

## War

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We face the prospect of an escalating war in the Middle East.

The politics of this are obvious. The struggle to control oil is clearly in play.

Meanwhile, Israel plays the role of the threatened western democracy, and is exceptionally well armed to do so.

Russia, and other states, are arming those opposing Israel. They win influence as a result.

Although the issues on the ground are very real, and few seem to really want to understand them, at one level this is yet another classic proxy war between the West, Russia and its allies, with China offering Russia at least tacit support.

The big, immediate, issue is to end this proxy war which no one can win and from which many can lose. The way to do that is quite simple. It's not even rocket science, because the answer is to stop supplying the rockets that are fuelling this war at present.

I am happy to stand accused of being naive for saying this. I am a Quaker. Of course I am on the side of peace. But it's not naive to be so. This war will have to end in talks. There is no foreseeable alternative. Israel, for example, is not going to cease to be, and nor should it, even if any reasonable observer might wish for a different government there, as will in all likelihood happen as a precursor to peace.

Nor will those seeking Palestinian homelands drop their claims.

It is only by negotiation that these matters can progress. In that case stopping the supply of armaments makes sense when no one seriously thinks there is a real risk to Israel at present if that were to happen.

The only two questions are how many must die before those talks happen, and is Netanyahu doing this to support his fellow neofascist, Trump? I fear that the answers are many, and yes. Both are distressing and a massive cause for concern.