Euphrates in the East, comprising Palestine, Lebanon, Western Syria and Southern Turkey." (Chossudovsky M., March 2013)

Basic formation for the Greater Israel "A Strategy of Israel in the Nineteen Eighties"

The Zionist project has supported the Jewish settlement movement. More broadly it involves a policy of excluding Palestinians from Palestine leading to the annexation of both the West Bank and Gaza to the State of Israel. Greater Israel would create a number of proxy States. It would include parts of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, the Sinai, as well as parts of Iraq and Saudi Arabia. (Chossudovsky M. , March 2013)

In the course of the Nineteen Eighties, the State of Israel will have to go through far-reaching changes in its political and economic regime domestically, along with radical changes in its foreign policy, in order to stand up to the global and regional challenges of this new epoch. The loss of the Suez Canal oil fields, of the immense potential of the oil, gas and other natural resources in the Sinai Peninsula which is geomorphologically identical to the rich oil producing countries in the region, will result in an energy drain in the near future and will destroy our domestic economy: one quarter of our present GNP as well as one third of the budget is used for the purchase of oil. 9 The search for raw materials in the Negev and on the coast will not, in the near future, serve to alter that state of affairs. (Chossudovsky I. S., September , 2019)

Israel has two major routes through which to realize this purpose, one direct and the other indirect. The direct option is the less realistic one because of the nature of the regime and government in Israel as well as the wisdom of Sadat who obtained our withdrawal from Sinai, which

was, next to the war of 1973, his major achievement since he took power. Israel will not unilaterally break the treaty, neither today, nor in 1982, unless it is very hard pressed economically and politically and Egypt provides Israel with the excuse to take the Sinai back into our hands for the fourth time in our short history. What is left therefore, is the indirect option. The economic situation in Egypt, the nature of the regime and its plain. (Chossudovsky I. S., September, 2019)

Greater Israel: an ongoing expansion plan for the Middle East and North Africa

In the territory of Ottoman Palestine, the state-centered approach was appearing in the form of national aspirations as defined by the mandates, i.e. an auto determination that also abolished the Ottoman Empire. In 1948, the State of Israel was founded on inhabited Palestinian lands and although land has been bought, reportedly more than 750'000 Palestinians were forcefully displaced from their homes. The displacement of Palestinians and conflicts in the Occupied Palestinian territories continue to take place. Israel also fought wars with its Arab neighboring countries on more occasions, and the region remains relatively unstable.

"Greater Israel" requires the breaking up of the existing Arab states into small states (MATOI, January 2024) Therefore, how is Greater Israel goal reflected in contemporary literature and media reports analyzed above? Probably the most important aspect is that it is not much different than it was at the beginning of 20th century, or the 1980s, from the geopolitical perspective. Adrian Stein utilizes the title "From the Euphrates to the Nile" (Stein 2, 2024), Saul Cohen insists on the same terminology that accommodated overtaking land by force and by defining characteristics for the so-called "new" ages. (MATOI, January 2024)

To survive, Israel must 1) become an imperial regional power, and 2) must affect the division of the whole area into small states by the dissolution of all existing Arab states. Small here will depend on the ethnic or sectarian composition of each state. Consequently, the Zionist hope is that sectarian based states become Israel's satellites and, ironically, its source of moral legitimation... This is not a new idea, nor does it surface for the first time in Zionist strategic thinking. Indeed, fragmenting all Arab states into smaller units has been a recurrent theme." (Chossudovsky M. , March

2013)The idea that all the Arab states should be broken down, by Israel, into small units, occurs again and again in Israeli strategic thinking. For example, Ze'ev Schiff, the military correspondent of Haaretz (and probably the most knowledgeable in Israel, on this topic) writes about the “best” that can happen for Israeli interests in Iraq: “The dissolution of Iraq into a Shi'ite state, a Sunni state and the separation of the Kurdish part” (Chossudovsky I. S., September , 2019)

Policy towards Palestine

The Zionist policy of displacing the Palestinians from Palestine is very much an active policy, but is pursued more forcefully in times of conflict, such as in the 1947-1948 war and in the 1967 war. An appendix entitled “Israel Talks of a New Exodus” is included in this publication to demonstrate past Zionist dispersals of Palestinians from their homeland and to show, besides the main Zionist document we present, other Zionist planning for the de-Palestinization of Palestine (Chossudovsky I. S., September , 2019)

