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**Non-negotiable Alliance: Background and Mechanisms
of the US Support to Israel**

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I dedicate this work

To my beloved mother and father, the source of my happiness, love, and success in life,

May Allah bless them,

To my extended family, To my cherished brother

To my two lovely sisters who flavored my life

To the Palestinians who suffer in silence

To future Me

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Abstract

The American-Israeli “special relationship” dates back to 1948, when the US was the first country to recognize the establishment of the “Israeli Jewish” state after WWII. The common interests between the two countries promoted the United States to publicly support Israel unconditionally from its early days till the present day. The main purpose of this research is to investigate the historical context and the background behind the US support to Israel during its struggles with Palestine and the Arab World in general. It also focuses on the reasons that made America the long-standing and strong supporter of Israel. In addition to that, the study sheds light on the US foreign aid to Israel since the post-WWII era in an attempt to show the caliber of such a non-negotiable support. As it aims to show the implications of that support on Palestine, we employed the historical approach to foster a deeper understanding of the issue. Furthermore, the incorporated charts and graphs provides a comprehensive insight into the subject matter through the analytical method.

المخلص

تعود "العلاقة الخاصة" بين أمريكا وإسرائيل إلى عام 1948، حيث كانت الولايات المتحدة أول دولة تعترف بإنشاء الدولة "اليهودية الإسرائيلية" بعد الحرب العالمية الثانية. وقد دفعت المصالح المشتركة بين البلدين الولايات المتحدة إلى دعم إسرائيل علناً دون قيد أو شرط منذ أيامها الأولى وحتى يومنا هذا. والغرض الرئيسي من هذا البحث هو التحقيق في السياق التاريخي والخلفية وراء تأييد الولايات المتحدة لإسرائيل خلال صراعاتها مع فلسطين والعالم العربي بشكل عام. كما يركز على الأسباب التي جعلت من أمريكا المساند القديم والقوي لإسرائيل. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تلقي الدراسة الضوء على المساعدات الخارجية الأمريكية لإسرائيل منذ فترة ما بعد الحرب العالمية الثانية في محاولة لإظهار مدى أهمية مثل هذا الدعم الغير قابل للتفاوض. ولأنها تهدف إلى إظهار آثار هذا الدعم على فلسطين، فقد استخدمنا المنهج التاريخي لتعزيز فهم أعمق للقضية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، قدمت المخططات والرسوم البيانية المدمجة نظرة شاملة للموضوع من خلال الأسلوب التحليلي.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AARP	American Association of Retired Persons
AFL	American Federation of Labor
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIPAC	American Israel Public Affairs Committee
BDS	Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions
BIRD	Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development
BMD	Ballistic Missile Defense
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CIP	Critical Infrastructure Protection
DCS	Defense Communications System
DEFCON	Defense Condition
DSCA	Defense Security Cooperation Agency
DSWS	Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) Wideband Satellite
DSWS	David's Sling Weapon System
EDA	Excess Defense Articles
EUCOM	United States European Command
FMF	Foreign Military Financing
FMS	Foreign Military Sales
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAF	Israeli Air Force
IAI	Israel Aerospace Industries
IBM	International Business Machines Corporation
IDF	Israel Defense Forces
II	International Investments
IMDO	Israel Missile Defense Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IS	Islamic State

LAWS	Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
MDA	Missile Defense Agency
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MQ	Medium Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone series)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NIV	New International Version (Bible)
NRA	National Rifle Association
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSP	Off-Shore Procurement
PIBA	Population and Immigration Border Authority (Israel)
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PACs	Political action committees
PM	Prime Minister
QME	Qualitative Military Edge
SU	Soviet Union
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAR	United Arab Republic
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USA	United States of America
WRSA	War Reserve Stocks for Allies
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWI	World War I

List of Figures

Fig.1. Diplomatic Position of Israel at the United Nations, 1970-2014.....	42
Fig.2. US foreign assistance obligations to Israel by type, 1951-202	44
Fig.3. Total US foreign assistance by country, adjusted for inflation, 1946-2022	46
Fig.4. US military support for Israel: 1970-2014.....	48
Fig.5. US military aid to Israel over decades.	51

Table of Contents

General Introduction	1
Chapter One: Historical Background	6
1. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict.....	6
1.1.1948 Nakba.....	6
1.2. The Conflict's Origin	7
1.3. US Recognition of Israel	8
1.3.1.US-Jewish Relations Origin	8
1.3.2. The Recognition	8
2. Evolution of US-Israel Relations	9
2.1. Israel at a Distance (1948-1957)	9
2.2. Skepticism (1957-1967)	9
2.3. American Ambivalence Towards Israel (1967-1981).....	10
2.4. Extreme Tension in Relationships (1981-2001)	11
2.5. partnership (2001-today)	11
3. America's Role in the Israeli-Arab Conflicts	12
3.1.The Six Day War 1967	12
3.2.The 1973 Yom Kippur War	13
3.3. Camp David Accords.....	14
3.4.Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty of 1994	16
3.5. Abraham Accords	17
3.5.1. The United Arab Emirates's Motivations	18
3.5.2. Bahrain's Motivations	19
3.5.3. Sudan's Motivations	19
3.5.4. Morocco's Motivations.....	20
3.5.5. Israel's Motivations	20
3.5.6. US Motivations.....	21
3.5.7. Global Reactions to The Abraham Accords	22
Chapter Two: Motives Behind the US Support to Israel.....	24
1. The Holocaust's Historical Impact	24
2. US Strategic Interests in the Middle East.....	26

2.1. Importance of the region	27
2.2. Israel’s Contribution to the US Strategic Interests	28
2.3. US-Israel Security Collaborations in the Middle East	29
3. Religious Motivations of Christian Zionism	30
3.1. Theological Perspective	31
3.1.1. Biblical Support.....	32
3.1.2. The Role of Israel in “End-Times Prophecy”	33
3.2. Christian Zionist Actions	34
4. Pro-Israel lobbying	34
4.1. Jewish Lobbying and its Impact on the US Government	35
Chapter Three: Methods of Support	39
1. Diplomatic Support	39
1.1. The American Veto in the UNSC.....	41
1.2. Israel’s Membership in International Organizations	41
2. Economic Aid	41
3. Military Aid	45
3.1. Forms of Military Aids	46
3.1.1. Financial Assistance	46
3.1.2. Foreign Military Financing (FMF).....	46
3.1.3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	47
3.1.3.1. The First MOU	47
3.1.3.2. The Second MOU.....	47
3.1.3.3. The Third MOU.....	48
3.2. Weapons Procurement	49
3.2.1. Emergency Drawdowns	49
3.2.2. Excess Defense Articles (EDA)	49
3.2.3. Emergency US Stockpile in Israel.....	49
3.2. Qualitative Military Edge (QME)	50
4. Intelligence cooperation	50
General Conclusion	57
Works Cited.....	60

General Introduction

The United States and Israel's ties have historical roots that date back to the early 1900s, long before Israel was formally established in 1948. At this time, the Zionist movement, which sought to establish a Jewish state in Palestine, attracted the attention of the United States. The American Jewish community as whole and prominent individuals are responsible for the early backing of Zionism in the country. Prominent American politicians and American-Jewish groups endorsed the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which said that Britain was in favor of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. The Zionist movement saw great success with this proclamation, and the support of well-known Americans was essential in giving the Zionist cause worldwide legitimacy.

American Jewish groups collected a substantial amount of money to encourage Jewish settlement in Palestine throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Organizations which provided funding and support for the Zionist cause, including the United Israel Appeal, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, made these efforts easier. During this time, American Jews made significant financial contributions that helped build agricultural communities, schools, and health facilities in Palestine, providing the foundation for the eventual state of Israel. During this time, vital support networks were formed, offering American Jews not just monetary help but also a feeling of community and common goals. Influential advocacy organizations like the Zionist Organization of America also rose to prominence in the US and were instrumental in pushing the Zionist agenda and influencing the US government to embrace it.

American public opinion and policy regarding the Jewish people and their yearning for a state were significantly impacted by the start of World War II and the Holocaust that followed. The crimes against Jews made clear how urgently a safe and secure Jewish homeland is needed. The realization that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust

sparked a wave of support for Zionism among both American Jews and non-Jews. The Holocaust proved how important it was to create a Jewish homeland where Jews might live in safety and security from persecution. During this time, American perceptions of the Zionist movement underwent a dramatic change, with a growing compassion and support for the creation of a Jewish homeland.

Justice Louis Brandeis of the Supreme Court was a well-known supporter of Zionism. His participation significantly increased the movement's popularity and backing in the US. Zionist presence in Palestine required the mobilization of both political and financial resources, which Brandeis's leadership made possible. He used his position of power to emphasize the moral and ethical requirements of creating a Jewish state, winning over many members of the American Jewish community and others. Other American Zionist leaders, including Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, supplemented Brandeis's efforts by playing significant roles in coordinating support and promoting the Zionist cause.

The United States became a major backer of Israel's formation by the end of the conflict. Significant internal and external challenges, such as resistance from the State Department and worries about ties with Arab governments, were confronted by President Harry S. Truman's administration. In spite of this, the United States was the first nation to recognize the newly established Jewish state because to Truman's dedication to the Zionist cause and the support of close advisers like David Niles and powerful American Zionists. A turning point in international relations was reached on May 14, 1948, when Truman recognized Israel. A mix of political forces, geopolitical reasons, and humanitarian concerns propelled his support for Israel. Truman's choice was motivated by both a geopolitical need to build a trustworthy partner in the unstable Middle East and a strong feeling of moral obligation in the wake of the Holocaust.

In her work "The Americanization of Zionism, 1897-1948," Naomi W. Cohen

carefully examines how American Zionist leaders and Jewish communities strategically modified Zionist principles to make them relevant in the American setting. Cohen's study goes into detail on the precise tactics used to gain more acceptance and support for Zionism, such as using American ideals and interests. Through her analysis of the complex interplay between ideology, identity, and activity, Cohen illuminates the significant influence that American Jews had on the Zionist cause and its acceptance in American culture. Her research provides a detailed knowledge of the pragmatic and ideological factors that supported the Americanization of Zionism at this pivotal time.

The theme selection stems from a desire to delve into the intricate dynamics of the longstanding alliance between the United States and Israel, particularly focusing on their collaboration during conflicts with Arab states. This research paper holds significant importance in analyzing the multifaceted implications of this relationship on the involved parties – the US, Israel, and the Arab states. It aims to address several pertinent questions, including: What is the origin of this alliance and how did the relationship between them evolve over the decades? How did the US wield its power to support Israel? Were there underlying motivations driving this support? What is the nature of the aid provided by the US? How does public opinion surround this alliance? To what extent did US presidents utilize their authority to bolster Israel? What is the broader impact of this relationship on the Palestinian cause and the Arab world at large? Through this investigation, a comprehensive understanding of the American-Israeli alliance and its ramifications is sought.

This dissertation is sectioned into three main chapters. The first chapter is concerned with the historical relationship between the USA and Israel; it is divided into three main parts. The first part discusses the origins of US-Israel relations, starting with the establishment of Israel in 1948 and the immediate recognition by the United States, which set the stage for a strong strategic alignment. The second part examines the evolution of this relationship during

different U.S. administrations. The last part explores the role of the US in Arab-Israeli conflicts, highlighting key events like the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War, including its efforts in facilitating peace agreements such as the 1978 Camp David Accords and the 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

The second chapter delves into the core of the research, exploring interconnected factors and reasons contributing to the strong relationship between the United States and Israel. It begins by discussing the impact of World War II and the Holocaust, highlighting how the atrocities committed against Jews underscored the need for a safe Jewish state, shaping American foreign policy in support of Israel. The analysis then shifts to the strategic alliance between the two nations in the Middle East, emphasizing Israel's role as a critical ally for the US, providing access to vital resources and ensuring safe USA interests in the region. Furthermore, the influence of American Christians, particularly evangelical groups, in shaping political support for Israel is examined, with many viewings support for Israel as a religious duty based on biblical prophecy, aligning theological perspectives with political support. Lastly, the impact of pro-Israel lobby groups, such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), on US policy towards Israel is scrutinized, highlighting their considerable influence on US politicians and advocacy for policies that strengthen the bilateral relationship.

The third chapter deals with the nuanced methods through which the United States supports Israel, revealing the extensive scope and significance of this support. The first section of the chapter delves into diplomatic backing, showcasing the US's consistent support for Israel in various international forums, particularly opposing resolutions and movements perceived as hostile to Israel, such as those in the United Nations General Assembly. Moving on to the second section, economic support emerges as a focal point. The substantial financial aid provided by the US to Israel has played a pivotal role in bolstering Israel's economy.

Transitioning to the third section, military aid, the United States provides significant financial assistance, enabling the maintenance of a highly advanced and capable military. Lastly, intelligence cooperation forms the fourth section, solidifying the partnership through collaborative efforts in intelligence sharing and security operations to ensure the safety of both nations.

The dissertation follows the evolution of the US-Israeli relationship, to investigate and address inquiries regarding this topic, three approaches were used. The historical approach which is used to examine the significant occurrences, strategic choices, and geopolitical forces over history. The descriptive approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. Also, the analytical approach which is essential to analyze data including charts, tables, and graphs.

