



# The United States and Palestine-Israel

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JOE & SIHAM ALFRED

LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA (LLI/NOVA)

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2020

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1. 1945-1967: Introduction; controversies; American foreign policy goals; World War II; Palestine/ Israel; decolonization and oil; Cold War; arms sales.
2. 1967-1990: Peace process—Egypt and Palestinians; Lebanon 1982; Iran-Iraq War; Saudi Arabia and oil; Kuwait War.
3. 1991-2008: United States as sole superpower; peace-making; Libya; al-Qa'ida and 2001 attacks; neo-conservatives; 2003 war in Iraq and effects.
4. 2008-2016: Obama's opening to the Arabs; oil prices; Iraq again; the Arab Spring; the Islamic State; Syrian civil war; Arabs and the Iran nuclear deal; pivot to Asia?
5. 2016-2019: Trump and America first; arms sales and oil; Syrian civil war; alliances; Saudi leadership; pivot to Asia—Act 2.



**As Westerners, we tend to identify with Israel**, and, for the most part, we are unable to see, much less to comprehend or empathize with, the plight of the Palestinians. Our perceptions of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are so deeply imbued with biases and stereotypes – typically unrecognized as such – that **we often do not grasp the fundamental issues**.

Government officials, policy specialists, and media commentators constantly repeat such refrains as **“there is no solution to this conflict”** or “until the parties decide to make peace with each other there is nothing we can do to force it on them.” To which I would reply, in an admittedly somewhat oversimplified manner:

**The solution is for Israel to:**

- **end the occupation** of the territories it conquered in 1967 and
- **allow the Palestinians to establish a viable, independent state** alongside Israel

Cheryl A. Rubenberg, *The Palestinians*, 2003





It is one of the ironies of this conflict that the Palestinians and Israel are typically presented as being equal parties. Yet **Israel is one of the strongest states in the global system** and enjoys the unqualified backing of the world's sole superpower, the United States.

The Palestinians are a dispersed, dispossessed and disorganized nation of people – a party so pathetically weak in the power dynamics of this conflict that to equate it with Israel is absurd.

Cheryl A. Rubenberg, *The Palestinians*, 2003



## Israel Military Strength – 2020

**18<sup>th</sup> out of 138 countries**

Always in a state of readiness, the nation of Israel fields one of the most capable military forces in the world - despite its size.

Firepower Item	Sub-item		Israel Rank - World	Sub-item		Israel Rank - World
Manpower	Active	170,000	30 - 138	Reserve	445,000	14 - 138
Airpower	Total	538	18 - 138	Fighters	259	12 - 138
	Dedicated Attack	18	23 - 138	Special Mission	23	15 - 138
	Helicopters	146	30 - 138	Attack Helicopters	48	13 - 138
Land Forces	Tanks	2,760	8 - 138	Armored Vehicles	10,275	7 - 138
Naval Forces	Submarines	5	15 - 138	Patrol	45	21 - 138
Financial	Defense Budget	\$20B	16 - 138	Foreign Exchange	\$113B	22 - 138

Global Firepower Index 2020

## Wilson and Brandeis



Woodrow Wilson

The most important American Zionist ever was the progressive lawyer Louis D. Brandeis. President Woodrow Wilson appointed Brandeis to the Supreme Court. Brandeis was converted to the cause of Zionism that had big consequences:

- Brandeis helped craft Britain's Balfour Declaration of 1917



Louis Brandeis

His Majesty's government view with favour **the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people**, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that **nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities** in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

UK Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Lord Rothschild, 2 November 1917

*Alison Weir, Against Our Better Judgment* by Alison Weir Publishing, 2014

## King-Crane Commission – August 1919



A report prepared by a commission led by two Americans, Henry King and Charles Crane, that was completed on 28 August 1919 and published in 1922. **King and Crane were tasked by US President Woodrow Wilson to examine the situation in the former Ottoman territories** in the Near East, including the various populations in the region and their positions, in order to guide American policy following the conclusion of World War I.