David's Corridor: Israel's Security-Development Strategy in the Middle East

recent geopolitical developments in the Middle East—particularly in southern Syria and the areas adjacent to the occupied Golan Heights—point to a fundamental transformation in Israel's surrounding security and development architecture. Tangible indicators of this shift include a significant increase in intelligence activities, targeted military operations against Syrian state infrastructure, and focused interventions in specific ethnic regions such as the Suwayda Governorate. The proposed route of this corridor begins in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, extending through the Druze-populated areas of Suwayda, as well as Daraa and Quneitra provinces, moving eastward through Syria. It then traverses the strategic region of Deir ez-Zor—considered a key east-west transit chokepoint—before entering northern Iraq. The corridor proceeds through Yazidi and Kurdish areas such as Sinjar, Nineveh, Erbil, and Dohuk, eventually reaching the western Iranian border at locations like Piranshahr, Sardasht, Baneh, or Qasr-e Shirin. The selection of this route is not merely based on geopolitical or geo-cultural considerations but is strategically designed to exploit unstable and heterogeneous population structures—

communities that are often distrustful of central governments or suffer from fragile security and economic conditions. (Mashoori, July 22, 2025)

From a strategic perspective, this corridor pursues three main objectives:

Israel aims to counter Iran's regional influence by creating a corridor through unstable or minority-dominated areas, disrupting the Axis of Resistance. This corridor would support intelligence, proxy forces, and limited military actions, while alliances with groups like the Kurds, Druze, and Yazidis could form a buffer against Iranian expansion. (Mashoori, July 22, 2025)

The Strategic Value of Syria

Syria has long been a linchpin in the Arab world's geopolitical order. With its central location, diverse ethnic composition, and alliances with actors like Iran, Russia, and Hezbollah, Syria represents a crucial strategic front in the regional balance of power. Since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011, foreign actors have carved spheres of influence inside the country. This power vacuum has opened space for theories such as the “David Corridor”, which suggests a plan to intentionally fracture Syria into multiple ethnic-based regions that would limit the influence of anti-Israel powers and reshape regional alliances. (cradle.co, 2025)

Philadelphi Corridor

The 14-kilometer-long (8.7-mile-long) Philadelphi Corridor between the Gaza Strip and Egypt is the most prominent border road that Israel has used to isolate the Gaza Strip from the outside world since it occupied the Rafah border crossing. The Israeli army claims that it controls the Philadelphi Corridor because of the presence of tunnels that it claims are used to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip. Cairo, on the other hand, denies Tel Aviv's claims, saying it demolished hundreds of tunnels on the Egyptian side of the border years ago and built a military buffer zone to prevent smuggling. The Philadelphi Corridor largely reflects Israel's strategy of citing security reasons to justify its geographical expansion and further restrictions on the Palestinians. (Nedim, 9.2024)

Netzarim Corridor

The seven-kilometer-long (4.3-mile-long) Netzarim Corridor, which separates the north from the south of the Gaza Strip, is considered one of the

most dangerous roads built by Israel in the recent period. Hosni Muhenna, the coordinator of the Union of Gaza Municipalities, said in a statement to Anadolu that the roads built by Israel in the Gaza Strip, “confiscated large agricultural areas and destroyed large settlements on both sides of the road to create the Netzarim Corridor.” the Israeli army established two military checkpoints, one at the intersection with Salah al-Din Street in the east and the other at the intersection with Al-Rashid Street, noting that displaced Palestinians fleeing hunger, thirst and brutal Israeli attacks are forced to pass through these military checkpoints. (Nedim, 9.2024). Then on January 29, United States Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff visited the “Netzarim Corridor”, becoming the first US official to step on Gazan soil in more than a decade. (Al-Khatib, Feb 2025)

2. What is the ‘David Corridor’?

The David Corridor, which runs from the Kerem Abu Salim crossing to Salah al-Din Street, is a road that Israel is building further inland, parallel to the Philadelphi Corridor, to completely isolate southern Gaza from Egypt. In order to build this corridor, hundreds of houses inside Gaza were demolished, thousands of Palestinians were left homeless, and families who had lived on the land for decades were displaced.

Mahmoud Ahmed, a Palestinian farmer whose farmland east of Rafah city was confiscated while the road was being built, said he was extremely saddened by the loss of his livelihood.

