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Power Beneath the Surface

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IN THIS EDITION

Infrastructure as National Power

Israel's survival rests on infrastructure engineered for siege conditions. Water, energy, and digital systems function as strategic instruments, transforming former dependencies into leverage over others.

Israel now exports water to Jordan—a lifeline that country cannot survive without. Egypt, once Israel's gas supplier, now imports Israeli gas at considerable cost. Europe courts Israeli gas as part of its diversification from Russian fuel. In technology, the world's largest companies depend on Israeli innovation, from Intel's chip manufacturing to autonomous driving systems.

This asymmetric dependency remains largely unspoken. Allies may not trumpet reliance on Israeli expertise, but it manifests in trade flows and covert cooperation. Israel has made itself needed in ways transcending sentiment.

Narrative Warfare Over Resources

Yet Israel's infrastructure achievements generate cynical counter-narratives. NGOs and UN bodies regularly accuse Israel of "water theft" and deliberate Palestinian deprivation, despite Israel providing Palestinian territories more water than treaty obligations require.

Israeli desalination and recycling infrastructure, not unfair siphoning, supplies its faucets. When activists campaigned to boycott Israel's Mekorot water company, the Dutch firm Vitens canceled a cooperation project under pressure.

Similar patterns emerge with energy. Jordan's $10 billion gas import deal faced domestic opposition labeling it "stolen gas," though Jordan's government maintained the contract knowing it had little alternative.

Israel's cyber tools receive disproportionate scrutiny. NSO Group's Pegasus spyware generated global furor, while equivalent American or European exploits remain shrouded in silence.

Systems as Sovereignty

Modern state collapse correlates more directly with infrastructure failure than battlefield defeat. The Soviet Union fell amid hollowed economies and failing power grids. Germany and Japan, despite WWII losses, rebuilt swiftly by maintaining functional systems.

National power rests on a tripod: military, economy, and infrastructure—with the last providing the foundation.

Water Before Borders

For Israel, water was nationhood itself. Long before statehood, Zionist leaders treated water infrastructure as precondition for sovereignty.

David Ben-Gurion famously insisted Zionism required "making the desert bloom"—fundamentally meaning water development. The early 20th century land of Israel was water-poor, with British Mandate officials warning the region could sustain only a couple million people.

Zionist visionaries rejected this Malthusian constraint. From the 1920s, they launched concerted efforts to map and harness every water source—efforts explicitly entwined with national security.

From Survival to Surplus

Mekorot water company was founded in 1937 by the Jewish Agency, before Israeli independence, specifically to develop new supplies. Its first managing director was Levi Eshkol, later Prime Minister, illustrating how water development constituted nation-building.

During the 1948 War of Independence, engineers constructed emergency supply lines to besieged Jerusalem through rough terrain amid shelling, preventing forced surrender through dehydration.

The National Water Carrier, completed in the 1960s, channeled water from the Sea of Galilee southward, eventually delivering about half of Israel's total water needs.

Desalination as Strategy

Israel embraced large-scale seawater desalination proactively, before crisis hit. In 1999, the government initiated a long-term, large-scale reverse osmosis program—notably a strategic choice made when scarcity was a concern but not yet catastrophic. The mid-1990s had been relatively wet.

Initial plans for 50 million cubic meters annually escalated to 750 million by 2020—approaching Israel's entire natural freshwater yield in an average year. The Sorek plant, opening in 2015, became the world's largest desalination facility.

Israel faced resistance from economists worried about costs, environmentalists concerned about brine discharge and energy use, and ideologues advocating consumption reduction instead. The government pressed forward.

An epic 2008-2010 drought brought the Sea of Galilee to dangerous levels just as desalination capacity ramped up. Israel faced tight water rationing, but new plants coming online prevented crisis. The turnaround proved dramatic: Israel shifted from fearing water scarcity to achieving surplus within years.

Today, five large coastal desalination plants supply the majority of domestic needs. Israel now secures 100% of its drinking water and maintains surplus for replenishing natural lakes and exporting to neighbors.

Water as Leverage

Over 80% of Israel's sewage undergoes treatment and reuse for agriculture—the world's highest rate. Spain, in second place, reuses under 20%. This enables Israeli farmers to maintain output during droughts through recycled water irrigation.