Chapter One

Historical Background

Introduction

This chapter covers the historical trajectory of the United States' relationship with Israel, tracing its roots back to pivotal moments such as the 1948 Nakba. An extensive history of the Nakba is given in the first section of the chapter, this catastrophe which marked a turning point as the US formally acknowledged Israel as a sovereign state, laying the groundwork for the two countries' long-lasting relationship. The second section examines how US-Israeli ties have changed throughout time, highlighting various aspects of their cooperation, under several US administrations.

The final section of the chapter covers the complicated role that the US has had in Arab-Israeli conflicts, including the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and the Six-Day War of 1967. This is when the focus switches to exploring the US's strategic diplomacy, efforts, and peace endeavors in the region. From brokering peace agreements to mediating disputes, American involvement has been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of the Arab-Israeli conflicts, leaving a lasting imprint on the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East.

1. The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

1.1. The 1948 Nakba

In 1948, Palestine experienced displacement and expulsion as part of Plan Dalet, a Zionist military operation carried out during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The plan was conceived by David Ben-Gurion, the leader of the Jewish Agency and future Israeli prime minister; it was worked out by the Haganah and completed on March 10, 1948. The goal was to seize territory in Mandatory Palestine in order to prepare for the foundation of a Jewish state (Abu Hussein and McKay 342).

The events in Palestine in 1948 have different names. In Hebrew, it is called “Milhemet haa’tzmaout,” meaning the War of Independence. However, the Palestinians refer to it as “the Catastrophe” or “Al-Nakba” in Arabic. This name was given due to the systematic use of terror and infamous massacres, like the Deir Yasin massacre in April 1948. As a result, over 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes and transferred to camps for refugees in the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and surrounding nations (Abu-Lughod 161). Even today, Palestinians still bear the weight of these past events, as they have left lasting scars on both individual and societal memories.

1.2. The Conflict's Origin

The Jewish Zionist movement-initiated immigration and land purchase in Palestine as the first step toward establishing a Jewish homeland. During World War I in the Balfour Declaration, Britain promised to support Zionism (Abdi and Yuval-Davis 291). Following WWI and the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Palestine was occupied by Britain. Despite decades of Jewish immigration, Palestinian resistance intensified due to perceived biased British support for Israel (Wolfe 285). In 1936, Palestinians revolted against the occupations, leading to a three-year conflict that left them without political or military leadership. British authorities restricted Jewish migration, causing resentment among previous collaborators. In response, Zionist militias emerged, carrying out bombing attacks against both British forces and Palestinians (Gilmour 62).

In response to growing tensions, the British said in 1947 that they intended to terminate the mandate in Palestine. The United Nations then proposed dividing Palestine into Arab and Jewish states (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181). This led to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, with Zionists seizing major cities and hundreds of villages, forcing thousands of Palestinians into neighboring countries, aided by their heavy armament. On May 14, 1948, the US Declaration of the State of Israel took place with the end of the

British mandate (Farsakh 55-71). By April 1949, Israelis had seized more than 500 villages and 10 cities, leading to the expulsion of over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, with over 13,000 casualties (Khalidi 22-28).

1.3. US Recognition of Israel

1.3.1. US-Jewish Relations Origin

In 1939, Britain restricted Jewish migration to Palestine, leading Jews to seek support from the US President Franklin Roosevelt initially showed ambivalence, balancing relations with Saudi Arabia by promising to consult Arab states before endorsing a Jewish state, while also seeking Saudi support for Jewish immigration (Anderson 25). However, Harry S. Truman's presidency ended this ambivalence. Touched by the Holocaust's horrors, Truman sympathized with Jews, resulting in his support for establishing a Jewish state (Eban 340).

In 1946, the Anglo-American Committee suggested unrestricted Jewish migration. The partition plan was the result of Britain passing the UN the Palestine mission. On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly approved this proposal (Gass 680). Truman, despite fears of consequences, opted to recognize Israel, yet initial support didn't lead to immediate backing. It took decades and the context of Cold War dynamics for the US and Israel to become de facto allies. Throughout this period, the Middle East viewed the US as a buffer against European colonialism (Evensen 87). Truman's cautious recognition of Israel laid the groundwork for a multifaceted alliance influenced by prolonged conflict and Cold War circumstances.

1.3.2. The Recognition

The United States officially recognized the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, eleven minutes after the British Mandate in Palestine came to an end, resolving internal disputes within the administration (Fetter 963). This decision, led by President Truman, settled disagreements between Zionists and State Department officials who feared destabilization of

the region, Arab animosity, and Soviet influence in the Middle East (McKinzie 43). Truman's prompt recognition of Israel remains a subject of debate, with some arguing it was driven by a politically expedient desire to secure Jewish votes in the upcoming presidential election (McKinzie 115). The US's declaration opened the way for a "special relationship" with Israel that would change and deepen over the years.

2. Evolution of US-Israel Relations

2.1. Israel at a Distance (1948-1957)

During the early years of Israel, US support was not consistently aligned, as the Eisenhower administration feared a pro-Israel stance could push Arab nations toward the Soviet Union. This cautious approach led to strong opposition to the Suez Crisis of 1956, where Eisenhower criticized British, French, and Israeli actions, concerned that Israel was compromising US interests in the Middle East. To prevent worsening ties with Arab nations, the US threatened Israel with political disassociation, economic sanctions, and expulsion from the UN (Anziska 18). Supporting Israel may have been quite costly at the time for vital US national interests.

2.2. Skepticism (1957-1967)

During President Eisenhower's second term in the mid-1950s, the US aimed to form a regional alliance against the Soviet Union, initially involving Egypt. However, Egypt's close relationship with SU and its unwillingness to negotiate with Israel rendered this alliance unfeasible. Consequently, the US adjusted its strategy, abandoning attempts to appease Egypt and Syria by pressuring Israel (Botman 1-6). After Israel's military success in capturing the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt in 1956, the US saw Israel as a potential asset to counter Soviet influence in the region, and to support pro-Western countries like Jordan (Blackwill and Slocombe 5).

During the July 1958 Jordanian Crisis, prompted by the Iraqi revolution, King Hussein's regime faced a significant threat. To aid Jordan, the Eisenhower administration launched a joint American-British airlift on July 17, providing essential materials like petroleum. Israel played a pivotal role in facilitating this airlift by allowing it to pass through its airspace, highlighting its strategic significance in the region (Tal 59). This marked a notable shift in American perception of Israel as a strategic contributor to a stable international order. Although the US initially resisted arming Israel, President Kennedy's decision in 1962 to supply Hawk missiles signaled a shift in policy. This move not only closed the gap between perception and policy but also justified support for Israel on various grounds (Ben-Zvi 215).

2.3. American Ambivalence towards Israel (1967-1981)

Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War reinforced the perception of Israel as a reliable bulwark against global radicalism. In addition to subsequent events, such as the War of Attrition (1969–1970), Despite challenges, Israel's provision of captured Soviet equipment strengthened ties with the US (Spiegel, "American-Israeli Relationship"). The September 1970 crisis highlighted the potential of Israeli intervention in Jordan, saving King Hussein from a possible Syrian attack and further enhancing the strategic partnership (Spiegel, "American-Israeli Relationship"). All these events solidify the American-Israeli alliance without the need for further proof of its viability.

Post-1973 War, the Nixon administration shifted its stance on pressuring Israel for peace. Kissinger aimed to defuse the Arab-Israeli conflict by focusing on Egypt, leading to strained US-Israel relations due to territorial disputes. The subsequent American-Israeli Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) secured Israel's interests, maintaining tension but not fundamentally altering the special relationship during Carter's presidency (Kurtzer 42).

2.4. Extreme Tension in Relationships (1981-2001)

During the Reagan era (1981-1989), there was a shift between the traditional US-Israel special relationship and evolving dynamics. The 1982 Lebanon War and the first Intifada revealed inconsistencies in Israel's actions, causing a decline in moral and emotional support. Despite symbolic sanctions, Reagan upheld strong strategic ties with Israel, as both nations aimed to dismantle PLO strongholds, remove foreign forces from Lebanon, and establish a pro-Western government in Beirut (Cobban 8). During his administration (1989-1993), President Bush conditioned an unequivocal halt to Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem on \$10 billion in home loan guarantees. This strategy sought political concessions from Israel in the Palestinian context (Ben-Zvi 29).

The US, with its unchallenged dominance, was a major player in the Middle East peace process during the 1990s. President Bill Clinton supported initiatives like the Oslo Accords (1993, 1995), and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty 1994, and mediated in the face of challenges, prioritizing persuasion over pressure. Despite disagreements, Clinton maintained a supportive stance toward Israel as a reliable ally against radical forces (Barari, *The Middle East Peace by Peace* 63). The Camp David Conference in 2000 revealed a passive approach in response to Palestinian intransigence, highlighting Clinton's support for Israeli proposals despite Arafat's refusal to reciprocate concessions (Barari, *The Middle East Peace by Peace* 70). In this period, the US played the role of a peacemaker in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

2.5. Partnership (2001-today)

During President George W. Bush's second tenure (2001-2009), the aftermath of 9/11 strengthened the US-Israel partnership, portraying Israel as a victim state facing a common threat of international terrorism. The second Intifada and support from the Christian Evangelist community contributed to this perspective. Bush, openly backed Israel in military operations against Hezbollah (2006) and Hamas (2008), aligning diplomatic efforts with his

pro-Israel stance (Gilboa and Inbar 134). Obama declared his intention to curb terrorist groups and vehemently backed Israel's right to self-defense during the 2008 election. The US-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 was a big deal, it authorized joint actions and made Israel a major strategic partner. Obama's administration even provided military support and foreign aid to Israel (Jacobs).

Donald Trump definitely made some big moves when it came to US-Israel relations. By transferring the US Embassy to Jerusalem, acknowledging Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and pulling out of the Iran Nuclear Deal, he made good on his campaign promises. Along with stopping funding to the Palestinians, he also made UN actions that were encouraging. Plus, he encouraged peace talks between Israel and Arab nations in the area (Cavari 156). The current close relationship between the US and Israel affects the Middle East. Israel is dependent on the US for defense, financial assistance, and military hardware. In addition, the US views Israel as a trustworthy friend in the area.

3. America's Role in the Israeli-Arab Conflicts

3.1. The Six Day War 1967

After the Suez Crisis, Jamal Abdul Nasser emerged as a prominent figure in the Arab world, advocating for Arab peace and the rights of Palestinians. He warned that he would support war if Israel provoked it. On May 14, 1967, he dispatched Egyptian soldiers to Sinai and blocked Israeli ships' access to the Straits of Tiran in an effort to put pressure on the UN Emergency Force to withdraw (Spiegel, *Conflict Management*). The Israeli air force unexpectedly attacked the airfields of Syria and Egypt, two neighbors, early on June 5, 1967, and their air forces lay in ruins two hours later. Israel blamed Egyptian President Nasser's actions in a sequence of steps to justify its hostile assaults. The scope of the Israeli operation caused the Middle East's bloodshed to reach unprecedented and unsettling heights (Erum 15).

Israel had gained significant territory in less than six days when its forces ousted Jordan in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Syria in the Golan Heights, and Egypt in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula (Neff 196). Resolution 242, adopted by the UN on November 22, demanded that Israel leave the Occupied Territories in exchange for Arab states recognizing Israel's independence and ensuring its borders remained secure ("Resolution 242"). Israel's swift victory was facilitated by the active support of Western nations. The Johnson administration indirectly signaled approval for a preemptive strike, setting the stage for conflict. Johnson also endorsed retaining captured territory until Arab recognition and peace talks. This position was further reinforced by the interpretation of UN Resolution 242 as supporting a "land for peace" swap (Quandt 25).

The US backed Israel's preemptive strike against the UAR and provided crucial political support, ensuring Israel's military success without Soviet interference. Some perceive the US and Israel as orchestrating the crisis to destabilize the Arab world (Bar 240). While not directly engaged, the US diplomatically supported Israel, solidifying their strategic alliance. Israel's victory inflicted psychological and military blows on the Arab world, particularly Egypt, and strengthened US-Israel ties while enhancing Soviet influence in Arab states. The Arab-Israeli conflict entered a new phase as a result of this.

3.2. The 1973 Yom Kippur War

Due to ongoing conflict around the Suez Canal caused by the 1967 battle, Israel built the Bar-Lev defensive barrier in late 1968. On October 6, 1973, Egyptian forces attacked across the Suez Canal while Syrian forces targeted Israeli positions on the Golan Heights to reclaim lost territory. The Israeli Air Force intervened swiftly, but Egypt and Syria, supported by Soviet air defense systems, made significant gains by October 8 in both regions (Rabinovich 7). Israeli determination, coupled with Arab mistakes and US material support, gradually shifted the conflict's balance. On October 13, President Nixon gave permission for

Operation Nickel Grass, which would resupply Israel. It involved transporting large quantities of US weaponry, equipment, and combat aircraft to Israeli forces. This latter attained military superiority and transformed potential defeat into battlefield success (Van Creveld 48).