**The commission collected over 1800 petitions** containing various proposals as to the future status of the territory, of which the report offers a detailed analysis. It recommended that Syria be placed under the control of a Mandatory power, preferably the US or Britain, in order to prepare it for independence as soon as possible, eventually forming a united state under King Faisal with possible autonomy for Lebanon and Palestine. Noting significant Arab opposition to Jewish national aspirations, **the report explicitly ruled out the establishment of a Jewish state and called for limits on Jewish immigration to Palestine.**

# The Atlantic Charter – 12 August 1941

The eight pledges of the Atlantic Charter can be grouped into three categories:

## 1. Territory

- Seek no new territories as an outcome of the war
- **Consider the wishes of the people involved in any adjustments of territory**
- **Make territorial decisions with self-determination in mind**

## 2. Trade

- The sea should remain open to international trade
- The economic prosperity of people all over the world was important to creating a stable postwar world

## 3. Lasting peace

- Work toward postwar disarmament
- International understanding
- Freedom from state terror and artificial poverty



## World War II Death Toll

World War II was fought for the principle that territory could never again be acquired by force

Over 100 million deaths

Country	Military Deaths	Total Military & Civilian Deaths
China	3,000,000 – 4,000,000	20,000,000-70,000,000
Soviet Union	8,800,000 – 10,700,000	24,000,000
Germany	5,553,000	6,600,000-8,800,000
Poland	240,000	5,600,000
Dutch East Indies	-	3,000,000-4,000,000
Japan	2,120,000	2,600,000-3,100,000
India	87,000	1,500,000-2,500,000
Greece	87,000	1,500,000-2,500,000
French Indochina	-	1,000,000-1,500,000
Yugoslavia	446,000	1,000,000
Philippines	57,000	500,000-1,000,000
Rumania	300,000	833,000
Hungary	300,000	580,000

US National World War II Museum

## World War II Death Toll

World War II was fought for the principle that territory could never again be acquired by force

Over 100 million deaths

Country	Military Deaths	Total Military & Civilian Deaths
France	217,600	567,600
Korea	-	378,000-473,000
Italy	301,400	457,000
United Kingdom	383,600	450,700
United States	416,000	418,500
Austria	261,000	384,700
Lithuania	-	353,000
Czechoslovakia	25,000	345,000
Netherlands	17,000	301,000
Latvia	-	227,000
Ethiopia	5,000	100,000
Others	274,200	580,000

US National World War II Museum

## 1944 Democratic National Convention



Henry A. Wallace  
Iowa



Harry S. Truman  
Missouri

Gallup Poll of Democratic voters

- 65% Wallace
- 2% Truman

By 1944, Vice President Wallace was a hero to both organized labor and the increasingly powerful African-American communities in America's biggest cities. But among the Democratic elite, opposition to him was even more fervent than it had been in 1940.

- **Wallace's full-throated denunciations of segregation** inflamed opposition throughout the South, angering a vital bloc of the Democratic coalition
- **Wallace was called a leftist** because he proclaimed the 20<sup>th</sup> century, "the century of the common man," arguing that "no nation will have the God-given right to exploit other nations. ... there must be neither military nor economic imperialism."
- For Democratic insiders like DNC Chairman Robert Hannegan, DNC Treasurer Ed Pauley, Chicago Mayor Ed Kelly and others, **Wallace was simply too undisciplined and unreliable** to occupy the Oval Office.

Jeff Greenwald, Politico, 10 July 2016



## 1944 Democratic National Convention



Henry A. Wallace  
Iowa



Harry S. Truman  
Missouri

On Thursday, July 20, the second night of the Democratic National Convention, a huge pro-Wallace demonstration erupted. **Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, one of the most liberal members of Congress, tried to fight his way to the podium to put Wallace's name in nomination**—a move that likely would've resulted in a stampede of votes. But the chair of the convention, **Philadelphia Mayor David Lawrence, suddenly called for a voice vote to adjourn for the day**. Despite the clear overwhelming vocal majority of “nays!”, Lawrence gaveled the convention to a close with Senator Pepper just a few feet away from the microphones.

By the next day, **the all-night efforts of Hannegan, Chicago Mayor Kelly, Bronx County Democratic boss Ed Flynn and others had paid off**: Although Wallace led on the first ballot with 429.5 votes (Truman had 319.5), he was significantly short of a majority. By the second ballot, the rush to Truman was on.

Jeff Greenwald, Politico, 10 July 2016

# 1944 Democratic National Convention



Henry A. Wallace  
Iowa



Harry S. Truman  
Missouri

1,176 delegates - 589 delegate votes needed to win

Candidate	1 <sup>st</sup> ballot	2 <sup>nd</sup> ballot - before shifts	2 <sup>nd</sup> ballot - after shifts
Henry Wallace, Iowa	429.5	473	105
Harry Truman, Missouri	319.5	377.5	1,031
John Bankhead, Alabama	98	23.5	0
Scott Lucas, Illinois	61	58	0
Alben Barkley, Kentucky	49.5	40	6
J. Melville Broughton, North Carolina	43	30	0
Others	175.5	74	34

