

The 1949 Armistice Lines (“1967 Borders”): Indefensible Borders

Background

- The day after Israel’s creation, five Arab armies attacked the Jewish state attempting to destroy it. After the war, Israeli and Arab generals drew armistice (cease-fire) lines in 1949 to act as **temporary** borders.
 - They drew the lines solely based off where each side’s armies sat at the time of the cease-fire.
- **The 1949 Armistice Lines *proved to be indefensible* for nearly two decades.** Four Arab countries surrounded Israel - *a state smaller than New Jersey* - and **consistently attacked and murdered civilians in the Jewish state.**
 - **Judea and Samaria (the ‘West Bank’):** Jordan divided Jerusalem (the holiest city in the world for Jews) and placed snipers to kill Jewish civilians in the Israeli controlled areas.ⁱ It also threatened to destroy Israel from the hills of Judea and Samaria, which overlook Israel’s major population centers.
 - The distance between the hostile Jordanian forces and the Mediterranean Sea (the width of Israel) was as narrow as nine miles.
 - **Golan Heights:** In the Northeast, Syria continuously attacked Israelis, making life unbearable for civilians living in the area.
 - Syrian forces used the high ground in the Golan Heights in the Northeast to fire upon Israeli towns in the valleys below and to cut off Israel’s main water supply.ⁱⁱ
 - **Sinai Desert and Gaza:** Egypt continuously threatened to annihilate the Jewish state from Israel’s southern border.ⁱⁱⁱ
- When the Arab states attempted to destroy Israel again in 1967, Israel took control of the Golan Heights from Syria, Judea and Samaria from Jordan, and the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, **in order to defend its citizens.**



A map of Israel compared to the Arab world.

It would be suicidal for the Jewish state to give up all land captured in 1967 and return to the 1949 armistice lines:

- Although Israel has since made peace with Egypt and Jordan, enemies along Israel's borders still pose major threats to its security.
 - In **Judea and Samaria**, the Palestinian Authority (PA) continuously promotes terrorism and calls for Israel's destruction.^v
 - If Israel gives up Judea and Samaria and returns to the armistice lines, the PA would have complete control of the mountains overlooking Israel's major population centers (Jordan relinquished all claims to the land in 1988).
 - If Israel gives the **Golan Heights** back to Syria, either the Syrian regime or rebel forces - both of which are backed by terrorists and continuously call for Israel's destruction - could take over the area and again attack Israeli civilians in the valleys below.
 - When Israel gave the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1979 in exchange for peace, Egypt refused to take back the **Gaza Strip**.
 - Israel disengaged from Gaza in 2005 to advance peace with the Palestinian-Arabs living there. However, since the disengagement, the US-designated terrorist group Hamas took over and has launched thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians.



Pre-1967 Israel. The light blue is Israel; the turquoise was under Jordanian and Egyptian control.

ⁱ *SixDayWar.org*, Precursors to War: Arab Threats Against Israel

ⁱⁱ *Ibid*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid*

^{iv} *Manager Magazine*, October 2011

^v *Palestinian Media Watch*, PA depicts a world without Israel.