On October 22, 1973, to bring about a fair and durable peace in the Middle East, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 338, which demanded an immediate ceasefire and talks between the concerned parties. However, Israel was reluctant to end the fight (Schumer 44). By October 24, 1973, the crisis escalated globally as Egypt's Third Army was isolated by the Israeli Defense Forces. Moscow saw it as a setback for its Arab ally and considered military intervention. In turn, the US raised its defense readiness to DEFCON 3, raising concerns of nuclear conflict. The Soviets backed down to prevent escalation. Following this, the US advised Israel to adhere to the ceasefire. On October 26, 1973, the conflict came to an end, and Israel signed official cease-fire agreements with Syria on May 31, 1974, and Egypt on November 11 (Glassman 5).

The Yom Kippur War resulted in the deadliest military clash between Israel and its Arab neighbors, with approximately 53,500 casualties on all sides. In the aftermath, Washington endured severe economic repercussions, largely due to the Arab oil embargo imposed on the West on October 17, 1973 (Gutfeld and Vanetik 419). It also strained the US-Soviet détente as both superpowers supported their Middle Eastern allies: the US backing Israel and the SU supporting Egypt and Syria (Israeli 88-98). American assistance played a crucial role in Israel's survival, reinforcing the special relationship with Israel established in 1967.

3.3. Camp David Accords

Before the 1973 war, peace talks had stalled, but the conflict created momentum for progress. The Carter Administration, aware of the conflict's impact on global stability, especially amidst an Arab oil embargo, took a more proactive role in the peace process to ease

tensions and ensure oil flow. Secretary Kissinger assisted Egypt, Syria, and Israel in reaching disengagement agreements in 1974–1975, setting the stage for extensive talks that ultimately resulted in the Camp David Summit. The summit, which took place at Camp David from September 5–17, 1978, was a pivotal point in US and Arab-Israeli relations. Over the course of twelve days, President Carter and Secretary Vance met separately with the delegations from Egypt and Israel to promote peace, despite early obstacles, including issues with the trilateral structure (Kamel 294).

Sadat pursued peace with Israel despite opposition from Arab and communist allies, facing backlash for his 1977 visit to Jerusalem. Despite risks, he prioritized Egypt's interests, aiming to regain the Sinai Peninsula, boost the economy, and reduce Soviet influence. Jimmy Carter's presidency introduced a new negotiation approach involving Palestinians initially. However, with Menahem Begin leading Israel, these efforts stalled (Bani Salameh et al. 44). Carter overcame strong mutual antipathy between Begin and Sadat to conclude intense mediation.

The Camp David Accords produced two distinct agreements. The first, between Egypt and Israel, entailed Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, including settlements and bases, in exchange for Egypt signing a peace treaty and normalizing relations with Israel. This normalization involved exchanging ambassadors and opening borders. In addition, a multinational force would be stationed in the Sinai to demilitarize an important portion of the region and avoid further hostilities. The status of Gaza and the West Bank was the main topic of discussion in the second accord. Although Egypt and Israel's peace accord has been put into effect, not much has been done concerning Gaza and the West Bank (Telhami 34).

After Egypt signed its peace deal with Israel and the Camp David Accords, it was rejected by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and isolated from other Arab countries. This led to Egypt's expulsion from the Arab League and a lack of enthusiasm

among its people. The agreements continue to survive despite opposition and difficulties like the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the assassination of Sadat (Kamel 294). The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel has still been in effect after more than 40 years, and it has been a major source of stability in the unstable Middle East.

3.4. Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty of 1994

Jordan and other Arab countries invaded the newly formed state of Israel in 1948. This resulted in the 1949 Israeli-Jordanian Armistice Agreement and the creation of the West Bank, which is under Jordanian authority. Jordan attacked Israel along with Egypt and Syria during the 1967 Six-Day War, which led to Israel seizing the West Bank from Jordan, including East Jerusalem. Although not directly involved in the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Jordan also provided some support to Egypt and Syria, the main Arab belligerents in the conflict (Barari, *Jordan and Israel* 152). After 46 years of conflict the relationship between Israel and Jordan began to take a different direction.

The Camp David Accords, primarily aimed at peace between Egypt and Israel, set a precedent for Arab-Israeli diplomacy, showcasing the potential for peace through negotiation. Their success bolstered international support and momentum for ongoing peace efforts in the region (Kamel 294). The Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty of 1994 emerged from a confluence of factors, including shared goals for strategic cooperation, and regional stability. Economic considerations played a significant role, with promises of increased trade and investment through normalized relations. International pressure, particularly from the US and other major players, provided impetus for negotiations, in addition to the US's promises of economic support (Madhavanur 397).

The two nations' state of war was ended by the peace treaty, which also resolved their territorial and water disputes, encouraged trade and tourism, and forbade the use of their territories for military operations. The treaty granted Jordan access to Muslim holy sites in

Jerusalem and addressed concerns of refugees and displaced persons (Haddadin 380). Economic cooperation was encouraged, leading to opportunities for trade, investment, and joint projects, benefiting both nations. Furthermore, it helped restore cordial relations between Jordan and America, bolstering Jordan's diplomatic standing in the international community (AlMomani 16). Despite occasional tensions, including disagreements over key issues like Jerusalem and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Jordan and Israel have managed to maintain peaceful relations.

3.5. Abraham Accords

The Abraham Accords refer to the agreements that were made with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco during Trump's presidency. These historic peace accords were mediated in late 2020 to restore Israel's relations with some of Arab states. Because Abraham is the common patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the name "Abraham Accords" refers to the possibility of religious harmony amongst these three faiths (Singer 449). The "Abraham Accords Declaration" was signed in the White House on September 15, 2020, by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister of the UAE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, and Foreign Minister of Bahrain Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani (Singer 450).

The comprehensive peace treaty signed by Israel and the UAE, along with the declaration for friendly relations and normalization agreements with Bahrain, showcased a new era of diplomacy. The agreements signed in October 2020 paved the way for a promising normalization process, with the UAE signing seven accords and Bahrain signing four (Singer). On October 23, 2020, a few days later, Israel and Sudan decided to restore diplomatic ties. While no publicly available document was signed, a common declaration to terminate the state of belligerence between the two countries was made. Furthermore, a Joint Declaration announcing the establishment of complete diplomatic ties between Israel and

Morocco, encompassing several areas of normalization, was signed on December 22, 2020, by Israel, Morocco, and the US (Yossef 3).

Before the Abraham Accords, Israel was connected to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. However, it refrained from formalizing them due to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which stipulated that normalization should await a peace deal between the Palestinians and Israelis. Furthermore, the normalization is a symbolic reversal of the Arab League's "Three No's" resolutions from the 1967 Six-Day War (Singer 453). The process of normalization represents an important change from the previous positions of the Arab governments and a symbolic shift in the dynamics of regional relations.

3.5.1. The United Arab Emirates' Motivations

The Abraham Accords were signed by the UAE for some reasons. Firstly, Israel's intention to annex portions of the West Bank was to be stopped by the normalization deal (Zeidan). Secondly, The UAE considers the Abraham Accords pivotal for achieving several strategic objectives, including forging a stronger alliance against Iran. Additionally, it aims to leverage the Accords to counter the influence of extremist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood (Amble 9). The Abraham Accords demonstrate the UAE's commitment to enhancing economic ties, fostering scientific and technical cooperation, and asserting itself as a major global player. The UAE's involvement in the Accords was also driven by its desire to further its national interests through the development of regional leadership and the pursuit of an independent foreign policy strategy (Singer 455).

The Abraham Accords have been seen by some critics as an attempt by the UAE to influence the Trump administration and get advanced military equipment (Vakil and Quilliam 43). Following previous demands for such weapons, the United States informed Congress of plans to deliver the UAE twenty-eight sophisticated military drones and fifty stealth F-35 fighters for \$23 billion after the Accords were signed (Singer). The military equipment

deliveries underscore the wider geopolitical implications of these agreements, which have sparked a notable shift in the diplomatic ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates in recent years.

3.5.2. Bahrain's Motivations

In 2020, Israel and Bahrain formally established diplomatic relations, making Bahrain the fourth Arab country to recognize Israel. The deal was brokered by the US and signed in Manama, Bahrain's capital. The joint communiqué signed by Bahrain and Israel paved the way for full diplomatic relations, including the opening of embassies (Smith 8). Bahrain's decision to join the Abraham Accords differed from other participating countries, as it did not receive explicit promises of rewards from the US administration. Instead, Bahrain expected to benefit from enhanced security cooperation with Israel against the Iranian threat and economic opportunities through access to the Israeli market (Zalayati and Guzansky 2).

Following its participation in the Abraham Accords, Bahrain swiftly requested the classification of Saraya al-Mokhtar, a Bahraini Islamic opposition group, as a terrorist organization under American law (Singer). Despite Bahrain's small size, its strategic location, cooperation with the US, and close ties to Saudi Arabia make its relationship with Israel significant beyond bilateral cooperation (Zalayati and Guzansky). The connection between Bahrain and Israel, shaped by Bahrain's strategic location and partnerships, mirrors a wider regional importance.

3.5.3. Sudan's Motivations

At Sudan's independence in 1956, Israel sought to prevent a Sudanese-Egyptian alliance under Nasser, finding an ally in the Umma Party, which aimed to counter Nasser's influence in Sudan. In January 2021, Sudan became part of the Abraham Accords following a series of negotiations between Khartoum and Tel Aviv, facilitated by intense mediation efforts from the US and the UAE (El-Gizouli 2). Sudan's participation marks a significant

step towards democracy and state-building. By forging ties with Israel, it gains access to potential economic assistance and expertise, which can contribute to stabilizing its economy (Leiter). Additionally, the US removed Sudan from its list of nations that support terrorism, thereby lifting the economic and other restrictions that had been placed on the country for almost thirty years (Singer).

3.5.4. Morocco's Motivations

Morocco had a large Jewish population before Israel's independence in 1948, leading to deep historical ties. Under King Hassan II, Morocco maintained secretive ties with Israel, facilitating the emigration of Moroccan Jews to Israel (Kasraoui). The relationship with King Mohammed VI persisted as on December 22, 2020, the Israel-Morocco normalization agreement was signed, formalizing diplomatic ties and mutual recognition of statehood (Bergman). Morocco gained economic opportunities, increased security ties, and potential military technology benefits from the Abraham Accords. The agreement also facilitated the establishment of business councils and chambers to boost trade and investment between Morocco and Israel (Bayfield).

Furthermore, the US acknowledged Morocco's sovereignty over the whole Western Sahara, an area that the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations all dispute. As part of the official normalization accords, this recognition was added in the Morocco-Israel-United States Joint Declaration of December 22, 2020 (Singer). In general, the Abraham Accords provided Morocco with a range of diplomatic, economic, security, and cultural benefits, aligning with its national interests and enhancing its regional influence.

3.5.5. Israel's Motivations

The Abraham Accords were not explicitly focused on security concerns at the outset. Normalization was primarily viewed by Israel as a means of putting an end to its isolation from the area and creating opportunities for eventual regional integration (Vakil and Quilliam

15). Israel's participation primarily serves to bolster its global standing, promote economic interactions, and reinforce defense collaboration with the UAE and Bahrain (Rahman).

Netanyahu's approach to the Abraham Accords revolves around maintaining Israel's current territorial situation while minimizing the prominence of Palestinian concerns. By doing so, he can concentrate on cultivating economic ties with Arab nations. Additionally, Netanyahu seeks to confront the shared threat posed by Iran alongside Gulf states (Vakil and Quilliam).

Furthermore, the Abraham Accords present Israel with lucrative prospects in the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries, particularly in advanced defense and security sectors. This collaboration has the potential to counterbalance the diminishing US defense assistance and bolster Israel's defense industry (Vakil and Quilliam). Israel's interests in the Abraham Accords encompass territorial stability, economic growth, strategic alliances, and international recognition, all aimed at enhancing its security and prosperity in the region.

3.5.6. US Motivations

One significant diplomatic achievement of the Trump administration has been the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab states. This agreement not only addresses the decreasing US military presence in the region but also strategically undermines Iran's sway, while rallying support for US policies from pivotal allies (Norlen and Sinai 8). Trump's success in orchestrating these accords garners appreciation from specific segments of the American populace, including conservative Christian Evangelicals and certain American Jews with staunch pro-Israel sentiments. Additionally, the US's efforts to disrupt the Iranian nuclear deal align with its broader objective of reshaping power dynamics in the Middle East (Norlen and Sinai). These accords are an essential lifeline for the US's continued geopolitical and economic dominance in the Middle East.

3.5.7. Global Reactions to the Abraham Accords

The 2020 Abraham Accords represent a significant turning point in Middle Eastern and global affairs. It is important to note that the general public's perception of these agreements was largely favorable. This lack of opposition suggests that domestic concerns are now given precedence over the Palestinian cause. There is a shift away from the ideals of pan-Arab and pan-Islamic unity toward more domestic issues like social welfare, economic opportunity, education, and the rule of law (Sorkin 22). However, The Abraham Accords have received mixed reactions. While some view it as a significant step towards regional stability, others argue its impact is exaggerated. It marks the normalizing of Israel's relations with Arab states without addressing the Palestinian issue (Vakil and Quilliam 67).

