

SAFEGUARDING THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, ISRAEL, AND JORDAN FROM IRAN

David A. Jones & Izabela Zhiznevska

Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Received: 27 Jun 2019

Accepted: 03 Jul 2019

Published: 07 Jul 2019

ABSTRACT

What is called the Golan Heights is a plateau above Israel on which the Islamic Republic of Iran has been planning to establish a forward command post that would threaten both the Jewish State and the bordering Sunni Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, each a strong and loyal United States Ally. In the past, Syrian artillery units shelled northern Israel, and the Palestinian Fatah organization launched cross-border raids against Israelis, each from the Golan Heights, a highland area. Israel captured two-thirds of the Golan Heights in its 1967 war against Syria, then annexed Golan in 1981 by right of conquest amidst global outcry, although Israel has returned over 80 percent of the overall territory it captured in 1967, largely in the West Bank. American recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Golan merely removes that strategically valuable territory from Iran's influence directly or through Hezbollah, thereby diminishing Iran's value to the Russian Federation. This paper will praise President Donald J. Trump's foresight in preventing an Iranian strategy of encircling Israel from the Russian naval base at Tartus, air base near Latakia, Syria, that country's two largest port cities, coupled with Iran's plan for its own naval base at Latakia. When Syrian, Golan covered less than one percent of Syria's territory. Currently, fewer than one percent of Israel's population resides there: half Jewish, half Druze, the latter considered Syrian. Each of the 28 European Union member states rejected recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Golan Heights. This paper will present arguments why the EU is mistaken, by evidencing the right of the Jewish People to possess the Golan from Biblical times into eternity. It argues also that the United States has not "gone overboard" in its relations with Israel as has been argued, and that the failure of a "two-state" solution is a good outcome because it has yet to be designed well.

KEYWORDS: *Golan Heights, Iran, Israel, Syria*