Under the 1994 peace treaty, Israel committed providing Jordan 50 million cubic meters annually; in practice it provides significantly more. In 2021, with Jordan facing crisis, Israel doubled the supply. Jordan now depends on Israeli water for survival—something Amman needs far more than Israel needs anything from Jordan.

The Palestinian Authority depends on Israeli water networks. Israel provides approximately 70 million cubic meters annually to Palestinian enclaves in Judea and Samaria, often at or below cost. Even during conflicts, Israel repairs damaged lines into Gaza.

The Water Narrative Battle

A persistent claim holds that Israel "steals Palestinian water" or denies Palestinians fair shares. NGOs cite higher per capita Israeli water use as evidence of oppression, omitting crucial context.

Israel's higher usage stems from augmenting supply through desalination and reuse, not merely dividing a fixed resource. Under the Oslo Accords, Israel and the PA agreed on water allocations and cooperative development. Israel consistently exceeds its agreed supply—providing 70 million cubic meters when obligations specified about 30.

Israel has never cut Palestinian water even during security crises. Palestinian authorities, meanwhile, failed developing allocated wells or curbing waste. Yet slogans about Israel cutting water to villages circulate widely, often based on instances where Palestinian water thieves illegally tapped lines, causing pressure drops—nuance lost in headlines.

Gaza's water crisis stems from self-inflicted problems: aquifer over-pumping and Hamas mismanagement, compounded by geography (a tiny coastal aquifer supporting huge population). Israel actually supplies water to Gaza yearly and has offered more, but Hamas rebuffed higher reliance on Israel.

A 2016 consortium including Israel planned major Gaza desalination, but it stalled over politics. Notably, some activists opposed it because desalination would "accommodate the occupation," preferring Gaza remain thirsty to maintain a talking point.

Keeping the Lights on in War

If water was Israel's first infrastructure battle, electricity became its second. Israel's electricity sector was consciously designed under war's shadow—maintaining grid continuity even under missile barrages or isolation.

A Grid Built for Conflict

Israel's national electric grid is geographically small—about 500 kilometers long and 100 kilometers at its widest—making it easier to interconnect for redundancy but also easier to attack. A handful of large coastal power stations historically supplied most electricity.

Recent studies warn that "the national grid remains highly centralized, so damage to a major power station or a single gas platform could cause disruptions." The Israel Electric Corporation works on contingencies: maintaining dual-fuel capability at plants, stockpiling at least 30 days of diesel on-site, and dispersing fuel reserves.

Key substations are fortified or have backup sites. Transmission lines loop so power flows from alternate directions if one line severs. Emergency mobile generators stand ready for critical facilities. Every power plant has an IDF liaison officer and defense plan.

Resilience in Actual Conflict

During the 1991 Gulf War, Iraqi Scud missiles struck near power infrastructure. Power was restored within hours in most cases. The 2006 Second Lebanon War saw Hezbollah fire hundreds of daily rockets. Despite over a thousand strikes, no large-scale blackout occurred—outages were localized and typically repaired same-day.

In Gaza conflicts, rockets sometimes struck infrastructure. In 2014, a rocket damaged high-voltage lines near Ashkelon, temporarily halting power to Gaza (which Israel supplies). Israel repaired the line quickly. May 2021 rockets reaching Tel Aviv's outskirts caused light damage, fixed within hours. Notably, Israelis experienced no multi-day electricity outages during these wars.

However, the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack caused serious issues: militants physically attacked border substations, plunging several kibbutzim into darkness. The IDF and IEC needed a day or two fully restoring stable power in affected areas.

Fuel Strategy and Redundancy

Until the 2000s, Israel depended almost entirely on imported coal and oil for electricity. The 1973 OPEC embargo hit hard. Israel maintains a 90-day strategic oil reserve by law.

Real relief came with natural gas offshore discovery in the 2000s. By the mid-2010s, domestic gas supplied the majority of electricity generation—a game-changer. Suddenly Israel had local, secure energy sources not subject to foreign whims.

Israel mitigates dependence on few gas rigs by maintaining dual-fuel plants and exploring new fields. Reserve gas remains in "security stock" rather than full export. Export contracts to Egypt ensure domestic needs get priority—Israel will cut exports before browning out its own people.

Solar power, slow to develop, now provides 10-15% of midday power on good days. Its strategic value: indigenous and difficult to attack (distributed over thousands of panels). Its downside: intermittency. Israel's 2050 energy plan targets high renewable shares, further immunizing against fuel embargoes or price shocks.

