

The Delray Democrat

Deals with the Devil¹

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“ Hamas, to my great regret, is Israel's creation,” said retired Israeli official [Avner Cohen](#). When it emerged in the 1980s, Hamas was seen as a counterweight to the PLO and its dominant factor, Yasser Arafat’s Fatah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took it one step further, even after it was clear Hamas represented a far greater threat to Israel than the Palestinian Authority. At a Likud party meeting in 2019, he presented Hamas as an ally, much as the United States viewed Islamists in Afghanistan as allies against communism.

Those who want to thwart the possibility of a Palestinian state should support the strengthening of Hamas and the transfer of money to Hamas. This is part of our strategy.

[This depraved strategy](#) makes sense if your goal is to create enough fear and chaos to keep you in office and out of jail while simultaneously advancing the settlers’ messianic [land grab in the West Bank](#).

Hamas rocket attacks launched from Gaza claimed few lives but were psychologically devastating and diverted attention from what was happening in the West Bank. But on October 7, 2023, Israel learned what America had learned on September 11, 2001, namely, that deals with the devil tend to blow up in your face.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), October 2023, page 7.