“My land was my only asset. The Israeli army not only plundered our land, but also ruined the lives of many families whose main source of income is agriculture.” Ahmed said.

Rami Abduh, head of the Gaza branch of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, said that Israel's actions are part of its policy of annexing Palestinian land and expelling its residents.

“Israel's construction of these roads is part of a larger plan to change the geographic and demographic structure of the Gaza Strip,” Abduh said.

“The main goal behind these policies is to evacuate the area from its original inhabitants and impose a new reality on the ground that coincides with Israel's long-term plans,” Abduh said, adding that this policy is not a temporary military measure and that Israel aims to keep the territory under its permanent control. (Nedim, 9.2024)

Israel's insistence on maintaining control of the Philadelphi Corridor, the Egyptian-Gaza borderline, and the Netzarim Corridor, which separates the north from the south of the Gaza Strip, are among the main issues that have complicated peace negotiations.

The Egyptian government also opposes Israel's presence at the Rafah border crossing or the Philadelphi Corridor, saying it would harm its “national security.” (Nedim, 9.2024)

The David Corridor is an unofficial, controversial theory which claims that Israel and certain Western powers are interested in creating a buffer zone stretching from Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria, through Druze-majority regions in the south, ultimately serving to:

- Weaken Syria as a unified state
- Disrupt Iranian influence through Syrian territory
- Promote alignment of minorities (Kurds and Druze) with Western or Israeli interests
- Divide and isolate Arab nationalist or Islamist forces within Syria

Though Israel has never acknowledged any such plan, analysts and journalists in the Arab world, including Rabab Batool, have highlighted this as a plausible geopolitical maneuver based on de facto alliances and field dynamics.

Theoretical debate

In this research, to understand the logic behind such an alleged project, Realism in International Relations offers the most suitable framework.

Dr Leila Nicola, professor of international relations at the Lebanese University, tells The Cradle that David's Corridor embodies a theological vision requiring Israeli control over Syria, Iraq, and Egypt – a triad central to both biblical lore and regional dominance. Regional affairs scholar Dr Talal Atrissi echoes this view, believing that developments in Syria have lent new geopolitical realism to Israel's historical ambitions. Strategically, David's Corridor aligns with Israel's enduring policy of cultivating ties with regional minorities – Kurds, Druze, and others – to offset hostility from Arab states. This decades-old “peripheral alliance” strategy has underpinned Israeli support for Kurdish autonomy since the 1960s. The project's biblical symbolism of expanding “Israel” to the Euphrates, and its strategic calculus, combine to make the corridor

both a mythological promise and a geopolitical asset. (Yaghi, David's Corridor: Israel's Shadow Project to Redraw the Levant, 4, 2025). Furthermore Realism is conventionally understood as coldly accepting the powerful dominating the weak. Reversing this image, I argue that Realism contains an implicit ethos of resistance. Drawing on a recent scholarship on the historical complexity and diversity of classical Realism in international relations (IR), this article uncovers this ethos by focusing on three shifts of perspective: (1) from an extreme to moderate view of power politics; (2) from naturalizing the status quo to envisaging progressive change; and (3) from a horizontal view of politics among nations (or other horizontally situated entities) to a global image of power politics. (Franceschet, April 2024) Realism can be traced back to thinkers like Machiavelli and Hobbes. Modern proponents include scholars like Hans Joachim Morgenthau (1954), Kenneth Waltz (1979) and John J. Mearsheimer (2001), among many others. After classical realism had put much emphasis on human nature and the animus dominandi, more recent versions have rather focused on the structure of the international system (anarchy), the functionality of the units (same) and the distribution of capabilities. Waltz famously explained that only two requirements are necessary for his theory to work: 'that the order be anarchic and that it be populated by units wishing to survive' (Waltz 1979, 121). Whenever these conditions are met, Waltz maintained, balance-of-power politics prevail. Balance-of-power theory in turn can be summarized as arguing 'that changes in the distribution of power are often dangerous' (Lobell 2016, 33). (Rauch, FEB 3 2018)

Application to the 'David Corridor':

Israel, under realism, seeks security and survival in a hostile environment. Weakening a historically adversarial state (Syria) aligns with its national interest. Supporting non-Arab or non-Islamist minorities (Druze, Kurds) creates natural buffer zones. Fragmentation of Syria disrupts the Tehran-Damascus-Hezbollah axis, thereby protecting Israel's northern borders. For the U.S. and Western allies, weakening Assad and undermining Russian and Iranian leverage fits broader strategic goals. Realism suggests these actors are not concerned with moral or ideological justifications but with power equilibrium and survival.

