



BESA
The Begin-Sadat Center
for Strategic Studies
Bar-Ilan University

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Quarterly Report

February 2023



Message from the Director

As we end the year's first quarter of activity, I am glad to share with you the many achievements we have accomplished in a short time and the plans we have for the next few months, which will be filled with diverse activities. During these first months, we recruited talented new members to BESA, both staff and researchers. We also renovated and equipped our offices to fit the post-Covid era. Most importantly, we renewed our website and revived email distribution of our Perspectives short analysis series. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff and researchers, and of course our many partners, whose dedication and effort made all this possible.

Dr. Eitan Shamir
Director

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Visit us at:
<https://besacenter.org/>

UPDATES

Since November the Center has been undergoing many organizational and structural changes, including the following:

- Establishing a new academic board led by the University Rector, Social Sciences Faculty Dean, and chair of the Political Science Department
- Recruiting new researchers to the existing team while basing the team on resident Bar-Ilan researchers
- Renovating BESA's seminar room to make it functional again
- Renewing equipment in BESA's offices, installing wi-fi throughout the building, adding a wide-angle camera for Zoom meetings and a new screen in the meeting room, and installing new computers, printers, and other office necessities.
- Allocating offices to new researchers and staff (researchers have resumed occupying their offices during the work week)
- Redesigning, updating, and modernizing the BESA website
- Renewing the Center's email distribution system
- Strengthening BESA's presence on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter

EVENTS

Russia-Ukraine War Conference Oslo, Norway- 6-8 December 2022

BESA Director Dr. Eitan Shamir and Dr. Uzi Rubin were invited to participate in the R&D seminar "Land Operations and Combined Arms - Lessons Identified from the War in Ukraine", an event organized by Norway's Royal Military Academy. Participants included officers of various NATO nations and academics. Dr. Shamir lectured on lessons learned from the war by the IDF. Dr. Uzi Rubin gave a lecture on the missiles and drones used in the war by the belligerents. During their stay in Oslo, Drs. Shamir and Rubin met with Norwegian Parliament members to discuss Israeli policy. The meetings were facilitated by Israel's Embassy in Oslo.





Conference in collaboration with IDF Ground Forces: The Future Battlefield- 27 December 2022

The BESA Center, in collaboration with the IDF Land Forces Institute, Ground Forces Command, and many other partners from the military industry, held a major conference at Bar-Ilan on The Future Battlefield. Four serving Major Generals and many other senior officers took part, as did senior executives from hi-tech and military R&D as well as senior academics. BESA researchers Dr. Eitan Shamir, Dr. Eado Hecht, and Major General (res.) Gershon Hacoen gave lectures during the conference, with Maj.-Gen. Hacoen giving the concluding remarks.



[link to conference >>](#)

[link to lectures >>](#)



Lecture: Does the IDF Need Protection from Israeli Society? 17 January 2023

The BESA Center hosted Professor Stuart Cohen for a guest lecture on recent changes in relations between the Israeli military and society.

Trip to Romania - Hybrid War research 8-10 February

BESA Director Dr. Eitan Shamir and Research Fellow Shai Attias are joining a Hybrid War project meeting with six European partners at the Romanian Military Academy in Sibiu, Romania. In October 2021, the BESA Center won a major grant funded by the European Union (Erasmus+) to conduct research on the era of hybrid warfare. The HW-Hybrid Warfare Project, a pioneering global partnership, is designed to assist decision-makers, military leaders, diplomats, and private citizens in understanding the array of threats facing our security, resilience, and sustainability in this new and complex era. The project's vision is to provide wide-ranging and multi-disciplinary lectures and textbooks to be used by institutions of higher education, military academies, civil services, and police forces.

Partners of the EU HW - Hybrid Warfare Project:

University of Torino and the Italian Army Education and Training Command, School of Applied Military Studies, Torino, **Italy**

Ludovika – University of Public Service, **Hungary**

BESA Center, Bar-Ilan University, **Israel**
Land Forces Academy in Sibiu, Army of **Romania**

Centre for the Study of New Security Challenges, **Scotland**

Armed Forces Academy, **Slovakia**



UPCOMING EVENTS



21 March 2023

Guest Lecture, Professor Beatrice Heuser, Senior Associate Fellow, Royal United Service Institute (RUSI), London



23 March 2023

A strategic seminar with a delegation from German Armed Forces Command and Staff College



28 March 2023

Israel-USA Strategy Seminar, to be hosted by Prof. Eliot Cohen at SAIS, John Hopkins University, USA

Other activities planned for March (with no date assigned as yet):



BESA Joint Seminar with the Planning Division of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Kick-off and coordination meeting to begin BESA's joint research program with the IDF Land Forces Institute