Energy mix shifts opened new diplomatic doors. Regional energy cooperation binds countries into mutual benefit, creating constituencies against destabilizing Israel. Israel's leaders know energy ties alone won't buy loyalty—public opinion in Cairo and Amman remains hostile. But cooperation raises rupture costs.

Gas Changes the Map

In 1999, Israel discovered the modest Mari-B field off Ashkelon. But the game-changer came a decade later.

The Offshore Breakthrough

In 2009, a consortium led by Noble Energy confirmed the Tamar field—about 8 trillion cubic feet of gas. A year later, Leviathan, roughly double Tamar's size (~16 TCF), was discovered. Suddenly Israel had more gas than hoped for. The timing was poetic—just as Egyptian gas imports faltered due to Sinai pipeline attacks, Israel found its own salvation.

Discoveries sparked intense internal debate. Energy independence seemed a dream, yet policymakers recognized crucial decisions awaited: taxation, export volumes, security arrangements, corruption prevention. The 2010 Sheshinski Committee recommended substantially raising the state's take to approximately 60% of profits. Israel increased gas taxes and created a sovereign wealth fund for future investment.

Another debate concerned allocating gas between domestic use and export. The 2012 Zemach Committee advised ensuring at least 50% of reserves remain for domestic consumption, guaranteeing 25-30 years of supply. The government approved roughly 60/40 split (60% domestic, 40% export), balancing long-term energy security with monetization desires.

Security assessments identified vulnerability: big offshore platforms could be targeted by Hezbollah or Iranian cruise missiles. The Israeli Navy expanded to protect the Exclusive Economic Zone, with billions invested in new Sa'ar 6 corvettes equipped with advanced radars and anti-missile systems guarding Leviathan and Tamar.

When Dependence Explodes

In the mid-2000s, Israel agreed to import natural gas from Egypt via Sinai pipeline. For a time (2008-2011), Egyptian gas provided around 40% of Israel's natural gas needs, fueling power plants cheaply. The arrangement seemed a strategic win-win.

But arrangement stability depended on Egypt's Sinai security and politics—which proved shaky. After Mubarak's ouster in 2011, the pipeline came under relentless attack by Sinai jihadis. Over two dozen bombings from 2011-2012 repeatedly interrupted gas flow.

Israel scrambled switching power plants back to costly diesel or fuel oil to avoid blackouts. By 2012, the Egyptian supplier EGAS unilaterally canceled the contract (ostensibly a business dispute, but really they couldn't guarantee delivery). Israel suddenly faced a gaping energy supply hole—a minor crisis.

Israel managed by increasing small domestic field production and using expensive imported fuel. This pinch underscored Tamar's importance—fortunately

coming online in 2013 just in time. By 2014, Israel no longer needed Egyptian gas and had its own from Tamar.

The dormant pipeline found new life—in reverse. By 2018, Israel signed a $15 billion deal exporting gas to Egypt using that same Sinai pipeline. Gas began flowing from Israel to Egypt in early 2020. In February 2020, ISIS-Sinai bombed a pipeline section. However, Egypt had alternate routes and storage, so impact was minimal.

Pipelines as Alignment

Israel's gas discoveries coincided with similar finds by Cyprus and Egypt, creating shared interests in developing resources and exporting to Europe. This led to forming the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) in 2019, headquartered in Cairo, with members including Israel, Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority.

The forum's existence is a minor miracle—one of few multilateral bodies where Israel sits alongside Arab states without direct US/EU mediation. Turkey's exclusion, and animosity shown toward it by members, arguably welcomed Israel, since Turkey backs Hamas and harasses Israel's allies.

Israel's ability to export gas to Europe raised its profile. In June 2022, the EU signed a memorandum with Israel and Egypt to increase gas imports from the Eastern Mediterranean. Europe's quest replacing Russian gas transformed Israel from an irrelevant player to a potential European energy security contributor.

The Systems Nation

ISRAEL increasingly morphs into the "Systems Nation"—where integrated military, academia, and industry ecosystems drive cutting-edge digital infrastructure.

Military R&D as National Engine

For fewer than 10 million citizens, Israel punches absurdly above weight in technology. Roots go back to founding necessity driving innovation, and a culture prizing education and practical results.