Jeff Greenwald, Politico, 10 July 2016

## March 1945 - Saudi King Abdul Aziz bin Abdur Rahman al Faisal al Saud to FDR

“This right [of the Arabs] men now seek to destroy by injustice unparalleled and unequalled in history. Such is the right of the Arabs in Palestine which the spokesmen of Jewish Zionism wish to scorn and abolish by the use of various forms of lying propaganda, invented, concealed and employed by them throughout the world.... They are preparing to create a form of Nazi fascism within sight and hearing of the democracies and in the midst of the Arab countries as well as in their very heart and in the heart of the East which has proved itself loyal to the Allied cause in these critical times..... **We state frankly and plainly that to help Zionism in Palestine not only means to endanger Palestine but all neighboring countries.**”



FDR and Ibn Saud  
aboard the USS Quincy  
at Great Bitter Lake, Egypt  
14 February 1945

Rabbi Benjamin Blech, Aish.com, 19 April 2015

## 5 April 1945 – FDR to Saudi King Abdul Aziz bin Abdur Rahman al Faisal al Saud

“Your Majesty will doubtless recall that on previous occasions I communicated to you that **I would take no action in my capacity as chief of the executive branch of this government which might prove hostile to the Arab people.**”

As long as he continued to serve as President, he made clear that the dream of the Jewish people of return to their homeland would not be fulfilled. Those were his words.

It was on 12 April 1945, a mere seven days after the date of FDR’s commitment to the Saudi King, that FDR passed away.



FDR and Ibn Saud  
14 February 1945  
USS Quincy

Rabbi Benjamin Blech, Aish.com, 19 April 2015

## Alternatives to Palestine

In 1897, while **Zionists considered such places as Argentina, Uganda, Cyprus and Texas**, they eventually settled on Palestine for the location of their proposed Jewish State, even though Palestine was already inhabited by a population that was 93-96 percent non-Jewish.

- Alison Weir, *Against Our Better Judgment*, 2014

During 1943, with immigration to Palestine limited, **Roosevelt made several efforts to open up many free world nations**, including America, to refugees. However, Zionists opposed his plans because they did not include Palestine.