The Steps Toward a David Corridor and Division of Syria into Four Zones:

1. Alawite Region

defining characteristics of the Alawites, efforts to integrate them into a Syrian nation-state, and major challenges facing the Alawite community going forward. Yet, despite this super-diverse background, the issue of integrating subnational identities into a coherent state has been one of the most pressing problems in the Syrian context. The majority populations – whether considered on religious or ethnic grounds – generally accepted the heterogeneous nature of Syrian society and coexisted with minorities as long as established political and social norms were upheld. Located along the western coast, Stronghold of President Bashar al-Assad and Backed by Russia and Iran. (Goldsmith, 2018)

2 Kurdish Region (Rojava)

With the withdrawal of the Syrian government's military forces in 2012 from Syria's northern areas with a Kurdish-majority population, local political forces not only achieved control but also became vanguards in building an autonomous entity, widely known as Rojava, based on the principles of decentralization, pluralism, and grassroots organization. Although the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) came into being as the first formalized and institutionalized form of Kurdish territorial autonomy, the Rojava model manifests a developing, yet new, approach to the question of self-determination for the Kurds and other minorities in the Middle East. Northeastern Syria its Controlled by YPG/SDG (Kurdish-led forces), being militarily Support by the United States which Holds autonomous ambitions (Burç, 2020)

3. Druze Region

Syria's Druze community once played a major role in shaping the country's modern history, despite comprising a mere three percent of the population. Today, however, this enigmatic highland minority that seldom met an anti-government revolt it didn't like finds itself precariously accommodating a dying regime as a gathering rebel alliance slowly moves in for the kill. Though a handful of Druze can be found fighting (and dying) with the rebels Opposition to Syrian President Bashar Assad has clearly increased in the past two years, but so too has apprehension about the increasingly Islamist character of the predominantly Sunni Muslim

revolt. The growing buzzword among Syrian Druze is neutrality, not rebellion. Centered in Suwayda in southern Syria, Druze communities traditionally maintain a degree of autonomy while alleged quiet coordination with Israel (as per regional sources) (Gambill, 2013)