Critics contend that the Accords have been detrimental to the Palestinian cause, arguing that they validate Israeli authority over the occupied territories while ignoring the conflict's deeper causes (Vakil and Quilliam). The Accords are seen by most Palestinians as an act of betrayal by Arab states. Palestinian discontent with the Abraham Accords stemmed from the perception that the agreements lacked meaningful incentives for Palestinians. Those who oppose contend that the Accords jeopardize the chances of a comprehensive peace deal by avoiding the Palestinian question (Rubenberg 64).

In summary, the Abraham Accords have significant implications, affecting not only the Palestinian-Israeli conflict but also the broader regional alignment system and US security interests, particularly regarding arms sales and efforts to counter Iran's influence. Unlike previous peace agreements with Israel, there was minimal public opposition to the Accords in the Arab world, indicating a shift towards prioritizing economic opportunities over pan-Arab unity. This trend suggests a growing emphasis on improving public services and governance rather than maintaining anti-Israel sentiments.

Conclusion

The US-Israeli relationship is based on shared principles, mutual strategic interests, American public opinion, and positive views of Israel held by American authorities. In the 1950s, strategic links were formally acknowledged and changed with each new administration. Israel views this connection as essential to its security, legitimacy, and historical Zionist goals. Israel's efforts to forge partnerships, grow its defense industry, and end Arab neighbors' economic boycotts demonstrate its dedication to both security and recognition. Israel is a focal point that promotes pride, identity, and security for American Jews. Strong ties were facilitated by the waves of immigrants to Israel, which included Jews from many locations and Holocaust survivors.

Israeli governments prioritize the US relationship over Arab neighbors or negotiations, emphasizing its paramount importance in foreign policy. Disagreements about how Israel should administer the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and Jerusalem, particularly on matters like settlements and Palestinian life, have coexisted with US participation in Arab-Israeli mediation throughout the past 40 years. Despite these difficulties, the American-Israeli relationship remains strong.

Chapter Two

Motives behind the US Support to Israel

Introduction

Chapter Two delves deeper into the persuasive factors that underlie the USA's steadfast backing of Israel. The Holocaust stands as a reminder of the profound suffering endured by the Jewish people, urging Americans to offer their support to Israel. Strategic interests in the Middle East represent another crucial foundation of American support for Israel. In a region characterized by complex geopolitical dynamics and shifting alliances, the Zionist state stands as a reliable ally aligned with US objectives of fostering stability and security in a volatile environment. Christian Zionism, based on religious passion and biblical prophecy, intensifies the US-Israel connection. This blend of belief and politics powerfully upholds US support for Israel as a realization of prophecy.

Furthermore, the pro-Israel lobby exerts significant influence in shaping US policy towards Israel, advocating for measures that promote Israel's interests and ensuring that support for the nation remains a fundamental aspect of American foreign policy. These interconnected factors form a web of reasons that illuminate the USA's deep and complex support for Israel, emphasizing their alliance's diverse aspects. Investigating Chapter Two unravels the layers of history, politics, and ideology that continue to shape this pivotal relationship on the global stage.

1. The Holocaust's Historical Impact

The historical persecution of Jews in Western Christian societies, especially evident during the Holocaust, underscores the longstanding oppression that necessitated the establishment of a secure homeland for them. Many now think that Israel should receive special consideration. Certainly, the establishment of the nation was a just response to the lengthy history of crimes against Jews, but it also resulted in new

atrocities against the Palestinians, a group of mostly innocent people (Mearsheimer and Walt). The US's special support for Israel and recognition of its establishment as a refuge for Jews has contributed to the suffering of Palestinians, including the loss of fundamental human rights and displacement of largely blameless people.

The Nazi anti-Semitism in Germany in the 20th century highlights the destructive nature of hatred and prejudice. Adolf Hitler's ascent to power in 1933 was a misremembered chapter in Jewish history. Hatred of the Jewish race was a daily habit among Germans, as anti-Semitism was a government policy. Germans demanded the extermination of Jews because they believed they were a lower race (Myers 68). That Nazi racial ideology depicted Jews as *Untermensch*, or "subhuman" (Berenbaum). The Germans so concluded with the "final solution" Plan. During World War II, from 1941 until the year 1945, the international community bore witness to an appalling genocide directed at the Jewish community. During the Holocaust, one of the most heinous genocides in recorded history, between 5.2 and 6 million Jews were murdered by Germany and its allies (Myers 68).

Mainline Protestants, influenced by Nazi persecution, viewed Jewish self-determination in Palestine as a moral and social justice problem. Reinhold Niebuhr advocated for Christian backing of Zionism based on compassionate, ethical, and moral considerations, setting up a contrast with Biblicist justifications. Post-World War II efforts, including a national symposium with Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, aimed to foster support for Jewish settlement in Palestine, despite historical anti-Semitism contributing to the Holocaust (Durbin, "Christian Zionism"). However, the Holocaust should not be used to justify 70 years of suffering for Palestinians. Historical events cannot excuse ongoing hardships. True justice requires addressing current issues rather than using past tragedies as justification.

2. US Strategic Interests in the Middle East

Mutual strategic interests and shared advantages have been used to characterize the special connection between the United States and Israel. Israel gained recognition as a strategic asset during the Cold War, acting as a check on Soviet influence and a buffer against extremist Arab nationalism. The United States of America's military support for Israel has prevented the emergence of significant interstate Arab-Israeli crises and helped Israel reach peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan (Pollak and Eisenstadt).

The US-Israel strategic accord focuses on a joint strategy for West Asia action, rather than defending Israeli security. In 1975, the US took over Israeli security and duties inherent to state sovereignty, formalizing a "Memorandum of Agreement" with Israel. The accord specified that the U.S. would rapidly convey information to Israel to determine support or aid in case of threats and risks to Israel's safety. Reflecting on the US's promise to support the Zionist state's endurance and the active strategic accord established in 1975, it is likely that the recent agreement aims to advance US and Israeli goals in West Asia (Muller et al.).

Subsequently, the 1979 Soviet incursion into Afghanistan and the Islamic Revolution in Iran against the Shah and Western interests shifted the geopolitical dynamics, elevating Israel's strategic importance from the perspective of the United States, ultimately leading to the establishment of a "strategic relationship." Notably, the US named Israel as its most important non-NATO ally during Ronald Reagan's second term of office, which ran from 1985 to 1989 ("How Israel Lobby Turns American Politicians Around Its Finger").

During President Reagan's presidency, he provided Israel with concrete support for his description of Israel as a "strategic asset". After negotiations, Reagan and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir announced a significantly enlarged US-Israeli partnership for political and strategic cooperation in 1983. This marked a departure from the Administration's previous year of coolness towards Israel (Mueller et al.). The US-Israel alliance grew from strategic

interests, with key agreements in 1975 and enhanced military collaboration during the Reagan era, highlighting Israel's increasingly pivotal strategic role for the US.

2.1. Importance of the Region

The Middle East's rich and diverse energy supplies give it great strategic value. 52.5% of the world's oil reserves and 44.6% of its natural gas reserves are thought to exist within the region (Zulfiqar 121). The US deems the Middle East essential because of its strategic location, abundance of energy resources, and proximity to Europe, Asia, and Africa. Seizing control would provide access to the region's oil reserves, making it a safe and easily accessible route. Since the Second World War, American presidents have highlighted the Middle East's geopolitical and economic significance (Tuna 85).

Ensuring the uninterrupted flow of oil has been a paramount objective for the US in the Middle East since the 1970s. This involves ensuring access for itself and maintaining a stable market for Japan and Europe. The countries bordering the Persian Gulf, renowned for their oil production, export amounts that far surpass what they use internally. In 2015, their contribution was for nearly 30% of global oil production. Within the initial six months of the year, the US procured roughly 21% of its imports from the region ("Monthly Energy Review October 2015"). About the aspect of supply, the majority of the increase in OPEC oil production is anticipated to originate predominantly from the Persian Gulf nations. According to current projections by the US government, these countries are expected to hold approximately seventy percent of the OPEC market share by 2040 ("Annual Energy Outlook 2013 with Projections to 2040").

Additionally, the Cold War era marked the strengthening of defense relations between the United States and the Middle East, with the US aiming to prevent other countries from undermining or controlling their interests in the area. Concerns arose regarding the Soviet Union's growing clout in the region, particularly following the year 1945. The United States

maintained its commitment to the Middle East's security, deploying military power to uphold its strategic objectives (Tuna 85).

2.2. Israel's Contribution to the US Strategic Interests

The active involvement of Israel considerably influences the strategic policy directions of the United States policy. Along with Palestine, Israel has supported the fight against extremist nationalist movements in Yemen, Lebanon, and Jordan. They have maintained control over Syria, which was a long-time ally of the Soviet Union. Their air force is the most powerful in the area. American arms have been tested on the battlefield by Israel's recurrent conflicts, frequently against Soviet weapons. They have served as a conduit for US weapons to governments and groups, including the Contras in Nicaragua, South Africa, Iran, and Guatemala, that are too unpopular in the US to receive official military assistance (Zunes). Israel's support to Jordan in the face of the PLO uprising and the Syrian intervention in 1970 solidified its strategic significance in the eyes of the Nixon administration. Moreover, the aftermath of the war in 1973 positioned Israel and the Arab countries as informal stand-ins for the United States and the Soviet Union, each corresponding to their ally (Koplow 266).

To obtain intelligence and carry out clandestine operations, the Mossad has collaborated with the CIA and other American agencies. Israel is expected to sustain its collaboration with the US defense industry in the field of research and development of new jet fighters, anti-missile defense systems, and even the Strategic Defence Initiative. Israel also possesses missiles that can reach the former Soviet Union. "It's like Israel has become just another federal agency, one that's convenient to use when you want something done quietly," remarked an Israeli pundit during the Iran-Contra controversy (Zunes).

The current strategic alliance includes most of the Israelis' 1981 requests, including minimum intelligence exchange, combined aircraft and naval maneuvers, and strategic collaboration in the eastern Mediterranean. The most recent agreement calls for joint exercises

without specifics, including land, sea, and air services. The US was unprepared for a joint land exercise in 1981 but made such a promise in 1983. Additional concessions include prepositioning medical facilities in Israel and storing US military supplies there (Mueller et al.).

During the Cold War, Israel's actions included the illicit procurement of Soviet radar systems in Egypt in 1969, following a request from President Nixon to stop Syria's invasion of Jordan, and its provision of technical intelligence on Soviet weaponry systems. Israeli counterproliferation initiatives, such as the 1981 bombing of the Iraqi nuclear plant, have played a significant role in favor of US interests. The 2007 attack on the Syrian reactor supplied by North Korea halted Bashar al-Asad's nuclear weapon progress and North Korea's proliferation move. Israel's decisions to exercise restraint, even when conflicting with its national interests, have greatly benefited America (Blackwill and Slocombe).

2.3.US-Israel Security Collaboration in the Middle East

USA and Israel collaborate on various security challenges, including intelligence sharing, missile defense, military collaboration, defense-industrial cooperation, and domestic security. Their intelligence cooperation, dating back to the 1950s, is a cornerstone of their partnership. Israel's intelligence is a primary source of information on IS, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah's operations, and Iran's nuclear program. As US intelligence focuses on China, Russia, and North Korea, it will increasingly rely on partners such as Israel to handle risks, supplement capabilities, and keep a vigilant watch over the dynamics in the Middle East (Pollock and Eisenstadt). In addition, within these collaborations, Washington assists Israel in upholding its "Qualitative Military Edge." This involves enacting laws to ensure Israel's superiority over any conventional military challenge posed by individual states, potential coalitions of states, or non-state actors (Opall-Rome).

Israeli technology is increasingly being sought by US military and homeland security agencies for assistance with technical issues. This includes purchasing tactical radar systems, training on behavioral screening methods for airport security, and developing unmanned aircraft systems for combat and intelligence gathering. Israel has exchanged technological advancements, operational doctrines, and expertise in unmanned aerial systems (UAS) with the US military, and is recognized as a global leader in armored vehicle defense against short-range rocket threats. Also, it has shared robotics technology and techniques with the United States (Blackwill and Slocombe).

The armed forces of the US and Israel have been engaged in joint operations for decades, focusing on counterterrorism, military lessons learned, and UAS use. Israel was the first to successfully free hostages from a hijacked aircraft in 1972 and invented strategies used by counterterrorism forces in the US and its allies. The Israeli military is also incorporating robotic systems into its force structure, manufacturing them for use in water and land. Israeli robotic devices, such as the EZRaider HD4 off-road vehicle and Micro Tactical Ground Robot, are being evaluated by the US military (Pollack and Eisenstadt). That is to say, the United States of America and Israel maintain a strong security partnership, with a particular emphasis on Israel's significant contributions to technology development, especially in the framework of Middle Eastern affairs.

3. Religious Motivations of Christian Zionism

The central doctrine of Christian Zionism is rooted in the evangelical doctrine that God's plan for human salvation includes the Jews' return to Israel. Its beginnings are generally attributed to Great Britain in the middle of the 19th century when there was a belief that by establishing ties with Jews "who were seen as a tangible link to the ancient biblical past" Britain could fulfill its biblical destiny (Lewis). Expanding on this, Christian Zionism is the Christian backing for Zionism, which is the movement for the Jewish people's return to

Israel, their scriptural homeland. Some Christians hold that a biblical prophecy demands that the Jews return to Israel before Jesus returns to Earth as its king. These Christians draw inspiration from the scriptural texts and foretelling, there is also an inclination to provide support to a political ally, Christians are also driven to support Israel, by their desire to repay the debt of gratitude to the Jewish people for providing Christ and the other fundamentals of their faith (Krusch).