- Alfred Lilienthal, *What Price Israel*, 1953

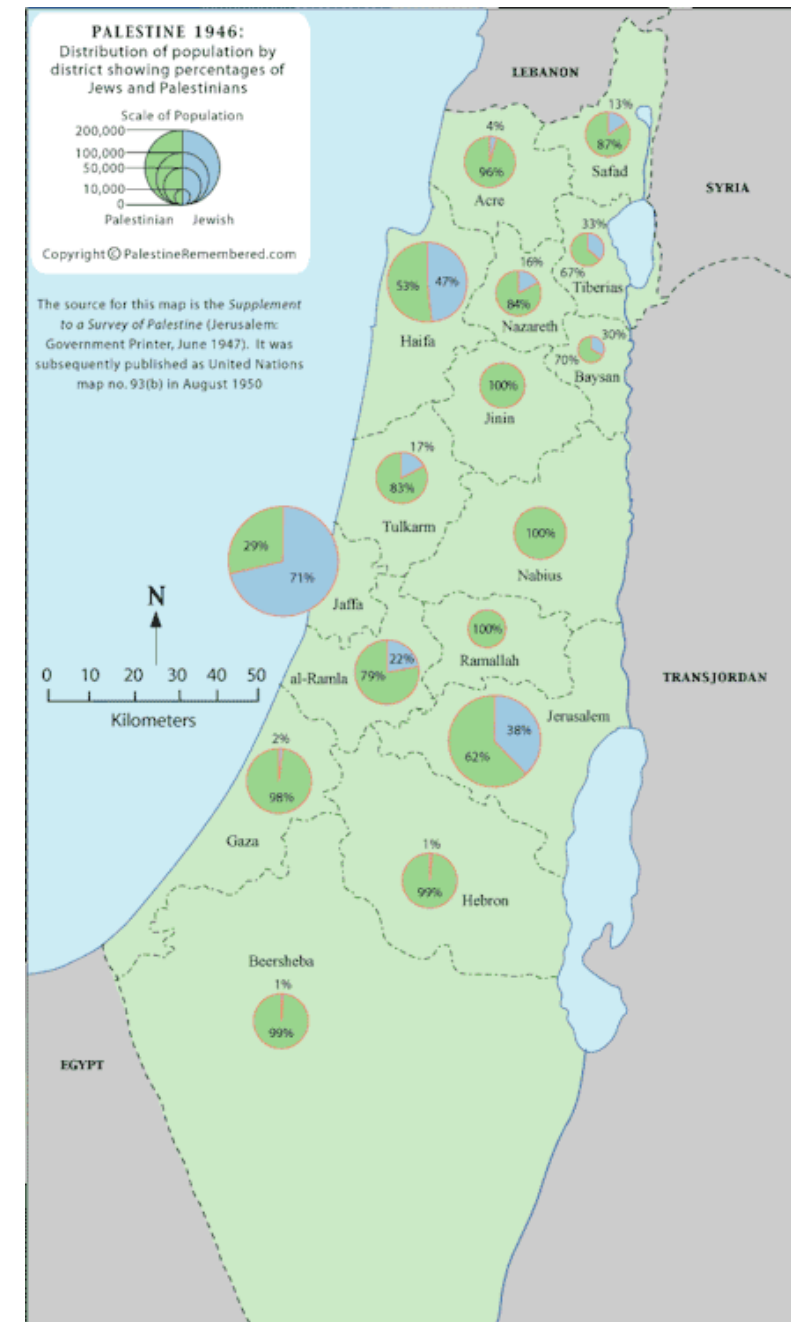
## Population of Palestine 1861 - 1948

Year	Palestinians	Jews	Percent Palestinians to Jews	Total	Post WW I Cumulative Jewish Immigration
1861	356,000	13,000	96% - 4%	369,000	-
1895	522,000	47,000	92% - 8%	569,000	-
1914	675,000	85,000	87% - 13%	760,000	-
1924	765,000	113,000	87% - 13%	878,000	42,784
1936	1,003,000	370,000	73% - 27%	1,373,000	282,555
1948	1,319,000	650,000	67% - 33%	1,969,000	482,755

Ottoman and British Census

# Population of the British Mandate of Palestine 1946

District	Percent Palestinian	Percent Jewish
Acre	96%	4%
Safad	87%	13%
Haifa	53%	47%
Nazareth	84%	16%
Tiberias	67%	33%
Tulkarm	83%	17%
Baysan	70%	3%
Jinin	100%	0%



