

Dialogue Diplomacy

SCHOLARS CIRCLE



Dr. Olga Kirschbaum-Shirazki

Olga is a historian, editor, co-founder of Tel Aviv Review of Books, and Visiting Fellow at the Tel Aviv Institute. She received her PhD in Modern European history from New York University focusing on inter-group and inter-faith relations as well as nationalism, colonialism, and international politics in the modern period.

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OLGA'S UPCOMING LECTURES

- Beyond the Frontlines: A Quick Guide to the Middle East After WWI
- Legal Dimensions: Navigating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on the Global Stage
- The Left and the Conflict



Contact Dr. Olga Kirschbaum-Shirazki

Website: www.tarb.co.il

Email: olga.kirschbaum@gmail.com

Learn more at
chaimitzvah.org

Common Q&A's

Why is Israel losing the PR war?

Although there was significant sympathy for Israel across the West and around the world after October 7, this sympathy has decreased significantly. Today Israel is seen, even by many people who support the existence of a Jewish state, as a ruthless country of baby-killers, rather than an army at the forefront of fighting radical Islamism for a better Middle East, as our regional allies understand it to be. The extensive publication of images of injured and dead children has succeeded. The publication of hostage photos has backfired since the hostages are few compared to the dead Palestinian children.

What is the objective of Hamas's strategy and propaganda?

Hamas wants to survive the war and weaken Israel's support in the West so that Israel will stop its offensive and even lose its military aid. It knows that maximizing civilian casualties will lead the West to pressure Israel to stop the war and even stop selling it weapons. Hamas ensures this by its military strategy of using the tunnels for its fighters and situating weapons in civilians areas and buildings.

What can be done?

Israel and its allies must insist on exposing Hamas's cynical strategies. Where possible (since it is often dangerous for people to side with Israel) it must publicize the view of its regional allies against radical Islamism, the signatories of the Abraham accords and the Kurds, Druze, Maronites etc.. It must also insist on the wealth and power of Hamas and its allies Iran, Turkey, and Qatar, their use of civilians as leverage, and the history of the use of civilians as leverage in the Cold War.

Key Takeaways

- The conflict today should be compared to the Holocaust or any suffering in the diaspora.
- The focus of Jews and our allies must be on the justice of our cause and not on our suffering.
- Jews and our allies must continue to expose Hamas's strategy in this war.
- Jews and our allies must continue to emphasize that this is a regional conflict, not an Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Jews and our allies must insist that Hamas (and its root the Muslims Brotherhood) and its allies Iran, Turkey, and Qatar are far-right organizations/states.

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