Key accelerator: integration between IDF technological units, Israeli universities, and burgeoning private tech sectors. This integration has become seamless, creating talent and idea pipelines constantly rejuvenating Israel's digital infrastructure.

Unit 8200, Israel's elite signals intelligence and cyber unit, often likened to America's NSA, is emblematic. Veterans have spawned countless startups and cybersecurity companies. Hundreds of startups now have 8200 roots, with IDF tech units serving as a training academy for Israel's entire innovation economy.

This synergy means Israel's digital infrastructure often originates in military R&D labs or gets accelerated by skills learned there. Israel's defense-tech sector nearly doubled since October 7, 2023, growing from roughly 160 companies to over 300 active startups.

Veterans returned from battlefields with ideas for better drones, sensors, AI battle management, immediately starting companies. Government and IDF increasingly tap these startups for solutions, often embedding them in projects from early stages.

A young Israeli might serve in a cyber unit at age 19, solve complex problems with top tools, finish service at 23, then found a startup using similar techniques for civilian problems, while doing reserve duty staying abreast of latest military tech. This cycle constantly cross-pollinates knowledge.

Where the World Depends on Israel

How does Israel's digital prowess translate into global dependence or influence? The answer lies in key industries where Israel is a node the world economy quietly relies on.

Surprisingly, tiny Israel is a chip world giant. Intel has operated in Israel since 1974, with major chip fabrication plants in Kiryat Gat producing advanced microprocessors—including many Core PC chips and latest Mobileye autonomous driving chips. Estimated 10-15% of all new Intel computer chips are designed or manufactured in Israel (Intel Israel's 2022 exports hit $9 billion, about 1.7% of GDP and 5.5% of high-tech exports). Disrupting those plants would impact Intel's global supply chain.

Apple, AMD, Nvidia all have R&D centers in Israel working on next-gen chips. Nvidia's newest AI chips have key components designed by Israeli teams. Israeli chip engineers are embedded in most major tech firms' product development.

Israel was a fast AI adopter, especially in defense and surveillance. Israeli startups lead in computer vision (autonomous drones, border security), predictive analytics (cyber defense, finance), and natural language processing for intelligence.

Much AI talent comes from Unit 8200's data science divisions. Globally, Israeli AI algorithms permeate—from Microsoft cloud security algorithms to Apple FaceID foundations (from Israeli acquisition PrimeSense) to image recognition in many smartphones. Israeli data sets (years of drone surveillance, combat scenarios) trained AIs that allied countries employ.

Israel's early warning and missile defense AI integrates with U.S. systems (the U.S. bought Iron Dome batteries; algorithms and radar integration came along).

Trust matters here. Western allies trust Israeli tech enough to incorporate it in sensitive systems—something they couldn't do with Chinese tech. Britain uses Israeli UAVs militarily; Germany is buying Israel's Arrow-3 anti-ballistic missile system for European defense.

Israel also carefully shares technology with select allies under export controls (the U.S., increasingly India). After a 2000 brush with China on an airborne radar sale (the U.S. nixed it), Israel recalibrated export oversight.

Israel ranks among top 10 global arms exporters, specializing in drones, antimissile systems, electronic warfare, and cyber tools. Many countries' militaries depend on Israeli equipment. India is a major client (Israeli radar and missiles on Indian ships, Israeli drones patrol borders).

Even some Arab states quietly use Israeli surveillance tech (Pegasus spyware leaks showed several Gulf governments used it, indicating they saw Israel as integral to their cyber arsenals).

Dependence doesn't equal affection or diplomatic alignment. Many EU countries buying Israeli arms still condemn Israel in UN forums. Israel doesn't overestimate export influence but recognizes underlying pragmatic relationships.

For a period, China became a major Israeli tech market, especially surveillance and AI. China certainly isn't an Israel ally—it votes against Israel often at the UN. Yet it covets Israeli innovation. Israel scaled back Chinese sales under U.S. pressure (no advanced defense sales), but civilian sector tech investment continues. China extracts value from Israel's ecosystem while maintaining diplomatic distance. Israel learned that giving China too much could anger the U.S. and possibly harm Israel's qualitative military edge. So Israel aligns with Western export controls on critical tech, despite lost business.

