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## Opinion

### How Assad's Collapse Could Reshape Israel's Strategic Future

Chuck Freilich / Dec 16, 2024

The fall of a brutal dictator, mass murderer, and bitter enemy is gratifying and even exhilarating. The deeper question, however, is whether and to what extent it serves Israel's interests.

For Israel, a sovereign and stable state along its border, i.e. one that can be deterred, is always preferable to non-state entities, especially extremist Islamist groups. The Assad regime, at least, maintained a quiet border for 50 years, arguably its only positive deed.

The rebels are likely to focus, at least at first, on consolidating their rule and domestic reconstruction, rather than messing with us. However, some have already made their long-term intentions clear.

Thus, Israel must make sure it completes its highly successful military operations it launched to prevent them from seizing all of the Syrian army's military capabilities – conventional and unconventional, known and unknown (including thousands of tanks, artillery, missiles, air and naval assets, chemical weapons, and possibly the elements of a reconstituted nuclear program).

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*For full article:*

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