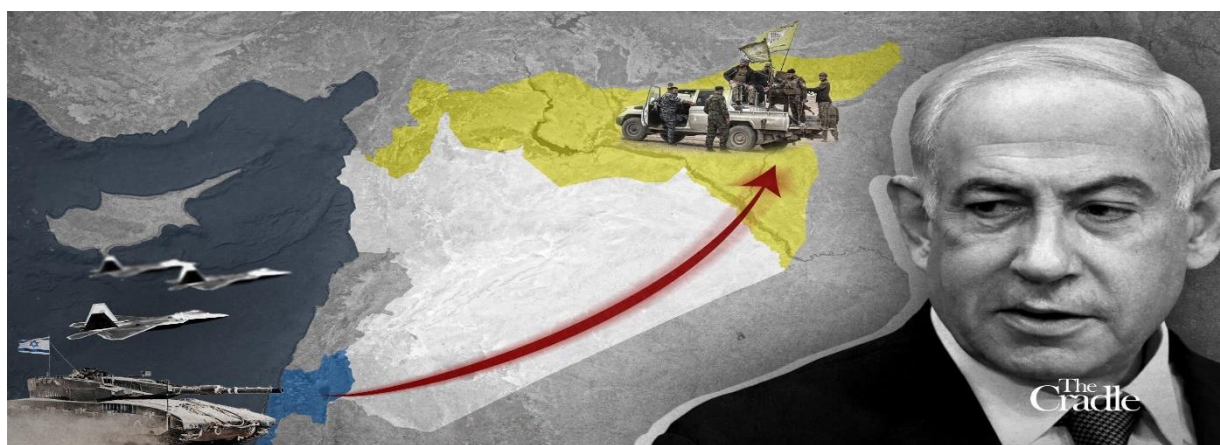
4. Sunni Arab Region

Although Sunni Muslims probably account for 80 percent of the country's population, members of President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite sect, which accounts for only 10 percent, have dominated the military, and hence the regime, from the 1960s on. By 2011, it was estimated that a majority of the officers in the army and the intelligence apparatus were Alawites, as were most of the rank and file in elite units such as the Republican Guard and the 4th Armored Division. In this Brief, I address the issue of sectarianism in Syria by analyzing the history of the relationship between the regime and the Sunni Islamic community: I discuss the regime's partnership with foreign Shia actors and the resentment that has generated among Syrian Sunnis, as well as the role of economic liberalization in the post-2000 rapprochement between the regime, the ulama, and the Sunni bourgeoisie at large. Includes parts of Idlib, Raqqqa, and Daraa this group Contested by various opposition groups, some backed by Turkey, Qatar, or the West. The lack of power is due to

fragmentation caused by internal infighting and the absence of unified leadership. (Pierret, 2019) This de facto division already exists on the ground, although no international body recognizes it officially.

2. David's Corridor: Israel's shadow project to redraw the Levant

In recent years, the Zionist idea of "David's Corridor" has surfaced in Tel Aviv's strategic and political discourse on the reshaping of its geopolitical influence in the Levant. Though the Israelis have made no official announcement, analysts have pointed to this corridor as a covert project aimed at linking Kurdish-controlled northern Syria - backed by the US - to Israel via a continuous land route. The so-called David's Corridor refers to an alleged Israeli project to establish a land corridor stretching from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights through southern Syria to the Euphrates River. This hypothetical route would traverse the governorates of Deraa, Suwayda, Al-Tanf, Deir Ezzor, and the Iraqi-Syrian border area of Albu Kamal, providing the occupation state with a strategic overland channel into the heart of West Asia. (Yaghi, David's Corridor: Israel's shadow project to redraw the Levant, 4, 2025)



3. Syria's fragmentation: A gateway

The collapse of former Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's government and the rise of Ahmad al-Sharaa's Al-Qaeda-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) have accelerated Syria's internal fragmentation. Sharaa's administration inked deals with the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), integrating Kurdish-controlled areas

into the nominal Syrian state while cementing Kurdish autonomy. In Suwayda, a separate agreement preserved Druze administrative independence in exchange for nominal state integration. (Yaghi, David's Corridor: Israel's shadow project to redraw the Levant, 4, 2025) Israel's longstanding partnership with Iraqi Kurdistan is a case in point - a strategic

relationship that offers a blueprint for replication in Syria. David's Corridor, in this reading, is less a logistical imperative and more a political ambition. Should conditions allow, the occupation state may leverage the corridor to encircle Iran and redraw regional fault lines (Yaghi, David's Corridor: Israel's shadow project to redraw the Levant, 4, 2025).

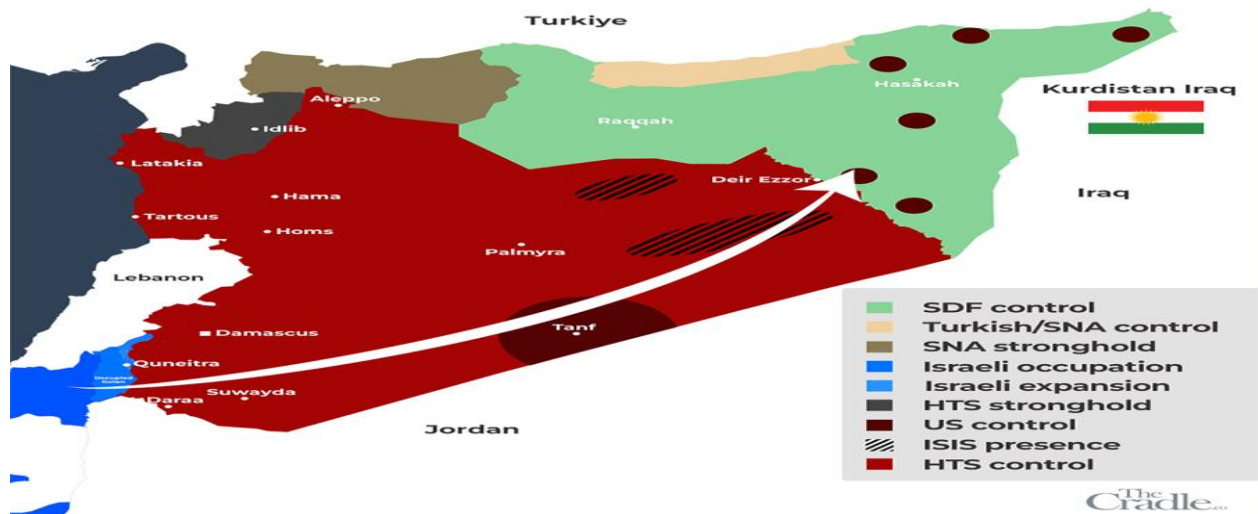
4. Survivors of Syrian government massacres recount tales of 'death, destruction'