Stephen Spector describes it as Christians who support Israel as the Jewish homeland, driven by their faith and other convictions, emotions, and experiences. Moreover, political action aimed at promoting or preserving Jewish control over Israel and Palestine (Smith). Faydra Shapiro, a religious scholar, explains it as a specific focus within evangelicalism that attributes significant theological and eschatological significance to the Jews residing in Israel. Christian Zionists believe that Zionism and a Jewish focus are natural outgrowths of their devotion to God and His Word. They believe that God has promised to restore the Jews to their land and assigned them a unique function and position in an eternal covenant (Durbin, “Christian Zionism”). The endorsement of Zionism by adherents of Christian Zionism may inadvertently neglect the entitlements of Palestinians, and escalate tensions in the region, potentially side-lining broader humanitarian efforts.

3.1. Theological Perspective

Smith traces the origins of “Judeo-centric prophecy interpretation” to Puritanism in the 17th century and the belief that Jews would eventually be allies against the Turko-Catholic Antichrist (Smith 70). John Nelson Darby's premillennial dispensationalism doctrine, which stresses the essential part that Jews must play in the process of redemption, is commonly linked to Christian Zionism. Those with dispensationalist views crafted the belief that the Jewish community brings God's biblical visions to life on earth, and Jews become living

testaments to the Bible, mirroring both its heavenly author's message and thoughts (Dulin 609).

3.1.1. Biblical Support

The imperative of backing Israel and bestowing positive intentions upon it is a deeply held belief shared by tens of thousands of churches, and Genesis 12:3, in which God promises Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you and in you, all the families of the earth will be blessed," is the passage that is most often referred to as their scriptural mandate (Hedding). This passage serves as a theoretical foundation for modern Christian Zionism, which is based on the stark division between Israel and the church that dispensationalism embodies. It is seen as the eternal voice of God, assuring that those who bless the state of Israel, individual Jews, or both in various ways, will also be blessed in like (Durbin, "Christian Zionism"). Additionally, Protestant Christians' endeavors to reformulate Christianity with a pronounced Jewish character by assimilating Jewish customs, speech, and symbolism are intimately linked to Christian Zionism as well as the Hebrew Roots Movement (Billing and Elazar 443).

Moreover, In the US, Christian Zionists link that scripture with the country's political objectives and prospects, considering backing Israel as a responsibility of America under its identity as a 'Christian nation', and essential for the country's ongoing success, drawing on themes of Christian nationalism and American exceptionalism (Durbin, "Christian Zionism"). Christian Zionists, who also like to be referred to as "biblical Zionists," are ready to promote the political, material, emotional, and spiritual growth of those whom they believe to be God's people in God's territory in the nation-state of Israel. In religious and biblical language, these acts on behalf of Israel's Jewish citizens are (Shapiro 616) interpreted as "comforting" Israel (Isaiah 40:1), "blessing" her (Genesis 12:3), protecting her as a "watchman. On the walls" (Isaiah 62:6), "standing in the gap" on her behalf (Ezekiel 22:30).

Furthermore, In the Old Testament book of Joel 3:2, Joel states: "I will gather all nations and bring them to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There, I will plead with them on behalf of my people, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and divided my land." That passage suggests that any nation that attempts to split the land of Israel will face God's judgment, which means that even the United States of America will face that judgment if it does not support Israel and try to split it (Durbin, "I am an Israeli" 343). These passages from Genesis and Joel are interpreted by Christian Zionists as mandates to support and bless Israel, believing it brings divine favor, while warning of judgment for those who oppose or divide its land.

3.1.2. The Role of Israel in “End-Times Prophecy”

Evangelicals anticipate Christ's return, the "rapture," and the subsequent Tribulation, led by the Antichrist, who will punish those who remain until Christ returns in glory and the forces of evil are vanquished. Israel is central to this end-times theory, as it will be the "vortex" of catastrophic events. This belief is echoed by the creation of Israel in 1948 and its subsequent territorial gains from 22 Christian Old City. While Christian Zionism can be categorized as such, it differs from any Israeli government's vision for Israel. Many Jews are believed to have perished at the hands of the Antichrist in the Last Days, with those who survived becoming Christian converts (Durham 145).

In line with these beliefs, many Bible-adhering Christians insist that the messiah's arrival is contingent upon the Jews' completion of the Third Temple's structure and their reclamation of the whole biblical heritage, which includes Judea and Samaria, the areas in the West Bank (Spector 12). In addition to that, the book of Revelation in the New Testament portrays apocalyptic events in Israel, including the Battle of Armageddon, often interpreted as the final confrontation between good and evil (Grandchamp): “Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon” (Revelation 16:16, NIV).

3. Christian Zionist Actions

Activism by Christian Zionists in support of Israel manifests in various ways, including advocating to U.S. policymakers for specific policy or budget changes; large-scale travel or pilgrimages to Israel; educating other Christians about the significance of Israel; contributing substantial sums of money to Israeli charities; actively choosing to purchase Israeli goods (Shapiro 616); donating millions to fund the development of fresh settlements in Palestinian territories under occupation (MEE staff).

They have additionally offered social services to Jews in Israel (food banks, elderly assistance, military support); and participated in a variety of spiritual activities on behalf of Israel, such as intercession in prayer and spiritual warfare against malevolent supernatural forces. In general, Christian Zionists believe that they are standing with God when they convey warmth to those God esteems and foster fellowship with His elect in His sovereign land (Shapiro 616).

4. Pro-Israel Lobbying

The Israel lobby is an informal alliance of people and groups that actively seeks to influence US foreign policy in favor of Israel. The Lobby's unparalleled influence can be attributed to its diverse membership, as many Jewish Americans do not view Israel as a pressing concern. In a 2004 survey, Close to 36% of American Jews have expressed being "not very" or "not at all" emotionally invested in Israel. The lobby's actions align with the interest-group tradition that has long dominated American political life (Mearsheimer and Walt).

In democratic processes, the pro-Israel group is often seen as a major force in the strategy of coalitional log rolling. This occurs when parochial groups join forces to gain control over national policies, pooling their power to serve a common concentrated interest.

Once they achieve policy control, the coalition embarks on a process of mythmaking and utilizes the state's credibility to advance its agenda (Snyder 19).

Furthermore, from a terminological standpoint, it's not entirely accurate because not all Jews agree with the lobby's actions, particularly if it's characterized as Backing Israel's leadership. AIPAC, a central figure in the Israel advocacy arena, often meets with opposition from the Jewish community in America, as well as other pro-Israel organizations such as J Street (Guerlain 372). Because of a firm conviction that Jews were a religious group only and not a nation, so numerous American Jews had opposed Zionism (Rossinow). It is important to remember that not all Jews are in favor of the official Israel lobby and that many of them are Christians. In actuality, there are proportionately more Christian evangelicals than Jews in this lobby. Although some Christian fundamentalists have strategic alliances with Israel, they harbor anti-Semitic sentiments rooted in their religious beliefs (Guerlain 372).

In addition, Notable Christian evangelicals such as Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Dick Arme, and Tom DeLay (former majority leaders in the House of Representatives) are also involved in the lobby. These so-called "Christian Zionists" back Israel's expansionist goals, feel that pressure on Israel is against God's plan, and see Israel's revival as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy (Mearsheimer and Walt). The "Jewish lobby" refers to a broad array of advocates, both Jewish and Christian, who support pro-Israel policies in the US.

4.1. Jewish Lobbying and its Impact on the US Government

Mearsheimer and Walt report that, AIPAC is the most influential and well-known of the several groups that Jewish Americans have founded to influence US foreign policy. Members of Congress and their staffs were invited to compile a list of the most potent lobbyists in Washington in 1997 by Fortune magazine. The American Association of Retired People (AARP) placed first, but AIPAC was ranked ahead of powerful lobbying groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the AFL-CIO.

AIPAC and other pro-Israel groups are heavily funding Democratic Party candidates to support those with anti-left positions, according to federal election filings. Sheldon Adelson, a billionaire, has spent millions on endorsed Republican politicians, while Israeli-American businessman Haim Saban has contributed significantly to the party's front-runners, advocating for unwavering support of Israel (Harb). The backing from pro-Israeli political action committees (PACs) holds significance due to their ability to raise substantial funds, their adeptness in directing these resources to crucial electoral contests, and the costly nature of privately financing congressional elections (Lipson 128-146).

AIPAC, an advocacy group for Israel, has significant financial influence due to significant Jewish voter turnover. It ensures that its supported candidate receives the majority of Jewish votes and contributes significantly to campaigns from both gatherings. The Washington Post reports that Democratic candidates for president rely on their Jewish followers for up to 60% of the entire sum. The lobbying group's influence within Congress comes from Christian participation, Jewish senators, and Congressmen who are passionate about promoting policies that benefit Israel (Fida). Pro-Israel groups like AIPAC influence US politics through campaign contributions and by garnering support from both Jewish voters and pro-Israel Christian and Jewish Congress members.

Furthermore, it's clear that electoral concerns influence politicians' considerations regarding Israel. Because the president is elected through the electoral college system rather than by popular vote, specific constituencies and interest groups in key states hold significant sway. This argument suggests a direct correlation: with reports indicating that around 90 percent of eligible Jewish voters participate in presidential elections (Ball and Ball 207). Politicians make concerted efforts to appeal to these voters by pledging unwavering backing for the Jewish state. This is particularly evident among Democrats, given that Jews constitute

a substantial portion of the Democratic Party's support base, primarily residing in states that typically vote Democratic (Forman 153).

Remarkably, from the era of Franklin D. Roosevelt up to Barack Obama's victory in 2008, there exists only one instance in which a Democratic candidate secured the presidency without obtaining at least 78 percent of the Jewish vote. This exceptional case occurred during the 1976 election when Jimmy Carter received 64 percent of the Jewish vote (Krieger 2).

Been approximated that around half of the Democratic National Committee's funding is contributed by Jewish donors (Fleshler 37) This reinforces the firm pro-Israel position taken by Democratic presidential candidates and The Democratic Party, in general, is involved. Republican leaders are also pushed by voters to stand with Israel, especially because of the influence of conservative Christian groups. White evangelicals, representing 23% of the voter base in 2000 and 2004, strongly supported President Bush with 68% voting for him initially and 78% in the following election ("Religion and the Presidential Vote").

More than a quarter of the United States population comprises Evangelicals, and for many among them, offering robust backing to Israel ranks as one of the foremost concerns. According, to a 2003 survey by the Pew Center, there was a notable tilt in favor of Israel over the Palestinians among Evangelicals, with the ratio of support standing at nine to one. Additionally, it was found that 63% of Evangelicals considered the unfolding events in Israel to be the realization of biblical prophecies about the second coming ("American Evangelicals and Israel").

Conclusion

The enduring strength of the partnership between the US and the Zionist state can be attributed to a diverse range of aspects. such as similar interests, mutual support, and shared history. Their strategic partnership in the Middle East, where stability is crucial, lies at the heart of this relationship. Israel is America's loyal friend, working closely with it on important

matters like security and intelligence, which strengthens the connection between them. Besides, there are gains to both countries from their alliance. Israel's role in bolstering the United States' position in the Middle East is seen as indispensable within their cooperative efforts to protect each other's safety and security via intelligence exchange and combined military actions. Furthermore, America's support for the Zionist state is reinforced by the alignment of goals and enemies, strengthening their bond.

Other important aspects support the relationship between the United States and Israel in addition to strategic concerns. Their relationship takes on a religious component due to Christian Zionism, the view held by certain American Christians that Israel is crucial to the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. These religious beliefs have influenced a considerable portion of the American population, resulting in widespread support for Israel. Likewise, the perspectives of America on Israel are profoundly influenced by prominent advocacy groups for Israel within the United States. These entities play a significant role in shaping discussions and formulating policy choices by advocating and lobbying to ensure that support for Israel continues to be a pillar of US foreign policy. That alliance between the two nations strengthens their bond, allowing them to take advantage of global opportunities and overcome obstacles together. Arab nations can also achieve global success through unity and cooperation.

Chapter Three

Methods of Support

Introduction

Chapter Three discusses how the US's persistent support for Israel is put into practice, it highlights the strategies that the US uses to improve Israel's security and well-being. These strategies include diplomatic advocacy, economic support, military aid, and intelligence cooperation. Diplomatic assistance promotes Israel's interests around the world. Through diplomatic channels, the US protects Israel from isolation and backs its views in international forums. Economic support is also important. Through trade agreements, investment programs, and financial help, the US supports Israel's economic development and resiliency. This encourages prosperity and makes Israel stronger against outside pressure.