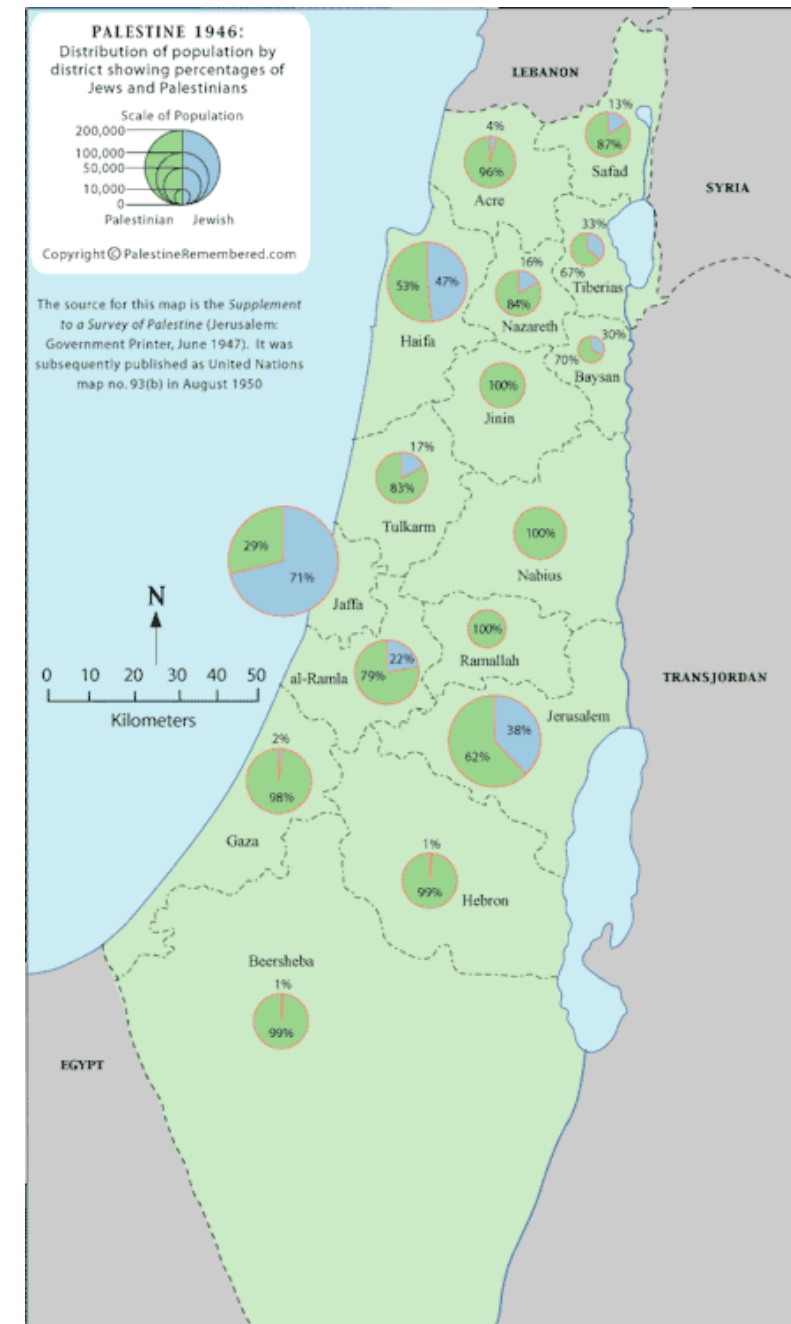
British Census



# Population of the British Mandate of Palestine 1946

District	Percent Palestinian	Percent Jewish
Nablus	100%	0%
Jaffa	29%	71%
al-Ramla	79%	21%
Ramallah	100%	0%
Jerusalem	62%	38%
Gaza	98%	2%
Hebron	97%	1%
Beersheba	99%	1%

British Census





## UN General Assembly Resolution 181 – The Partition of Palestine

29 November 1947

- **On 15 May 1947**, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 106, which established the **UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)** to investigate “**the question of Palestine**”.
- On 3 September, UNSCOP issued its report to the General Assembly declaring its **majority recommendation** that Palestine be partitioned into separate Jewish and Arab states.
- It noted that the population of Palestine at the end of 1946 was estimated to be almost 1,846,000, with 1,203,000 **Arabs (65 percent)** and **608,000 Jews (33 percent)**. Growth of the Jewish population had been mainly the result of immigration, while growth of the Arab population had been “almost entirely” due to natural increase.



Jeremy R. Hammond, *The Myth of the UN Creation of Israel*, Foreign Policy Journal, 26 October 2010

## UN General Assembly Resolution 181 – The Partition of Palestine

29 November 1947

Land ownership statistics from 1945 showed that **Palestinians owned more land than Jews in every single district in Palestine.**

	Population	Population %	% Land before partition	% Land after partition
Palestinians	1,319,000	67%	85%	45%
Jews	650,000	33%	7%	55%



Jeremy R. Hammond, *The Myth of the UN Creation of Israel*, Foreign Policy Journal, 26 October 2010

## UN General Assembly Resolution 181 – The Partition of Palestine

29 November 1947

- **UN General Assembly Resolution 181** neither legally partitioned Palestine nor conferred upon the Zionist leadership any legal authority to unilaterally declare the existence of the Jewish state of Israel. It **merely recommended** that the UNSCOP partition plan be accepted and implemented by the concerned parties. Naturally, **to have any weight of law**, the plan, like any contract, would have to have been **formally agreed upon by both parties**, which it was not.
- **Nor could the General Assembly have legally partitioned Palestine** or otherwise conferred legal authority for the creation of Israel to the Zionist leadership, **as it simply had no such authority to confer**. When the Security Council took up the matter referred to it by the General Assembly, it could come to no consensus on how to proceed with implementing the partition plan. It being apparent that the plan could not be implemented by peaceful means, the suggestion that it be implemented by force was rejected by members of the Security Council.
- In sum, **the popular claim that the UN “created” Israel is a myth**, and Israel’s own claim in its founding document that UN Resolution 181 constituted legal authority for Israel’s creation, **or otherwise constituted “recognition” by the UN of the “right” of the Zionist Jews to expropriate for themselves Arab land** and deny to the majority Arab population of that land their own right to self-determination, **is a patent fraud**.



Jeremy R. Hammond, *The Myth of the UN Creation of Israel*, Foreign Policy Journal, 26 October 2010

## UN General Assembly Resolution 181 – The Partition of Palestine 29 November 1947

**The Truman Administration brought pressure to bear** on states in the General Assembly to achieve the two-thirds vote required to pass the resolution.