Survivors of the massacres committed by Syrian government troops against Alawite civilians on the

country's coast earlier this month described their traumatic experiences to The Cradle in an interview published on 27 March.

Weeks after the massacres, civilians in coastal cities such as Tartous and Latakia remain gripped by fear that Damascus's forces may pursue them again.

"We woke up to the sound of gunfire and screaming. We didn't know what was happening. I saw my neighbors being killed in front of their homes with my own eyes, and I could do nothing but hide," survivor Abu Mahmoud, from the Latakia countryside, told The Cradle. (cradle.co, 2025)



David's Corridor: The Hidden Axis Behind Israel's Expansion into Syria and Iraq

5. Foothold in the Greater Israel Project

David's Corridor represents the installation of a permanent Israeli foothold in the heart of the Arab world.

It serves as a launchpad for the Greater Israel project, an expansionist doctrine that envisions the fragmentation of neighboring states into smaller, divided, and weakened entities. Through control of this corridor, Israel is laying the groundwork for long-term influence over the region's geography and political future. Israel's increasing activity there from is not about repelling threats, or defending the Druze minorities but about setting the regional chessboard in its favor (Headline, 2025)

6. Iraq:

The expansion into Syria is not an end in itself. The true strategic goal lies east in Iraq. Specifically, Israel seeks to penetrate the Shiite religious and political strongholds of Najaf and

Karbala, which serve as central hubs of resistance to Israeli and Western influence in Iraq. Destabilizing these centers could shift the balance of power in Iraq, and by extension, the broader resistance axis. To do this, Israel relies on proxy forces, most notably ISIS remnants operating from the U.S.-controlled Tanf base. These groups, though ideologically different, serve one purpose: to ignite sectarian conflict and fracture Iraqi unity. With the corridor nearing the strategic tri-border area between Jordan, Iraq, and Syria, Israel will have the ability to funnel operatives, arms, and chaos across the Iraqi border with relative ease. (Headline, 2025)

7. Missile Diplomacy and Regional Rivalries: The Impact of Iran's Kurdistan Operations on Nuclear Negotiations

Iran's 13 March missile strikes on purported Israeli strategic centers in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) was met with swift condemnation by Turkey.

This is indicative of the conflicting nature of the relationship between both countries, but also of Turkey's budding entente with Israel. Amid escalations in drone and cyber warfare between Tehran and Israel, the IKR as an established venue of Israeli-Turkish strategic cooperation may become a target for an increasingly assertive and interventionist Iran determined to disrupt this partnership. This coincides with progress made in talks to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). (Hussain, 11, 2022)

Iran, bordering Iraqi Kurdistan to the northwest, views Israel as its main regional enemy. At the core of Iran's West Asian 'strategic depth' strategy is the removal of adversarial proximity to Iranian borders, instead taking the fight to Israel's own frontiers, as seen by its alliances in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. Any prospect of Israel gaining a lasting presence in Iraqi Kurdistan, right next to Iran, undermines this strategy. "Iraq appears to be the first front where Iran's annoyance with Turkey is surfacing," Tastekin explained. (Hussain, 11, 2022)

Despite months of ebbs and flows, recent developments suggest that the US could soon return to the JCPOA, which it unilaterally abandoned in 2018 under President Donald Trump. For Iran, the revival of JCPOA promises not only freedom from US sanctions, but also boosts its capacity for power-projection in West Asia. This is because a JCPOA revival would now happen in the backdrop of the escalated tensions between the west and Russia over Ukraine. Additionally, Iran likely knows that the Israeli-Turkish entente is a work-in-progress and that it is important to try disrupting it early on. As such, progress with the JCPOA and Herzog's Turkey visit presented Tehran with an opportunity to act which could have proven costly to ignore. (Hussain, 11, 2022)