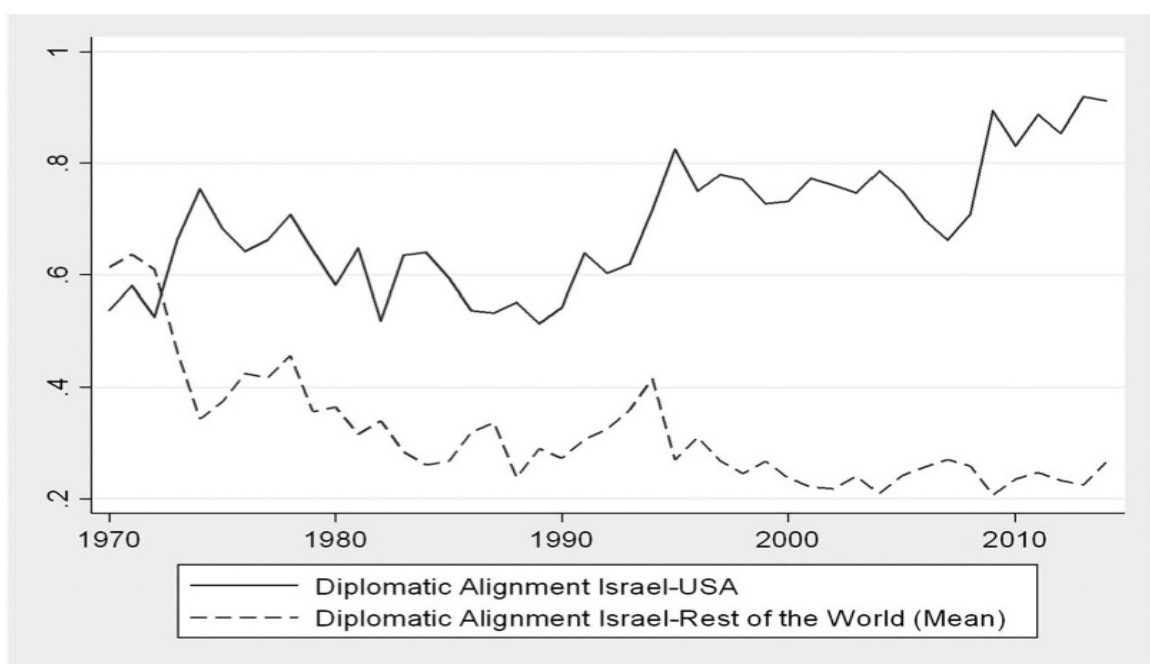
A key component of the robust partnership between the US and the Zionist state is military support. In order to ensure military dominance and repel shared threats, the US supports Israel's defense capabilities and strategic position in the Middle East via significant military assistance packages and cooperative training exercises. Additionally, the intelligence collaborations between the US and Israel, supported by shared AI tools from US companies, improve security. This allows for the smooth sharing of information, advanced integration of AI into operations, and quick responses to changing threats.

1. Diplomatic Support

The US has provided significant diplomatic support to Israel, being the first to recognize it as a state in 1948. Key diplomatic efforts include endorsing UN Resolution 242 in 1967, the Camp David Accords in 1978, and designating Israel as a "major non-NATO ally" in 1987. American diplomacy has been pivotal in peace talks such as the Oslo Accords, the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty, and more recent initiatives like Trump's Abraham Accords and Biden's efforts to foster Israeli-Saudi relations (Hammad). Furthermore, the United

States was the first to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017 and moved its embassy there from Tel Aviv in 2018. As of 2021, it remains the only permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to have recognized the Golan Heights as a non-occupied Israeli sovereign territory (Mamchii). Through these actions, it becomes clear that the US holds a strong diplomatic position in supporting Israel, highlighting its unique stance.

Figure 01: Diplomatic position of Israel at the United Nations, 1970-2014.



The figure shows that Israel's diplomatic alignment with the US increased over this period, while its alignment with the rest of the world decreased. This suggests a growing closeness between Israel and the US, contrasted by a distancing from the global community. Possible reasons include the increasing importance of America as an ally, providing military and financial support and using its veto power to protect Israel at the UN, as well as the impact of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which may have driven Israel closer to the US due to criticism from other countries.

1.1. The American Veto in the UNSC

As of December 18, 2023, the US had vetoed 45 resolutions that were critical of Israel, more than any other member of the UN Security Council. This makes up just over fifty percent of the eighteen vetoes it has issued since 1945. 33 of these vetoes dealt with Israel's treatment of Palestinians or its occupation of Palestinian territory (Okhovat). The first veto in support of Israel occurred in September 1972, concerning Israel's actions in Lebanon. The United States supported Israel 21 times between 1982 and 1990 by utilizing its veto power, primarily in response to condemnation of Israel's aggressiveness in Lebanon and its occupation of Palestinian areas. Since 2001, it has vetoed resolutions in support of Israel 14 times (O'Dell).

1.2. Israel's Membership in International Organizations

Israel and the US are members of various international organizations, including the United Nations, OECD, IMF, World Bank, and WTO. Additionally, Israel participates as a Partner for Cooperation with the OSCE and is an observer of the OAS. Within these bodies, the US actively supports Israel, opposing attempts to single it out for condemnation, especially in forums like the UN General Assembly ("U.S. Relations With Israel"). Moreover, the US consistently opposes movements perceived as hostile to Israel, such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, advocating against them both domestically and internationally (Mansoor). These efforts collectively highlight the strong diplomatic support America provides to Israel.

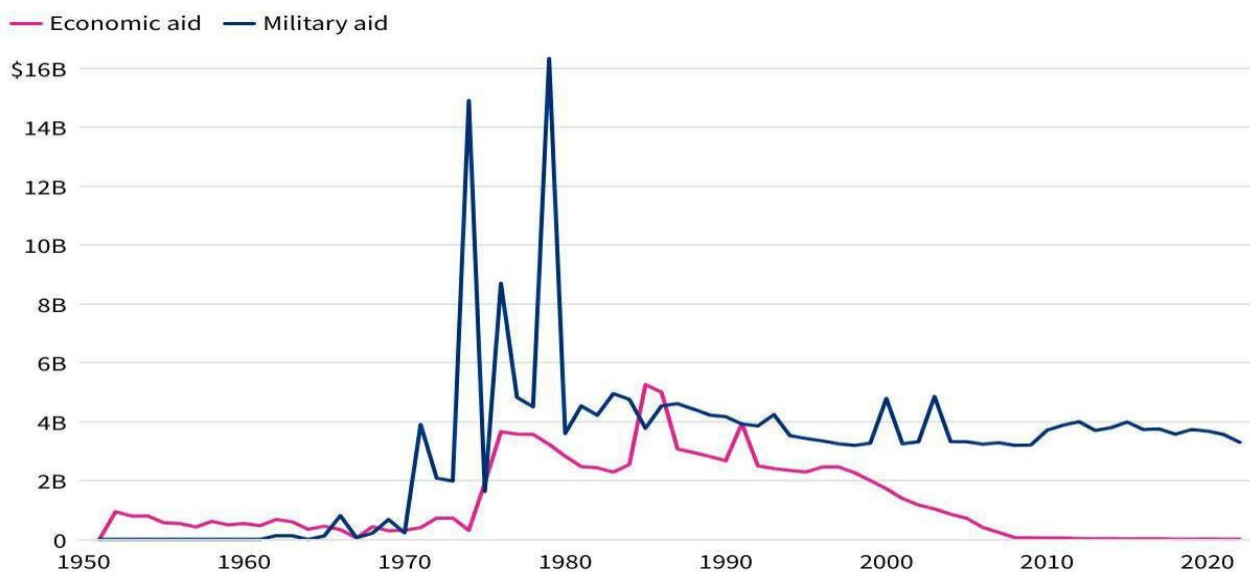
2. Economic Aid

The economic aid provided by the United States to Israel has played a crucial role in supporting its struggling economy over the years. Initially initiated in 1951, this financial support gradually decreased and shifted to the military over time. Israel's economic growth was fueled by its expanding technology sector and strong military industry (Munayyer).

During the crisis, specifically the hyperinflation crisis and debt crisis of the early 1980s, Israel's treasury received assistance from the United States to alleviate its financial burden. For instance, to address the country's inflation and economic difficulties, Congress approved a special economic aid package of \$1.5 billion in 1985, marking a significant increase in US funding for Israel (Sharp).

Most of the current US's expenditure is directed towards Israel's advanced military capabilities, which are prominent in the region. Through a memorandum of agreement, the US has committed to providing approximately \$4 billion annually to Israel until 2028. Additionally, American officials are currently considering further financial assistance for Israel during its ongoing conflict with Hamas (Masters and Merrow).

Figure 02: US foreign assistance obligations to Israel by type, 1951-2020.



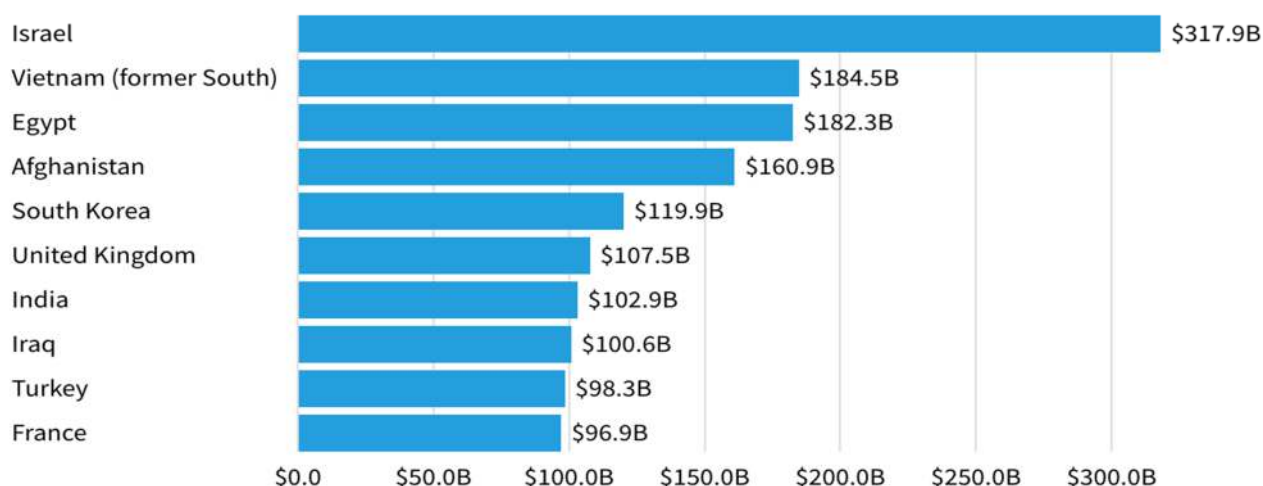
The graph illustrates US foreign assistance obligations to Israel by type from 1950 to 2020. It shows that while economic aid to Israel has significantly declined, military aid has remained relatively high. The data, adjusted for inflation in 2020 dollars, indicates that economic aid (represented in pink) peaked around the late 1970s and early 1980s but has steadily decreased since then, nearing zero in recent years.

US economic assistance to Israel has totaled \$92.7 billion between 1951 and 2022 (adjusted for inflation), representing approximately 29% of all aid received by the nation, but it diminished in the 21st century (“How Much Aid Does the US Give to Israel?”). In terms of Israel's economic growth, the significance of American aid, which accounted for approximately 1.2% of Israel's GDP in 2013, has consistently remained below 2% of GDP since 2004. However, due to US fiscal constraints, a slight decline is expected (Coren and Feldman).

The Yom Kippur War over 12 years ago triggered discussions about the level and nature of US support to Israel. Before this war, Israel ranked 24th among the countries receiving US foreign aid since World War II (Raj 459), but after World War II it has surpassed all Western European nations that received Marshall Plan aid, as well as South Korea and Japan (Raj 459), and currently it is the leading recipient of US foreign assistance (Kenney-Shawa). Furthermore, the United States has also provided significant foreign aid to other Middle Eastern countries, particularly Egypt and Iraq (Masters and Merrow).

The figure number three displays the total US foreign aid distributed by country, adjusted for inflation spanning from 1946 to 2022. Israel leads as the top recipient with \$317.9 billion, trailed by Vietnam (former South) with \$184.5 billion, and Egypt with \$182.3 billion. Additionally, noteworthy recipients encompass Afghanistan, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

Figure 03: Total US foreign assistance by country, adjusted for inflation, 1946-2022



Alternatively, in the early 2000s, specifically around 2003, Israel requested \$8–10 billion in loan guarantees and \$4 billion in further direct support from the Bush administration to address the expenses of an American-led war in Iraq and an economic crisis caused by the intifada ("U.S. Aid to Israel"). The United States also pledged a \$10 billion loan to Israel and consistently deferred payments for outstanding debts, in addition to providing military and economic assistance ("Controversy of US Aid to Israel").

Starting in 1949 and primarily in the form of economic aid (95%), US financial support to Israel continued until 1965, with aid to Israel averaging approximately US\$63 million. In 1971, the focus of assistance shifted from concentrated programs like agricultural development to the Commodity Import Program (CIP), which authorized purchases of U.S. products ("Controversy of US Aid to Israel"). With a total (two-way) goods commerce of \$34.5 billion in 2017, Israel is currently the 24th-largest goods trading partner of the United States. \$12.6 billion was exported, and \$21.9 billion was imported in terms of commodities. The value of services exchanged (both imports and exports) with Israel was expected to reach \$13.2 billion in 2017. \$5.9 billion was exported, and \$7.4 billion was imported in the services sector ("Israel Free Trade Agreement").

