

## Ben Gurion Canal Project: An alternate to Suez Canal

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Recent Israel's war to destroy Hamas in Gaza has been linked by experts to the "**Ben Gurion Canal Project**".

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[ref-haaretz]

### About the Ben Gurion Canal Project:

- The Ben Gurion Canal Project was a proposed plan to create a waterway through the Israelicontrolled **Negev Desert** from the tip of the **Gulf of Aqaba** to the **Eastern Mediterranean** coast.
  - The Gulf of Aqaba is an **eastern arm** of the **Red Sea** that lies between the Israel's southern tip and south-western **Jordan**.
- It will act as an alternative to the Egyptian-controlled Suez Canal that starts from the western arm of the Red Sea and passes to the south eastern Mediterranean through the northern Sinai Peninsula.
- It will take away Egypt's monopoly over the shortest route between Europe and Asia.
- It was first envisioned by the US that aimed to use nuclear weapons for its creation.
  But this plan never progressed.
- It was named after Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973).





[ref- turkiye newspaper]

About the Suez Canal:



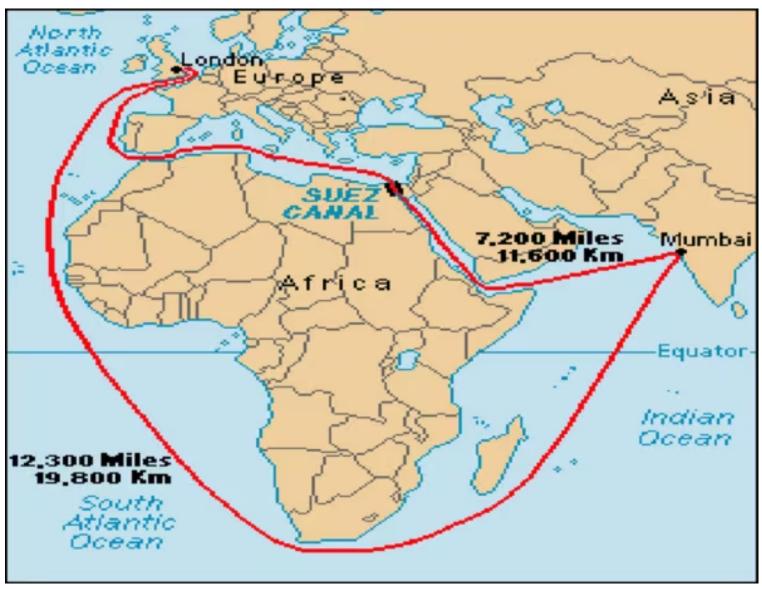


#### [ref-ISS africa]

- The Suez Canal is an **artificial sea-level waterway** that connects the **Mediterranean** and **Red Seas** through the **Isthmus of Suez**.
- It is **world's biggest shipping** bottleneck that controls most of the world trade.
- It ensured that ships travelling between **Europe** and **Asia** would **not** have to travel the longer way that passes around the **continent** of **Africa**.
- It was launched in 1869.
- It had reduced the distance between London and Mumbai by more than 41%.
- It remains perennially congested, despite being widened and deepened over the years.
- Egypt collects all the toll revenue generated, as it has sole authority and control over it.
- It has been focal point of both the **1967** and **1973** Arab-Israeli wars, and the **1956** war of Egypt with the UK, France, and Israel.



 Every war aimed to gain control over it, due to its strategic location and importance for trade.



[ref-IE]