7.1 David's Corridor: Strategic Advantage Against Iran

David's Corridor is a proposed strategic route stretching from Israel through parts of Syria and Iraq, possibly extending into western Iran. While publicly understated, it represents a major geopolitical move with far-reaching implications, particularly for Israel's posture toward Iran and the

broader Middle East. (Headline, 2025) At its core, the corridor offers Israel a new air route that could support both intelligence-gathering operations and potential military strikes deeper into Iranian territory. This is crucial because traditional air routes are riskier and more limited due to geographical constraints and hostile airspaces. With access through this corridor, Israel gains greater operational flexibility and reach without relying on direct, large-scale military intervention. On the ground, David's Corridor provides a covert infrastructure for intelligence collection. Through alliances with local actors (such as Kurdish groups in Iraq and Syria), Israel can establish or expand spy networks. Another key function of the corridor is to disrupt the so-called "Axis of Resistance" – the alliance linking Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus, and Hezbollah in Beirut. This arc has long been a backbone of Iranian influence in the region (Headline, 2025). By inserting itself into the geographic middle of this chain, Israel can monitor, intercept, and potentially sever the coordination among these actors. More broadly, David's Corridor is not just a tactical military pathway but part of a larger strategic vision. It signals a shift in Israeli doctrine – from a defensive posture to one of forward positioning and influence projection. (Headline, 2025) By embedding itself deeper into regional terrain, with the help of proxies and intelligence assets, Israel is effectively redrawing the security architecture of the Middle East. This move reflects a long-term agenda to neutralize threats before they reach Israeli borders and to reshape the regional balance of power in its favor, all while avoiding full-scale war. (Headline, 2025)

The Future of Syria: Reunification or a Fractured State?

For years, discussions of Syria's Balkanization have lingered as a realistic option that could be imposed on the country one day. The recent political upheaval – marked by the ousting of president Bashar al-Assad – has brought the break-up of the Syrian Arab Republic back into focus. Until recently, four countries – Russia, Iran, Türkiye, and the US – maintained a significant military presence in Syria, collectively controlling 801 bases and outposts. (Sweidan, DEC 20, 2024)



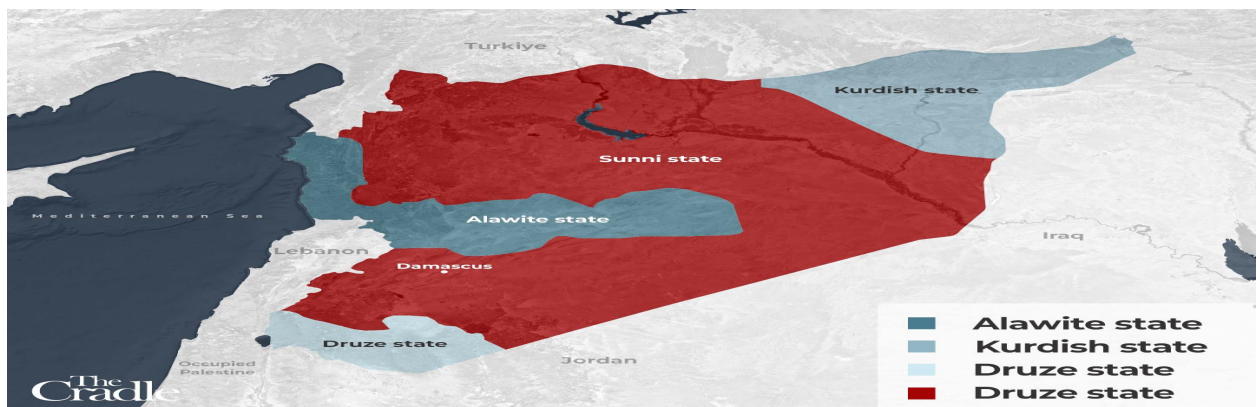
Competing for influence

Each country’s strategy reflects its interests – with Türkiye supporting the dominant militant faction Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an UN-designated terrorist organization, and Washington backing the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Ultimately, they all contribute to Syria’s fragmented sovereignty and the competing agendas that dominate its future. With the collapse of Syria’s former authority, Iran and Hezbollah’s withdrawal, and Russia’s growing uncertainty about its future military presence, new dynamics have emerged that could determine the country’s future. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are taking steps to counterbalance the growing power of HTS and its leader, Ahmad al-Sharaa, more commonly known as Abu Mohammad al-Julani. (Sweidan, DEC 20, 2024)

Partition Debates and the Kurdish Issue: Türkiye’s Strategic Concerns.