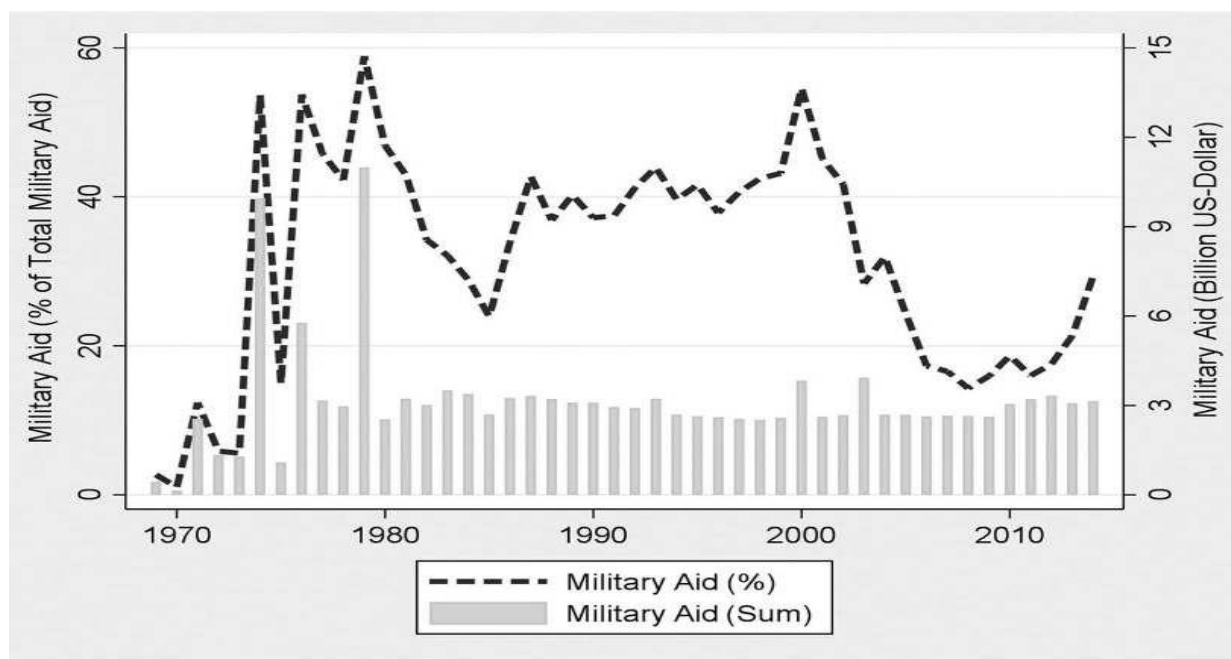
When the United States first provided support to Israel in 1949, it was used for purposes such as procuring food and accommodating Jewish refugees (Coren and Feldman). Since 1990, when Israel proposed that the US government provide \$10 billion in loan guarantees over five years to support the housing, infrastructure, and employment needed to settle an estimated one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel, loan guarantees have been a standard part of U.S. aid to Israel ("Controversy of US Aid to Israel"). The United States donated approximately \$460 million for the resettlement of Jewish refugees in Israel between 1973 and 1991. The annual amounts have varied between \$12 million and

\$80 million, largely based on the number of Jews immigrating to Israel from the former Soviet Union and other locations (Sharp 10).

3. Military Aid

Israel and the United States created a strong partnership since the country's founding in 1948, supported by helpful Congress and succeeding administrations that have continuously contributed significant resources. Israel has depended heavily on military support over the years, which highlights the enduring commitment of the US to protect Israel's security interests (Sandomir). The US began selling Israeli commercial arms in 1962, and it began providing significant aid in 1968. The substantial support, which exceeds \$141 billion in military aid (not adjusted for inflation), shows the strength of the partnership between the two countries. This assistance includes both bilateral aid and funding to Israel's missile defense programs, solidifying Israel's position as the country that has benefited most from US aid historically (Ali et al. 109). Initially modest, the military aid provided to Israel has grown into a vital aspect of its defense strategy.

Figure 04: US military support for Israel: 1970-2014.



The graph illustrating US military aid to Israel from 1970 to 2014 showcases notable fluctuations throughout the period. Initially, aid stood at a low around 2% in the early 1970s, but surged to approximately 60% in the late 1970s. By 2014, it had stabilized at around 25% of total US military aid. Concurrently, the total dollar amount of aid showed a steady increase, averaging approximately \$3 billion annually. Peaks, particularly in the 1970s, aligned with pivotal events like the Camp David Accords in 1979 with over 14\$ billion. The US viewed Israel as a special case in its foreign aid policy, providing substantial assistance during critical times such as the Six-Day War in the late 1960s and the 1973 War. Aid continued to escalate with Israel's actions in the occupied territories and post-9/11 efforts to combat terrorism.

3.1. Forms of Military Aids

The relationship between the United States and Israel is multifaceted, with military aid being a significant component. Financial assistance involves direct monetary support. Additionally, the US provides Israel with advanced weaponry and technology through weapons procurement programs, enabling Israel to maintain a strong military deterrent in the region. This support underscores the strategic alliance between the two nations and serves to bolster Israel's security amid regional challenges.

3.1.1. Financial Assistance

3.1.2. Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

With yearly increases of \$60 million, its grants to Israel account for roughly 23–25% of its overall defense budget, which is expected to reach \$2.4 billion by 2008. Unlike other beneficiaries, Israel's aid package permits it to spend a considerable percentage of its US military assistance for domestic procurement, beginning in 1977 to support the construction of the Merkava tank. Israel's defense industry has benefited greatly from this technique, which has allowed it to attain economies of scale and emerge as a major international arms exporter (Mark).

Israel was the greatest beneficiary of the American FMF in FY2015, taking in almost 55% of the total. These FMF grants, facilitated by the Arms Export Control Act, enable Israel to spend funds for current payments rather than holding them for longer-term purchases. Significant arms transactions with American defense contractors are made possible by this flexibility, and Congress has mandated the early distribution of FMF funds. The 2010 agreement, which was fully financed by FMF funding, for 19 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters demonstrates Israel's commitment to cutting-edge defense technology as well as close military cooperation (Sharp).

3.1.3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

3.1.3.1. The First MOU

Aiming to strengthen security assistance to Israel while slowly phasing out economic aid, the US and Israel signed their first 10-year Memorandum of Understanding on security cooperation near the end of the Clinton Administration in 1999. This agreement is known as the "Glide Path Agreement." The MOU called for an increase in US defense assistance to Israel from \$1.8 billion to \$2.4 billion yearly, with increases of \$60 million every year until the entire amount of \$21.3 billion was reached in 2008 ("Israel: External Affairs"). Ensuring a structured increase in support over the decade.

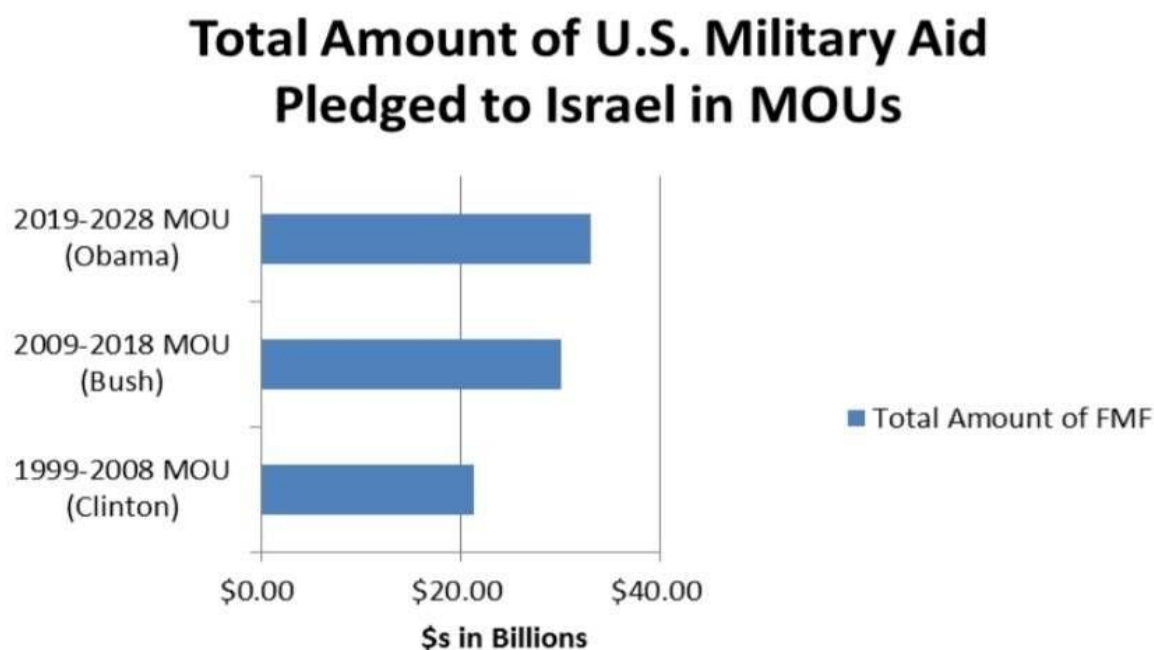
3.1.3.2. The Second MOU

A second MOU, signed in 2007, between the Bush Administration and Israel, provided \$30 billion in military aid from FY2009 to FY2018. With this agreement, US military aid to Israel grew by over 25%, amounting to an average of \$3 billion annually over the next ten years (beginning at \$2.55 billion in 2008 and increasing by \$150 million annually). Furthermore, Israel was permitted to utilize the Off-Shore Procurement (OSP) option to designate up to 26.3% of this aid for equipment manufactured in Israel ("Israeli PM Announces").

3.1.3.3. The Third MOU

During his visit to Israel in March of 2013, President Obama reiterated his commitment to multi-year military funding agreements. The US and Israeli governments subsequently inked their third 10-year MOU on military aid, covering FY2019 to FY2028, on September 14, 2016. In the event that Congress approves this historic deal, the US will provide Israel with \$38 billion in military aid. \$33 billion in FMF funding and an extra \$5 billion designated for missile defense programs are included in the aid package (Nagel). The new MOU marks a significant increase in American support, compared to the previous agreement.

Figure 05: US military aid to Israel over decades.



The chart depicts the progression of the US commitment to military aid for Israel through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), showing a steady increase over time. Beginning in 1999 with \$21 billion pledged over a decade, the aid rose to \$30 billion in 2009 and reached a minimum of \$38 billion by 2019. This escalation underscores the enduring strategic alignment and defense cooperation between the two nations.

3.2. Weapons Procurement

Approximately 75% of Israel's Foreign Military Financing is used to purchase weapons from the US government and private companies using funds approved by the American government. With this assistance, Israel is able to purchase cutting-edge military hardware, such as the F-35 Lightning, and make use of Cash Flow Financing for defense-related goods, services, and training through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) and Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) systems (Shefi and Tishler 17). Additionally, Israel accesses further US weapons through the following programs:

3.1.1. Emergency Drawdowns

The United States has often used drawdowns to give Israel essential military help since 1948. During times of crisis, these drawdowns allow the US to swiftly provide defense products and services to other nations from its current stockpiles. These supplies frequently involve the transfer of obsolete weapons at little or no cost to the recipient. Israel now has access to American weapons, such as bombs, small arms, and tank ammunition, thanks to this backing (Masters and Merrow).

3.1.2. Excess Defense Articles (EDA)

Through the surplus Defense Articles program, the US has sent Israel with \$6.6 billion worth of equipment since 1992, including simulators, weapons, and spare parts. Through this program, American allies receive contemporary, unused weaponry. Israel is allowed to receive EDA under certain acts overseen by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) since it was designated as a “major non-NATO ally” (“U.S. Security Cooperation with Israel”).

3.1.3. Emergency US Stockpile in Israel

Israel and the US forged a strategic collaboration in the early 1980s that made it possible for American weapons and equipment to be stored in Israeli facilities for deployment

in times of conflict. The War Reserves Stock Allies-Israel (WRS-A-I) program, which was overseen by the US European Command (EUCOM), was in charge of Israel's stocks of weapons, which included artillery, missiles, and armored vehicles. Although legally part of the US, Israel can ask for authorization to use certain technology in an emergency, as demonstrated by the conflict with Hezbollah in 2006 (Chappell and Harrison).

Thanks to laws like the US-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 and the Security Cooperation Act of 2010, the value of American weapons kept in Israel increased significantly from \$100 million to \$1.2 billion (Sharp). Israel benefits greatly from significant military assistance from the US, which strengthens its defenses. The principal goal of this support is to provide Israel with the weapons it needs to defend itself against its enemies.

3.2. Qualitative Military Edge (QME)

Given Israel's smaller size and population, the US gives it military aid in an effort to maintain its "qualitative military edge" (QME) over neighboring militaries. As part of this assistance, Israel will be given priority access to American defense technologies and will receive enhanced versions or platform changes as needed. By providing offset weapons packages, congressional interventions resolve Israel's worries about arms sales to Arab states (Even 131). Congress formalized these procedures throughout time, requiring evaluations of Israel's QME every four years and making sure that arms transfers to other Middle Eastern nations do not threaten it. A principle implemented in US legislation since 2008, the idea of QME emphasizes America's commitment to allowing Israel to confront and defeat genuine conventional military threats with minimal casualties and damage (Ahmed 6-7).