Replication isn't trivial. The decades of know-how and unique security-driven perspective Israeli tech minds possess cannot be instantly cloned. That's why

even superpowers find value in Israeli innovations—the U.S. military incorporated Israeli active protection systems on tanks because it hadn't developed one as good.

Continuity in the Digital Domain

If water and electricity keep Israel's body alive, cyber is the neural network keeping its brain and nerves functioning. Israel's cyber infrastructure encompasses defensive measures protecting critical systems and offensive capabilities deterring or disrupting enemies.

On defense, Israel has a National Cyber Directorate (INCD) working closely with Unit 8200 and civilian sectors. They developed multi-tiered approaches: securing government networks (Cyber Dome program), assisting private sectors hardening key industries, and running drills like "Cyberstorm" exercises simulating major cyber attacks.

The 2020 attempted Iranian cyber attack on water systems was a wake-up call. Iran aimed to sicken civilians by altering chlorine levels—a blatant mass harm attempt. Though thwarted by failsafes, it propelled Israel to institute a "zero trust" approach on critical infrastructure: assume breaches and limit impact via fail-safes (if chemical injection commands seem suspicious, systems default to shutdown rather than execution).

Cyber resilience also means backup modes. Israel retained manual overrides for many systems—meaning if hacking knocks out automation, operators fall back to analog control. This proved advantageous; not everything in Israel is fully digitized. Israel's water system retains manual valves, partly why the 2020 hack didn't succeed.

Israel invests heavily in cyber intelligence to catch attacks in planning. Being a top-tier cyber power, Israel often has visibility into adversaries' capabilities.

Offensively, Israel used cyber as strategic deterrence tools. Stuxnet (2010), widely attributed to Israel with U.S. help, sabotaged Iran's uranium enrichment centrifuges, delaying Iran's nuclear drive without dropped bombs—a cyber attack causing physical damage to strategic programs.

Unit 8200 is believed to possess an array of cyber weapons foiling terror and WMD plots via hacking. One published case: 8200 reportedly foiled an ISIS plane bombing plan in 2017 by hacking ISIS communication channels, intelligence Israel passed to Australia stopping bombers at the airport.

Israel sees its civilian population as part of war effort (the "home front"), so maintaining their morale and daily life is vital. Critical civilian services—power, water, finance, telecom—are protected almost like military assets in cyber terms. Major banks regularly do joint drills with INCD for cyber crises, ensuring financial network attacks won't crash the economy or at least recovery is quick.

During recent war surges, massive state actor and hacktivist attempts targeted Israeli government websites and critical infrastructure. Some briefly succeeded (a few .gov.il sites were down hours due to DDoS attacks). But

Israel had backup domains and cloud mitigation, restoring services quickly. Shifts to Israeli CloudFront instances and geo-blocking showed agility.

Supply Chains Under Siege

Infrastructure doesn't exist in vacuum; it's part of overall national systems including trade networks, supply chains for essentials like food and medicine, and information battles swirling around them.

Planning for Blockade

For a country importing over 90% of grain and large raw material shares, Israel takes supply chain security very seriously. The government maintains a national grain reserve (usually a few months' worth of wheat in silos) and fuel reserves (90-day requirement). During 2020 pandemic, Israel swiftly airlifted supplies and ramped up local mask and ventilator production.

Israel's agriculture is highly efficient (fruits, vegetables, dairy, and poultry are largely self-sufficient). But OECD reports note Israel is "a consistent net-importer of agro-food products" especially grains, oilseeds, beef, and fish.

Israel's Ministry of Agriculture recently launched a National Food Security 2050 program. It aims diversifying import sources, increasing local production where possible (encouraging some grain cultivation in the Galilee or Negev using resilient crop strains), and monitoring global risks in real-time.

This came after October 7, 2023 when boycott calls threatened Israeli goods or shipping refusals. "The events of October 7 highlighted that Israel cannot rely on imports as an alternative to local production, given increasing boycotts and climate change effects," the Agriculture Ministry stated.

Israel is building systems ensuring "functional continuity in the face of blocked supply routes." They're working on infrastructural fixes: Ashdod and Haifa as main ports, smaller Eilat ports, nascent private operations—multiple entry points so one closure doesn't choke trade.

Israel developed modest national shipping capacity (through Zim, partly Israeli-owned, which prioritizes Israeli needs in crisis). Air freight can be lifeline: El Al flew on Shabbat in Yom Kippur War for emergency arms; during COVID it flew to China and back for medical gear.