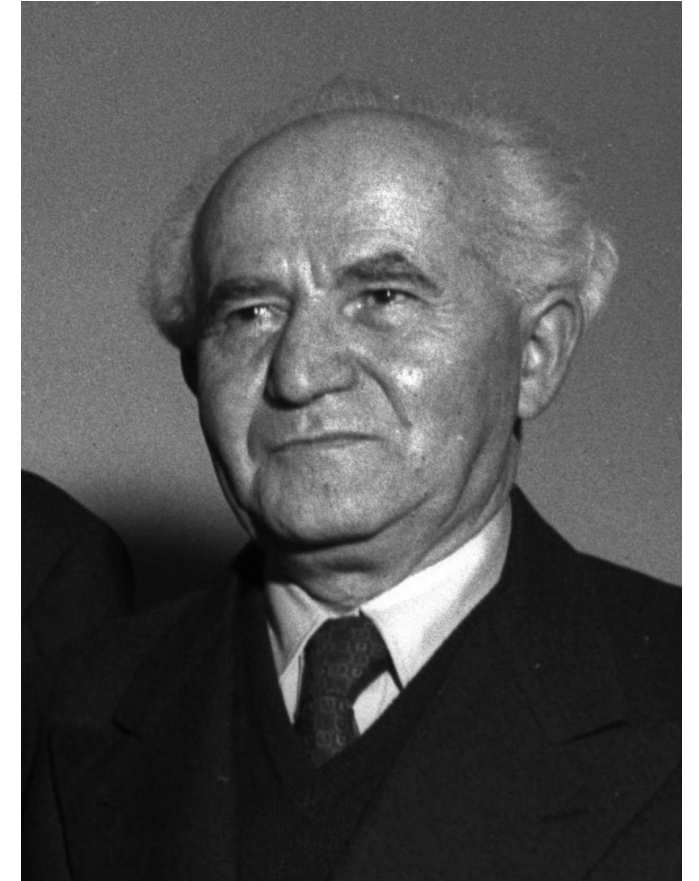
- Haiti was promised economic aid
- Bernard Baruch told France would lose US aid if it voted against partition
- Harvey Firestone told Liberia it would lose a planned expansion of rubber production
- Latin American delegates were told they could lose the Pan-American highway project
- Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, ten senators and Truman advisor Clark Clifford threatened the Philippines with withdrawal of seven bills pending in Congress

*Alison Weir, Against Our Better Judgment, 2014*

## Gangsters for Zion

**In 1945, the Jewish Agency**, the pre-state Israeli government headed by David Ben-Gurion, **created a vast clandestine arms-purchasing-and-smuggling network throughout the United States.** The operation was placed under the aegis of the Haganah, the underground forerunner of the Israel Defense Forces, and involved hundreds of Americans from every walk of life. They included millionaires, rabbinical students, scrap-metal merchants, ex-GIs, college students, longshoremen, industrialists, chemists, engineers, Protestants and Catholics, as well as Jews.

**One group, who remained anonymous and rarely talked about,** were men who were tough, streetwise, unafraid and had access to ready cash: **Jewish gangsters.**



David Ben-Gurion

Robert Rockaway, *Gangsters for Zion*, Tablet, 19 April 2018



## Gangsters for Zion



Mickey Cohen

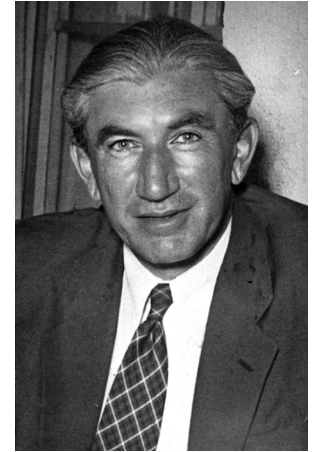


Meyer Lansky

In his autobiography, **West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen** claimed that after meeting Haganah and Irgun emissaries, he became so absorbed with Israel that he pushed aside much of his own activities and did nothing but try to help Israel in its war. **“I got involved with this goddamn Israel war for three years”** he said. In his memoirs, he claims that he held fundraising affairs to raise money for Israel to procure weapons.

In the 1940s, the US government maintained an arms embargo against Israel and the Middle East. But Egypt and the Arab countries managed to avoid the embargo and get weapons. **Yehuda Arazi, a close aide to Ben-Gurion learned that the Mafia controlled the port of New York.**

Arazi had no scruples about contacting underworld figures, **He approached Meyer Lansky and asked him to help get weapons loaded onto ships bound for Israel.** Lansky contacted Albert Anastasia and Joe Adonis, who controlled the longshoremen’s union and the docks. They helped Israeli agents conceal the arms purchased for Israel, while arms bound for Egypt mysteriously fell overboard.



