

Review of: "[Commentary] Explaining Hamas Attack of October 7"

Ofira Seliktar

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I found the article to be interesting and worth publishing.

1. The author analyzes a number of approaches to “how possible explanations,” and the choice of the William Dry approach seems the most appropriate in the context of the events of October 7. I would add that the other approaches invite political bias on the part of those who try to explain the event. For instance, those who opposed Prime Minister Netanyahu were quick to point out that Qatar authorized payments to Hamas in order to split the Palestinians into West Bank vs. Gaza and thus avoid pursuing a peace treaty. According to this theory, “how possible” is blamed on the Israeli government’s decision to willfully ignore the true plans of Hamas and the multiple red flags preceding the attack. I would suggest that the author mentions the advantage of the William Dry approach given that the question of “how possible” has become extremely politicized.

2. I am not sure why the author limits his comments to Kfar Aza alone; the attack occurred along the entire length of what is known in Hebrew as Otef Aza, meaning the Gaza Envelope, the line of kibbutzim and two towns that border the Gaza Strip. The author should not limit his paper to Kfar Aza alone but include the Gaza Envelope,

3. The author’s conclusions about the global implications of the October 7 attack don’t seem to be related in any way to the body of the analysis and to the Dry approach. In my opinion, this part weakens the whole paper because it looks like a plea to refocus Western foreign policy towards China.