The fall of Assad offered Türkiye an unprecedented opportunity to assert its dominance

and block the formation of an independent Kurdish entity, and Ankara’s early support of Julani provided it with leverage over its rivals. Ankara has consistently pursued its strategic goals in Syria, particularly in curbing Kurdish territorial ambitions. Erdoğan repeatedly vowed to launch military operations in northern Syria, aiming to eliminate fighters linked to the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), which Ankara, the US, and the EU have officially designated a terrorist organization. (Sweidan, DEC 20, 2024). The question of Syria’s partition remains unresolved, influenced by overlapping local, regional, and international factors. The idea gained traction during the so-called Arab Spring and has recently resurfaced, as has the notion of a revival of the Arab Spring and its loosely defined ideals. Assad’s fall has reignited speculation about splitting the state into distinct entities, including a Sunni-majority region, a Kurdish-controlled federal zone, an Alawite stronghold along the coast, and a Druze enclave in the south. (Sweidan, DEC 20, 2024)



Map showing the partitioning of Syrian territories based on the speculations that first emerged during the so-called Arab Spring, and are now resurfacing after Assad's fall.

Conclusion

Through the lens of Realism, we can understand how and why powerful states might support such fragmentation, not out of ideological alignment, but to maintain strategic dominance in an unpredictable region. The alleged "David Corridor" represents far more than a speculative conspiracy. Even if not formally acknowledged by Israel or its allies, the accumulation of military, political, and demographic developments in Syria, Iraq, and the broader Levant region suggests the possibility of a deliberate strategy to redraw regional fault lines in a way that benefits Israel's long-term security and geopolitical positioning. As examined in this article, this corridor is not just a physical route—it symbolizes a shift in the regional order driven by *realpolitik* rather than international law or moral claims. The corridor would offer Israel a strategic advantage in multiple ways: it undermines Iranian influence by disrupting the so-called "Axis of Resistance," facilitates military and intelligence operations in contested areas, and supports minority-based alliances (Kurds, Druze, Yazidis) that serve as buffers against Arab nationalist or Islamist forces. This aligns with long-standing Israeli policies of peripheral alliances and fragmentation of hostile Arab states to ensure its survival and dominance in a volatile neighborhood. Through the lens of Realism in International Relations, these actions are consistent with state behavior that prioritizes survival, security, and strategic advantage over ethical or humanitarian considerations. Realism helps explain why the fragmentation of Syria—once a unified but authoritarian state—is not just a consequence of civil war and international intervention, but potentially part of a broader pattern in which great and regional powers exploit instability to reconfigure the region's political landscape. The impact of such a project, if actualized, would be profound. It would likely cement the permanent division of Syria into sectarian and ethnic enclaves, further entrench Israel's regional presence, and escalate competition among external powers such as Iran, Turkey, the US, and Russia. Additionally, it would deepen humanitarian crises, cause further displacement of populations, and reduce the possibility of Arab unity or sovereign reintegration of Syrian territory.

Moreover, the same logic appears to be playing out in Gaza, where corridors like Philadelphi and Netzarim reflect a tactical effort by Israel to fragment and control Palestinian geography under the guise of security concerns. These developments indicate a larger Israeli approach rooted in territorial control and population management, not temporary wartime necessity. While critics argue that the David Corridor remains speculative, the evidence presented in field reports, strategic analyses, and emerging patterns of Israeli behavior suggest otherwise. Whether or not it is an officially declared project, it encapsulates a broader geopolitical ambition that mirrors the historical Zionist vision of "Greater Israel" and reflects the shifting structure of the modern Middle East. In the end, the David Corridor serves as a case study in how modern states wield military power, ethnic divisions, and strategic partnerships to reshape regions according to their national interests. It also raises urgent questions: Can Syria survive as a unified state, or is its partition now irreversible? Will the region continue to be carved along sectarian and ethnic lines to serve external powers, or can regional actors reclaim sovereignty and unity? These questions are not only central to the future of Syria and Palestine, but to the very structure of the postcolonial Middle East.

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