IN THE MEDIA

Media

כאן ב

התחלנו באוקראינה – תלמידי שוב סוגו למשיב לעזרה | ד"ר עידו הכט, 6.3.2022

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ברזלים נדירים שמלחמה היא אירוע שיוצא משליטה | אלוף מיל גרשון הכהן, 1.3.2022

ישראל
היום

קרב תודעה: פוסט יעשה כמעט הכל כדי לנצח | אלוף מיל גרשון הכהן, ישראל היום, 1.3.2022

מעריב

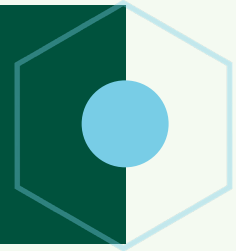
"פוטין לא ציפה לזה": זה מה שיסבך מרוסיה לכבוש את הערים הגדולות באוקראינה | ד"ר עידו הכט, מעריב, 28.2.2022

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ניתוח המהלכים עד עכשיו בגזרת אוקראינה | ד"ר עידו הכט, 28.2.2022

[Link to recent articles and interviews >>](#)

CENTER PERSPECTIVES



Paper No. 2,175, by Dr. Eitan Shamir: ***From Isolation to Desired Partner: The Success of Israel's Grand Strategy in the 21st Century***

<https://besacenter.org/from-isolation-to-desired-partner-the-success-of-israels-grand-strategy-in-the-21st-century/>

Paper No. 2,176, by CDR. David Levy: ***Israel's Future in Multinational Coalitions***

<https://besacenter.org/israels-future-in-multinational-coalitions/>

Paper No. 2,177, by Dr. Amin Tarzi: ***Controlling the Narrative of the Protest Movement in Iran***

<https://besacenter.org/controlling-the-narrative-of-the-protest-movement-in-iran/>

Paper No. 2,178, by Elyakim Rubinstein: ***The Israeli Judicial System Must Be Preserved***

<https://besacenter.org/the-israeli-judicial-system-must-be-preserved/>

Paper No. 2,179, by Col (Res.) Dr. Raphael G. Bouchnik-Chen: ***Israeli Diplomacy Must Improve to Counter Palestinian Misinformation***

<https://besacenter.org/israeli-diplomacy-must-improve-to-counter-palestinian-misinformation/>

Paper No. 2,180, by Dr. George N. Tzogopoulos: ***What's Next for Israel and Greece?***

<https://besacenter.org/whats-next-for-israel-and-greece/>

Paper No. 2,181, by Dr. Alon Levkowitz: ***Japan's New Defense Policy***

<https://besacenter.org/japans-new-defense-policy/>

Paper No. 2,183, by Col. (res.), Shay Shabtai: ***A Better Way to Implement Constitutional Reform***

<https://besacenter.org/a-better-way-to-implement-constitutional-reform/>

Paper No. 2,184, by CDR. David Levy and Col. (res.), Shay Shabtai: ***Israel's Move to USCENTCOM is Transformational***

<https://besacenter.org/israels-move-to-uscentcom-is-transformational/>

UPCOMING PERSPECTIVES

5.3 Paper No. 2,185, by Dr. Leut. Col. (res.) Shaul Bartal: ***Iran's Proxy War***

12.3 Paper No. 2,186, by Dr. Elai Rettig: ***Israel's Energy Market and the War in Ukraine***

16.3 Paper No. 2,187, by Yaakov Lappin: ***The New IDF Chief of Staff Faces an Array of Challenges***

Meet Dr. Elai Rettig

Elai joined Bar-Ilan's Department of Political Science in October 2021. He is married to Michal and father of Adam (8) and Ben (6).

What do you like to do when not researching? Movie nights with the family, and FIFA videogame tournaments with the kids (unless they beat me...).

What's a good book you recommend reading in your area of research? The Prize and The Quest by Daniel Yergin provide the best introduction to the global oil markets you can find. They are must reads for anyone interested in the geopolitics of energy. If you're more interested in the future of energy (and the technical challenges we still need to overcome to reach that future), I recommend any of the latest books by Vaclav Smil, such as Energy Myths and Realities and Grand Transitions.

What are your plans at BESA? I plan to advance policy-relevant research on energy and environmental security for Israel and its region. This will include papers on Israel's natural-gas export options, analyses of how ongoing crises and developments in the global energy markets may affect Israel and its neighbors, the steps and hurdles towards turning Israel into a leader in solar energy and clean-tech innovation, and the security challenges posed to the region by climate change. To accomplish this, I am going to lead BESA's newly formed Energy Security Forum, which is designed to help policymakers carve a responsible and levelheaded path towards a secure and sustainable energy future for Israel while also benefiting its economy and foreign relations.