Yehuda Arazi

Robert Rockaway, *Gangsters for Zion*, Tablet, 19 April 2018

## President Harry S Truman

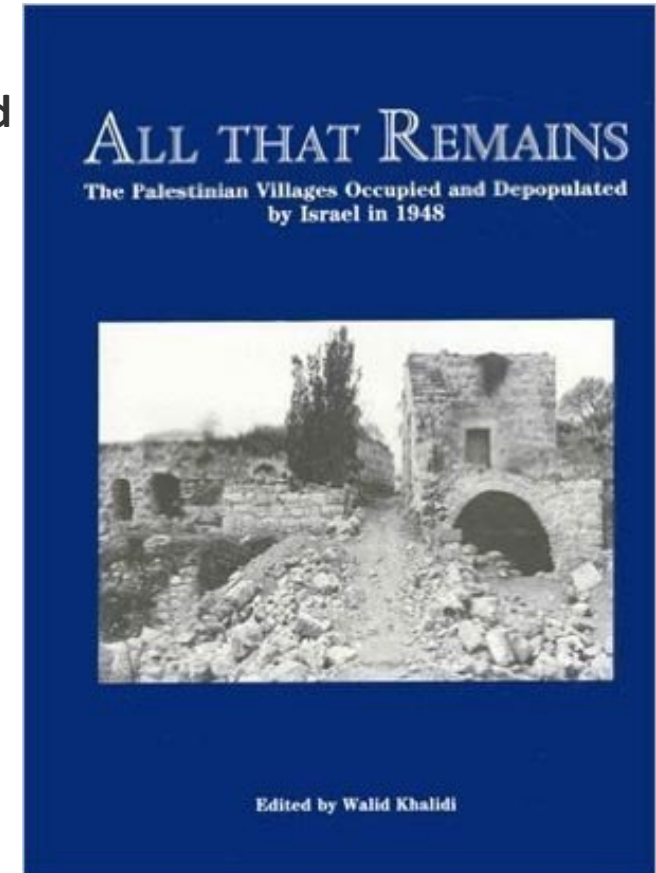
12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953

### The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine Begins

*All That Remains* by Walid Khalidi describes in detail the more than **418 Palestinian cities and villages that were destroyed or depopulated by Israel between November 1947 and May 1948**. Little of these once-thriving communities remains, not only have they been erased from the Palestinian landscape, their very names have been removed from contemporary Israeli maps. But to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in their diaspora, these villages were home, and continue to be poignantly powerful symbols of their personal and national identity.

Alison Weir in *Against Our Better Judgment* says:

- **There were at least 33 massacres** before a single Arab army joined the conflict.
- **Zionist forces were better equipped** and had more men under arms
- **Over 750,000 Palestinian men, women and children were ruthlessly expelled**



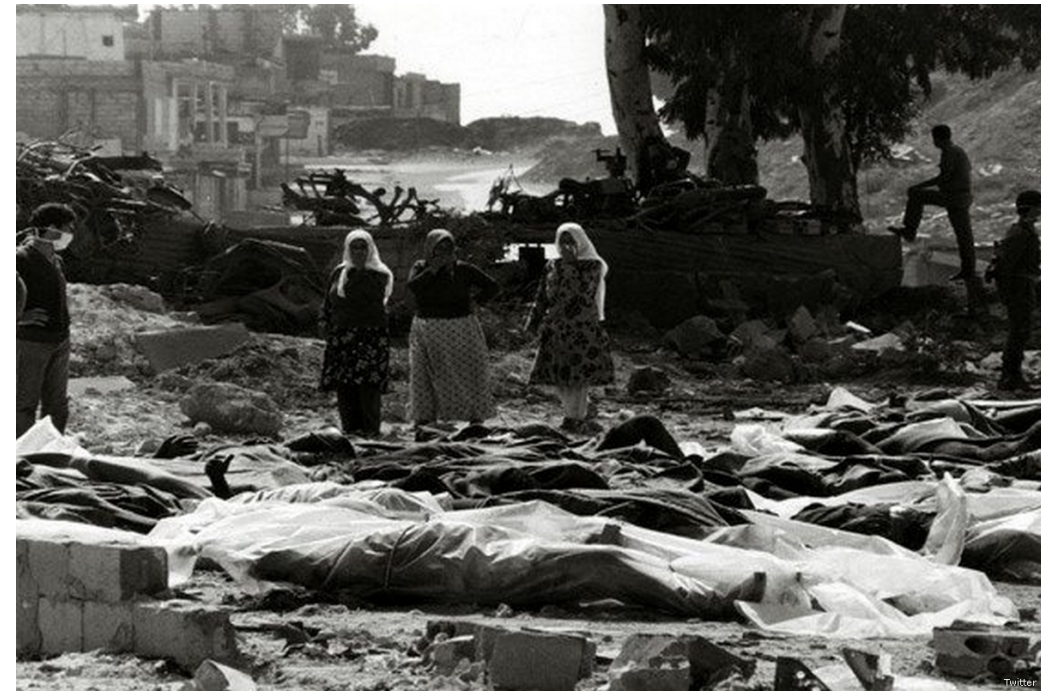
## The massacre at Deir Yassin

9 April 1948 on the outskirts of West Jerusalem

Deir Yassin was a peaceful village of around 400 people that had signed a non-aggression pact and was excluded from clashes elsewhere. Due to its proximity to West Jerusalem, it came under the UN Partition Plan as part of the independent Jerusalem area.