4. Intelligence Cooperation

A Strong Network of Connections Through the development and deployment of similar military hardware systems, sharing knowledge gained from previous combat deployments, and creating new concepts and collaborative exercises, the United States and

Israel have established an extensive web of military connections (Eran). Since fiscal year 2009, the US has provided Israel with \$3.4 billion for missile defense, including \$1.3 billion for Iron Dome support starting in fiscal year 2011. With FMF, Israel has access to some of the most advanced military equipment in the world, such as the F-35 Lightning, thanks to the United States ("U.S. Security Cooperation with Israel").

First in line is the Iron Dome system, developed by Israel with support from the United States and manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. It is a unique and effective mobile defense system capable of intercepting short-range missiles and 155 mm artillery shells at distances of up to 70 km in all weather conditions, including low clouds, rain, dust storms, and fog ("US-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation"). The Iron Dome system became operational in March 2011 after its construction began in 2007. It achieved its first operational interception of a Grad missile fired from the Gaza Strip into the Israeli city of Ashkelon shortly after, on April 7, 2011. Since then, various tests have been conducted to evaluate the capabilities of the Iron Dome, and the system has been successful in preventing multiple missile strikes on Israeli communities ("IMDO- Israel Missile Defense Organization"). Since its activation in the early 2010s, it has intercepted hundreds of missiles, many of which have been launched during the ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Hamas. According to Israel, its success rate exceeds 90% ("Israel's Multilayered Air-Defense System Protected It from Iran's Drone and Missile Strike").

Additionally, the United States and Israel are also working together to develop the David's Sling Weapon System (DSWS), which will provide the US Army and the State of Israel with cost-effective and efficient protection against intercepting medium-range missiles, such as those possessed by Hezbollah in Lebanon ("US-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation"). In 2006, development of the David's Sling system began. After a series of tests, it was certified operational in April 2017, following its delivery to the Israeli Air Force in 2016.

David's Sling was recognized for its groundbreaking contributions to Lower-Tier Ballistic Missiles and Cruise Missile Defense at the 2017 Multinational Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, with the Technology Pioneer Award ("IMDO-Israel Missile Defense Organization").

The Arrow system, developed in collaboration with the United States and other countries, is capable of intercepting long-range missiles, including ballistic missiles launched by Iran. Operating beyond the atmosphere, the Arrow has been deployed to intercept long-range missiles launched by Houthi militants in Yemen during the ongoing 2024 attack on Gaza ("Israel's Multilayered Air-Defense System Protected It from Iran's Drone and Missile Strike"). The Arrow 3 Upper Tier Capability needs to be developed more rapidly to counter Iran's evolving unconventional threat. Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing Company are working together on the development and production of the Arrow 3 ("US-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation"). The Israeli Air Force (IAF) received the operational Arrow-3 system from IMDO on January 18, 2017, and the system was honored with the Israel Defense Award that same year. In July 2019, IMDO and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) successfully demonstrated interceptions of high-altitude, Exo-atmospheric targets with the Arrow 3 missile system after completing a series of weapon system tests in Alaska ("IMDO-Israel Missile Defense Organization").

Due to their close relationship, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the US military share technologies and tactics that are extremely valuable to both countries ("U.S. Security Assistance to Israel"). This is because military academies, training facilities, joint exercises, and military industry units bring together thousands of Israeli and American personnel, creating a human connection (Eran). Cutting-edge technologies such as cyber defense, unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors, and electronic warfare systems, as well as advanced defenses for military vehicles, have all been developed in Israel. The innovative use of

American military equipment by the IDF, along with the knowledge transferred, has benefited the US military in enhancing its equipment and tactics ("U.S. Security Assistance to Israel").

According to a report from Local Call and +972 Magazine, Israel allegedly utilized an AI-driven database to pinpoint suspected Hamas and other people sites in Gaza. Trained by American and Israeli military data experts, the algorithm reportedly sifted through extensive surveillance and other data to locate potential targets for elimination (Tharoor). In addition, the magazine noted that the Israeli army systematically targeted locations, such as residences, where entire families were often present, typically during nighttime operations. The study claimed that thousands of Palestinians, primarily women, children, or non-combatant civilians, were killed by Israeli airstrikes, particularly in the early stages of the conflict, due to decisions made by the AI program (John).

Israeli military forces have been at the forefront of deploying advanced AI technologies, including lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) and semi-autonomous weapons (semi-LAWS). Remote-controlled quadcopters equipped with machine guns and missiles have been used to target individuals seeking refuge in tents, schools, hospitals, and residential areas ("AI in Israel's War on Gaza"). For instance, at least six MQ-9 drones, known as the Air Force's first "hunter-killer" drones, were reportedly involved in the conflict above the skies of Gaza. This extensive use of surveillance drones over Gaza suggests increased US involvement in the region. Although MQ-9 drones are primarily used by the United States for surveillance, they have also been deployed for airstrikes and intelligence gathering in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria (McBrien).

Furthermore, residents of the Nuseirat Refugee Camp in Gaza believe that some drones emit sounds of mothers and children crying to lure and target Palestinians. Israel has been establishing "automated kill-zones" along the Gaza border using "suicide drones," "automated Robo-Snipers," and AI-powered turrets. In 2021, the government introduced

“Jaguar” a semi-autonomous military robot promoted as “one of the first military robots capable of replacing soldiers on the frontlines” (“AI in Israel’s War on Gaza”).

Google and Amazon inked a \$1.2 billion deal in March 2021 to provide cloud computing services to the Israeli government and military through Project Nimbus. This initiative enables Israel to store, process, and analyze various types of data, including biometrics, facial recognition, emotion detection, and demographic information (Kwet). Furthermore, the Eitan System, operated by IBM for the Israeli Population, Immigration, and Border Authority (PIBA), stores and manages personal information collected by Israel on Palestinians and Syrians in occupied territories. This system integrates data from Israel’s national demographic database and checkpoints (Kwet). As reported by the New York Times, the Israeli military employs a wide-reaching facial recognition system in Gaza for mass surveillance, capturing and categorizing the faces of Palestinians without their consent. This system can identify faces in crowds and even in low-quality drone footage, utilizing technology from Israeli companies Corsight and Google Photos (“AI in Israel’s War on Gaza”). That is to say, concerns of consent and privacy are brought up by the vast surveillance equipment in occupied regions.

Another major US tech company, Microsoft, has provided cloud computing capabilities for the Israeli military’s “Almunasseq” program, which issues permits to Palestinians in the occupied territories. Previously, Microsoft held equity in AnyVision, a surveillance startup now known as Oosto, which offers real-time facial recognition services to Israeli authorities (Kwet). In addition to that, Unit 8200 is reportedly using a technology called “Lavender” to target thousands of alleged Hamas militants. Restrictions on non-combatant casualties prior to an attack were tightened, but they have since been relaxed, allowing for the possibility of killing numerous Palestinian civilians, including women and children, for each targeted individual (Bamford). The military preferred to use unguided

missiles, known as “dumb bombs,” which can cause significant damage when targeting suspected lower-level combatants (John).

Meanwhile, Israel and the United States have decided that a private American security firm specializing in supporting armies and governments involved in military conflicts worldwide will take charge of managing the Rafah crossing to prevent Hamas from reclaiming control of it (Kubovich). Israel views relinquishing authority over the Rafah crossing as a significant setback for Hamas. This move would prevent Hamas from importing firearms and other items into Gaza, as well as from collecting taxes on vehicles and goods (Kubovich).

What is more, the Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, in collaboration with the United States, engages in various efforts with Israel. This partnership aims to enhance the technological capabilities of the Next Generation First Responder Apex Program under the Science & Technology Directorate (“Israel & US”). In a simultaneous effort, the Israel Innovation Authority and the BIRD Foundation have established partnerships with various renowned health systems in America. Together, they provide crucial financial support to Israeli medical technology companies, aiding in the advancement, testing, and marketing of innovative products in the American market. Notably, Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Hartford HealthCare, and the Mayo Clinic are prominent among these healthcare institutions (Kram).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the relationship between the United States and Israel is deeply rooted in strategic, political, economic, and ideological factors. Over the decades, the US has consistently provided unwavering support to Israel, solidifying a robust alliance that transcends changes in leadership and geopolitical dynamics. This multifaceted support—

including military, economic, diplomatic, and cooperative dimensions—reflects the depth and complexity of their bilateral relationship.

Extensive military aid has not only bolstered Israel's security but also helped it build a domestic defense industry that ranks among the top global arms exporters. Shared democratic values and common security interests underpin this bond, further strengthened by economic ties and diplomatic collaboration. Despite facing criticism, particularly over its support of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the US maintains its stance, viewing its comprehensive support as crucial for regional stability and its own geopolitical interests.

General Conclusion

Since President Harry S. Truman's swift acknowledgment of Israel's sovereignty just eleven minutes after its inception in 1948, the US support for Israel has evolved into a multifaceted aspect of its Middle Eastern foreign policy. This enduring partnership has been shaped by a series of pivotal historical moments, strategic decisions, and regional dynamics. The Nakba, which represents the mass displacement of countless Palestinians following Israel's establishment, not only caused lasting tensions and conflicts but also served as a catalyst for American involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

As the first nation to officially recognize Israel's independence, the United States was motivated by a combination of domestic political backing and empathy towards the Jewish people, following the Holocaust. The early acknowledgment of Israel, amid the aftermath of the Nakba's turmoil, laid the groundwork for a close relationship between the two countries. Throughout history, the US has held a pivotal position in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Publicly, it has taken the lead in peace efforts, exemplified by initiatives like Camp David and the Abraham Accords, underscoring its commitment to resolving enduring tensions. However, covertly, the US has been linked to secret support for Israel during pivotal conflicts such as the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War, adding layers of complexity to its regional involvement. Despite striving for a delicate balance between supporting Israel and advancing peace agreements, the USA's close alliance with Israel has periodically strained its relations with Arab states and Palestinians.

The American enduring support for Israel is shaped by a multifaceted combination of strategic imperatives, religious convictions, and influential lobbying efforts. Strategically, Israel has been regarded as a pivotal ally in the tumultuous landscape of the Middle East, dating back to the Cold War era, when it served as a counterbalance to Soviet influence in the region. The US perceives Israel as a rock of stability, capable of reducing various threats such

as terrorism and the perceived expansionist ambitions of Iran. Furthermore, the US has assumed the role of maintaining regional stability, leading it to align closely with Israel and other conservative powers in the region.

The alliance between the US and Israel is further bolstered by multiple factors, chief among them being the fervent backing of Christian Zionism and the influential pro-Israel lobby. These entities hold significant sway in shaping American foreign policy, ensuring a steadfast alignment with Israel's interests. Moreover, the convergence of Christian Zionism, popular culture, and shared values has deepened the bond between the two nations. Evangelical Christians, a crucial constituency within the Republican base, ardently support Israel owing to their religious convictions. Additionally, the pro-Israel lobby, prominently led by organizations such as AIPAC, exercises considerable influence in Congress, fostering bipartisan support for Israel.

To fortify the alliance between the two nations, the US has consistently offered multifaceted support across military, economic, and diplomatic realms. This partnership is sustained by a comprehensive framework of aid and cooperation. In terms of military support, the US serves as Israel's foremost supplier of weaponry and contributes substantially to its defense budget through grants, loans, and other financial means. This assistance is pivotal in ensuring Israel's military superiority within the region, thereby reinforcing its security posture.

Economically, the relationship between the two countries is deeply intertwined, underscored by substantial trade and collaborative ventures, especially within the technology sector. The US serves as a significant investor in Israel's flourishing high-tech industry, bolstering economic ties and fostering mutual prosperity. This interconnectedness not only enhances economic stability but also cultivates a shared commitment to each other's success. Diplomatically, it assumes the role of a protective ally for Israel on the global stage, providing

diplomatic cover and deflecting criticism at international forums. Additionally, the two nations engage in extensive military cooperation, including joint exercises, intelligence sharing, and collaborative efforts in technological advancements, further solidifying their strategic partnership.

Over time, American aid to Israel has played a crucial role in facilitating Israel's growth and bolstering its defense capabilities. Nonetheless, this assistance has not been immune to scrutiny, especially regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the continued occupation of Palestinian lands. Consequently, criticisms have arisen, occasionally straining relations between Israel and the US disagreements frequently surface, particularly concerning matters such as settlement expansion and responses to violence, leading to occasional friction in their relationship.

As the US-Israel relationship progresses, it encounters fresh hurdles. The US must delicately balance its backing of Israel with the promotion of a two-state solution and the resolution of humanitarian issues. Furthermore, the regional dynamics introduce an additional layer of intricacy. The US fosters intricate ties with various players in the Middle East, notably Arab states. Effectively managing these relationships while upholding a robust alliance with Israel demands ongoing diplomatic finesse.

Despite encountering various obstacles, the enduring strength of the relationship between the United States and Israel remains steadfast. Looking ahead, technological progress has the potential to deepen their collaboration further, bolstering an already comprehensive support network. This solidifies their partnership as one of the most resilient on the world. However, the ultimate transformation lies in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which would not only alleviate a major source of tension but also pave the way for a more secure and future for both US and Israel.

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