Israel has one of the world's most self-contained defense industries for its size. While it buys high-end fighters from the U.S., it often customizes them with Israeli avionics, reducing arms embargo vulnerability. If one supply pipeline cuts, Israel has alternatives or interim solutions.

However, weak spots remain. Israel imports most animal feed. If global grain markets seized up (like complete Black Sea grain deal collapse), feed costs soar—affecting local poultry and dairy output. Climate change could hit supply partners and even local farming (though Israel is somewhat cushioned by advanced irrigation).

What Collapse Actually Looks Like

APPRECIATING Israel's durable systems requires contrasting with places where infrastructure was misused or collapsed, yielding true fragility or state failure.

Venezuela, once among richest per capita countries due to oil, nationalized and politicized infrastructure. The electric grid was starved of investment and staffed by loyalty over expertise. Result: massive blackouts from 2019 onward. Public transport and communication systems collapsed with losses above $875 million from one week-long blackout. This contributed to millions of citizens' exodus and essentially a failed state. Infrastructure was treated as political tool (for patronage) not as national backbone.

Since Hamas took over Gaza in 2007, basic services deteriorated. They prioritized tunnel building and rockets over water plants and power. Gaza's sole power plant often is offline due to fuel lack or maintenance. Its aquifer is over-pumped causing salinity and sewage issues. Hamas dug up water pipes to make rocket casings. This starkly illustrates ideology trumping infrastructure—resulting in misery for Gazans (12-hour daily blackouts are norm, water is undrinkable without filtering).

Lebanon, Hezbollah's fiefdom, has effectively a failed electric grid (even pre-2020 economic meltdown, Beirut had daily generator hours; now state power is maybe 1-2 hours/day). This collapse came from decades of sectarian mismanagement and corruption in infrastructure, plus Hezbollah's parallel illicit economy. Lebanon can't project power or stability and is mercy of fuel donors and diaspora remittances. Internal sovereignty eroded as infrastructure did.

The Russia-Ukraine war illustrates how infrastructure becomes the battleground. Russia bombs Ukraine's grid to break morale. Ukraine innovates (using Israeli supplied generators among others) to keep lights on, and Ukraine's state hasn't collapsed after years of infrastructure targeting. It underscores that systems continuity under attack can decide nations' fate.

The Fantasy of Collapse

FROM founding, Israel's adversaries comforted themselves with belief that Israel is temporary aberration. A "crusader state" eventually crumbling. Iranian leaders say Israel is a "cancer" that will be removed.

In 2000, after IDF withdrew from south Lebanon, Hezbollah's Nasrallah gloated that Israel became as feeble as cobwebs. He argued Israeli civilians lack stomach for sacrifice—break infrastructure or comfort, and they'll flee. They amassed rockets at Israeli cities thinking barrages would send Israelis panicking and states imploding. The 2006 war and subsequent conflicts empirically disproved this. Israel endured barrages, mourned losses, but didn't collapse.

Palestinians refer to Israel as an "artificial entity" bound to disintegrate—pointing to internal divisions or emigrant Israelis as rot evidence. These beliefs sustain hope facing Israel's military might. They bet on internal implosion. Hence Iran and proxies wage psychological war, pushing narratives of Israeli society breaking.

After October 7th, narratives circulated: "This is Israel's 9/11, it will overreact and implode" or "Israelis lost faith in security, society will fracture." It's renewed spider web theory. But Israel's systems kept functioning: yes, politics heated, but water, power, economy all humming (some wartime dips but no breakdown). External attacks usually unite Israelis (at least short-term) more than divide them.

Israel's flourishing high-tech and global integration created facts contradicting fragility narratives. Myths of fragility sometimes lead foes into strategic mistakes—underestimating response or overestimating how blows will crumble Israel. Hamas, on Oct 7, thought Israeli Arabs would rise and IDF reservists wouldn't respond. Instead, the opposite occurred.

What Endures

Israel should continue turning scarcity into surplus. More renewable energy so if gas rigs are threatened, it's acceptable. More food tech like drought-resistant crops ensuring food security during climate stress. Also remain flexible—infrastructure power lessons teach you must adapt it as conditions change.

