

# The Lessons of the Yom Kippur War, Pre-Emptive Strikes, and Iran

by Hugh Fitzgerald



**The Yom Kippur War was a war Israel almost lost.** The accepted story is that Israel was taken by surprise; that Egypt and Syria managed to launch simultaneous attacks against an unprepared IDF. It turns out that the true story was more disturbing than that: Israel knew in advance, thanks to American intelligence, of the Arabs' plans, but refused to engage in a pre-emptive strike because of its leaders' fear of world condemnation. They were willing, that is, to sacrifice Israeli lives in order to limit the diplomatic damage that would likely result from a pre-emptive strike. This was not a wise decision. The story is here: "Israel Knew of Imminent Attack Before Yom Kippur War, Did Not Strike for Fear of International Reaction: Documents," by Benjamin Kerstein, [Jihad Watch](#).