

Cost & Repercussions

Human cost: Israel lost 2552 dead & over 3,000 wounded in 18 days of fighting with a high proportion of officers among the casualties. A war of fathers & sons, some families even lost more than one son.

The Economic cost of the war was \$7 Billion – the equivalent of Israel's GNP for an entire year which brought about a period of extreme austerity measures.

Political Fallout

The Agranat Commission was established to determine responsibility for the "blunder". Issued in April 1974, it was a serious indictment of military intelligence, Sinai field commanders & the Chief of Staff for sluggish reaction to advance warnings. Military leaders such as **Shmuel "Gorodish" Gonen** were toppled but the report fell short of holding the highest eschelons explicitly responsible. A Knesset vote of no confidence brought down Golda Meir & her government & soldiers demonstrated calling for Moshe Dayan's resignation by soldiers in the streets.

Israel witnessed a shift from mass immigration to emigration. By 1975 300,000 Israelis had settled in the US.

Documented & excerpted from

A History of Israel

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**Navigating the
context of**

High Noon

Adapted by Shmuel
Vilozhny from
Aryeh Segev's book
**I didn't Execute
the Mission**

The Impact of 1967

Israel fought an unprecedented strategic and heroic war in a brief 6 days that

- pushed Syria back from the Golan ledge from where it had continuously threatened the north
- Pushed Egypt back to the western side of the Suez Canal, preventing its stranglehold on Israeli shipping.
- Pushed Jordan back absorbing the West Bank.

Recovering from fear of total annihilation, the country fell into a profound euphoria over the success of the war. Led by its heroic and genius military leaders, Israel was perceived internally as invincible. Economic boom followed the war. That, coupled with an influx of cheap labor into Israel from the occupied territories impacted the Jewish laborer ethic, and Israel saw flight from labor into the service sector, speculation and banking at the expense of agriculture and industry.

On the Eve of 1973

Golda Meir was Prime Minister, leading a labor government and Moshe Dayan was the Minister of Defense.

Why was Israel Surprised?

It was an Election Cycle. The Labor government was preoccupied with an election campaign running on tranquility and security.

It was Ramadan. What Arab army would fight a war during Ramadan?

It was Yom Kippur – Who would attack Israel on its holiest of holy days? On Yom Kippur, the country shuts down and people are in synagogue. The IDF functions at its leanest., sending soldiers home for the holiday.

Economic cost of mobilization a deterrent. In the early 70s, recurrent nationwide mobilizations for naught had taken a heavy economic toll.

“The Arab armies had been crushed for decades”. Armed by the Soviets, Egypt & Syria were reinforced with the most advanced weaponry. Until later US intervention, Israel fights with dated and out-matched weaponry and munitions. Fighting to regain their honor following the shame of '67, the plan of attack by Egypt & Syria was intelligent, well prepared, and well executed.

The Yom Kippur War

The war began at 2 pm on Yom Kippur, Shabbat 10.6.73 with intense artillery barrages on both fronts. Israeli lack of preparedness and sluggish mobilization led to crushing initial gains by the Syrians and Egyptians. Outnumbered and out-matched by the Soviet arms, David fought Goliath for days. The IDF completed its mobilization and its leadership, facing “the fall of the 3rd temple” to quote Dayan, master-minded strategies that would turn the tide of the war with critical arms support from the United States. By October 22, in the south, Israeli troops had crossed the Suez and were on their way to Cairo; in the North, they had taken Kuneitra and were en route to Damascus. Diplomats were scrambling over cease fire agreements.

Military Service

National military service is mandatory. Men serve three years, women serve two. After personnel complete their regular service, the IDF may call up men for **reserve service** of up to one month annually, until the age of 43–45 and for active duty immediately in times of crisis.