The Eastern Mediterranean is heating and drying. Israel's Water Authority models predict significant natural water recharge drops by 2050. However, extreme weather (flash floods, heatwaves) could strain electricity demand and physical infrastructure. Israel's electric grid must handle peak loads under heatwaves pushing A/C use to maximum. Israel is deploying smart grid tech and storage to shave peaks. Rising Mediterranean sea levels might affect coastal power plants by mid-century. Israel has begun fortifying and considering more inland generation.

Regionally, neighbors face worse climate stress, possibly causing further instability and Arab-world migrations. Israel might find its desalination and solar tech in even higher demand as countries seek adaptation. Conversely, if neighbors collapse under climate pressure, Israel may need contingency plans (perhaps quietly helping via third parties to prevent total next-door chaos, as it already does occasionally supplying water or fuel to south Syria villages in covert humanitarian operations).

The world is in an AI arms race. Israel is extremely well-placed, with dozens of top AI startups and AI integrated in everything from military intelligence to agri-tech. But AI also poses threats—deepfakes, AI-enhanced cyber attacks. Israel's cybersecurity strategy explicitly accounts for AI-driven threats (Unit 8200 already uses AI to triage cyber anomalies). To maintain resilience, Israel will likely invest heavily in AI for cyber defense and infrastructure optimization (predictive maintenance in rail, smart traffic grids avoiding single-route failure jamming entire cities). Quantum computing could break today's encryption in a decade—Israel is working on quantum-resistant cryptography for secure communications networks.

Most models for Middle East stability next 10-20 years foresee continued struggle between Iran's camp and US-Israel-Arab camp, plus non-state chaos in failing states. In that worst case, one would expect heavy northern Israeli infrastructure damage. Israel's strategy shortens such wars through massive offense, but it's enhancing redundancy (southern Israel hospitals prepared to take patients if northern ones are bombed beyond capacity). Israel runs regional and nationwide drills (like turning off power in cities to simulate outage recovery). Israel expects the unexpected and races ensuring that even if some infrastructure goes down, alternatives kick in within hours.

If global supply lines reorient (less China reliance), Israel could benefit stepping in with trusted supply in certain niches. But if recession hits allies, less

investment might flow to Israeli innovation. Israel should keep diversifying markets (courting Global South).

Sovereignty by Design

From first pipelines and power stations of the 1930s to today's cloud servers and gas rigs, Israel consciously designed infrastructure as national power instruments.

Even today, 5G or fiber roll-out ties into secure networks for defense and economic robustness. Nothing in Israel's infrastructure is truly neutral—it's all imbued with keeping the state viable under threat.

Enemies tried terrorizing Israeli public with rocket barrages, intending chaos and psychological defeat. But when rockets meet interception (Iron Dome and associated systems) and immediate utility damage restoration, the continuity-breaking attempt fails. In cyber terms, when Iran's water poisoning attempt was countered and responded to with a humane cyber counter-punch on their port, it likely deterred further critical system escalation since Iran knows Israel can absorb and hit back.

Israel's capacity absorbing shocks and continuing to function removes adversaries' incentives using infrastructure attack strategies.

Regrettably, Israel's advancements haven't mellowed enemies but often enraged them further. Israel's gas exporter emergence led Lebanon harder posturing on maritime claims until mediated deal. The more Israel disproves fragility myths, the more some hostile actors double down trying other angles (legal, narrative) undermining it. This means Israel cannot expect humanitarian or constructive efforts alone changing deeply ingrained hostility. As Israel's indispensability grows, some hostility will wane pragmatically, but core ideological enemies will intensify efforts out of frustration.

Israel's governance continuity and services through wars, intifadas, and isolation attempts shows sovereignty level few countries facing similar threats maintained. Israel's power projection—diplomatic, military, economic—is entirely undergirded by resilient home systems freeing it to act independently.

Through infrastructure-as-national-power strategy, Israel earned "hard to kill" reputation among even adversaries. And so it will remain.

That same kettle. Same wiring. Same pipes. Same country—after wars, elections, protests, and pressures supposedly cracking it.

Israel's enemies still discuss fragility. About inevitability. About imminent collapse. They've said it for decades.

Meanwhile, water keeps flowing. The grid holds. Networks route around damage. Systems endure.

That doesn't make Israel perfect. It makes it real.

And in this century, sovereignty belongs to states that continue functioning when others want them failing.

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