

**Israel National Defense College**

**45th Class, 2017-2018**

**First Strategic Experience**

**Team 2**

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**The International and Regional Systems**

Stages of Analysis – Guiding Questions

1. *The Players:*
   1. Who are the **key factors** (players) in the international and regional arena that are relevant to the strategic problem in question?
   2. What are the **interests** of each of the players (in relation to the strategic problem).
   3. What are the **affinities** (cooperation / tension / neutrality etc.) of the players: among themselves, against Israel and against the opposing campaign.
2. *Other Factors*
   1. Are there **other factors** (which are not players) that are relevant to the strategic problem? (For example: oil prices, unemployment, economic potential etc.)
   2. What is their **influence / affinity** to the international system, to Israel and to the opposing campaign?
   3. Can changing **trends** be characterized using these factors?
3. *Possibility of Influence:*
   1. Based on (1) the interests of the players and the affinities between them and (2) the trends which are related to other factors, over what and in what way can **Israel** **influence**, within the borders of the international and regional systems? (for example: how and in what way can Israel influence Russia's interest in establishing itself in Syria)

To conclude, prepare one or two slides that visually focus the insights that emerged throughout the analysis.

**The Opposing Campaign**

Stages of Analysis – Guiding Questions

1. *The Players:*
   1. Who are the **key factors** (players) in the opposing campaign that are relevant to the strategic problem in question?
   2. What are the **goals** of each of the players (in relation to the strategic problem). What are the **interests** that stand behind those goals?
   3. What are the **affinities** (cooperation / tension / neutrality etc.) of the players: among themselves, against Israel and against the international and regional systems.
   4. What are the additional **factors** (beyond the players) that are relevant to the problem? What is their affinity to the problem? (For example: Hezbollah's rocket array, public opinion in Lebanon etc.)
   5. What is the complete **systemic logic** of the opposing campaign facing Israel and each of the players separately?
2. *Analysis of Centers of Gravity*
   1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the entire opposing campaign, each of the players and each of the factors in the physical, geographical, conceptual, political, logistical, perceptional, religious and military context? (The strengths and weaknesses are called the Centers of Gravity)*.*

To conclude, prepare one or two slides that visually focus the insights that emerged throughout the analysis.

**Israel - A Critical Examination of the Present Concept**

Stages of Analysis – Guiding Questions

1. *The Current Concept:*
   1. What is the **current concept** in Israel regarding the strategic problem in question? Both in relation to the opposing campaign and in relation to the international and regional systems.
   2. When was this concept **formulated**? How is it **different** from the conception that preceded it?
   3. What were Israel's **basic assumptions** about reality when the current concept was formulated? Details of the basic assumptions regarding: (1) Israel; (2) the opposing campaign, its players and its various components; (3) the international and regional systems.
   4. What were the goals that Israel defined in the past as achievable goals while formulating its current strategic concept? Were these goals achieved, and why?
2. *"Updated" Goals*
   1. In light of the current reality, what are the interests and goals that Israel wishes to achieve in the near and distant future? Both for the opposing campaign and for the international system in relation to the strategic problem.
   2. What are Israel's basic assumptions regarding the objectives of the previous section? How based are these assumptions?
3. **Offset**:
   1. How **relevant** is the **current** concept to the emerging reality, and will it suffice in order to achieve the aforementioned goals? If there is a gap – what is it? And what is its origin?

To conclude, prepare one or two slides that visually focus the insights that emerged throughout the analysis.