The militias entered the village,

- **shooting at those in the street and throwing hand grenades into houses**, destroying buildings and killing 200 of the residents who were hiding inside.
- Eyewitnesses, including fighters from the Haganah, testified to seeing **Irgun and Lehi troops pillaging houses and corpses, stealing money and jewellery from the survivors and burning corpses.**
- There were also multiple reports of **rape and mutilation**, as well as an account that **villagers were killed after being taken on a victory parade** through Jewish neighbourhoods in West Jerusalem.



Middle East Monitor, *Remembering the Massacre at Deir Yassin*, 9 April 2018



## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



- **Rejected US State Department plan for self-determination** in the British mandate of Palestine
- **Pushed for a UN General assembly resolution** giving a disproportionate 55 percent of the land and most of the water to the new state of Israel
- **Recognized the state of Israel 11 minutes** after its declaration over the objections of the State Department
- Never wanted Israel to be a religious state

## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953

On 22 September 1947, Loy Henderson strongly warned Secretary of State George C. Marshall that **partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states was not workable** and would lead to untold troubles in the future. Henderson was director of the State Department's Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs.

**His memorandum**, coming less than a month after a United Nations special committee had recommended partition, **stands as one of the most perceptive analyses of the perils that partition would bring.**



Loy Henderson

Donald Neff, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, September-October 1994

## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



Loy Henderson informed Secretary of State George Marshall that:

- **His views were shared by "nearly every member of the Foreign Service** or of the department who has worked to any appreciable extent on Near Eastern problems."
- The UNSCOP Majority Plan is not only unworkable; if adopted, it would guarantee that **the Palestine problem would be permanent and still more complicated in the future.**
- The proposals contained in the UNSCOP plan ... are in definite contravention to various principles laid down in the UN Charter as well as to **principles on which American concepts of Government are based.**
- **These proposals, for instance, ignore such principles as self-determination and majority rule.**
- We have hitherto always held that in our foreign relations American citizens, regardless of race or religion, are **entitled to uniform treatment.**
- Neither the United States nor the British Government has ever interpreted the term 'Jewish national home' to be a Jewish national state."

**Loy Henderson was re-assigned to India**

Donald Neff, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, September-October 1994

## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



Although the State Department reflected Henderson's anti-partition views, **Harry Truman's White House was supporting partition because of strong political pressures.** Truman was so unpopular at the time that there was speculation he might not be able to win the Democratic Party's nomination, much less the presidential race.

Under Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett was so impressed with the memo that he personally read it to President Truman. But Truman, worried about his election campaign in the coming year and **urged by advisers such as Clark Clifford to endorse partition as a way to gain Jewish support,** ignored Henderson's warnings. Five days later the US voted for partition in the historic session of the General Assembly.

Donald Neff, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, September-October 1994

## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



Despite such grave concerns, Clifford continued to urge Truman to maintain support of partition. In a memo on March 6, **Clifford argued** that if the U.S. deserted it now it would make "...**the United States appear in the ridiculous role of trembling before threats of a few nomadic desert tribes....the Arabs need us more than we need them.** They must have oil royalties or go bankrupt." Implicit was the underlying message that **Jews were more important to Truman's election than Arabs.** As Truman himself once said: "I'm sorry, gentlemen, but I have to answer to hundreds of thousands who are anxious for the success of Zionism. **I do not have hundreds of thousands of Arabs among my constituents.**"

- In the **1940 census, there were more than 350,000 Arab-Americans** mostly from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan
- According to everyculture.com the vast majority of Arab immigrants in this wave were members of Christian minorities

Donald Neff, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, September-October 1994

## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



By now, Arabs and Jews were slaughtering each other on a daily basis. **Jewish forces** were gathering strength and **were on the verge of major attacks outside the limits defined by the UN for the Jewish state. Tens of thousands of Palestinians had already been turned into refugees**, presaging the tragedy that soon would result in more than half of the total Palestinian community losing their homes.

The horrors unfolding in Palestine could not be ignored. **On March 19, Truman renounced partition.** The US announced in the UN Security Council that America believed partition was unworkable and that a UN trusteeship should be established to replace the British when they ended their withdrawal from Palestine on May 14.

Donald Neff, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, September-October 1994



## President Harry S. Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953

**Reaction in the press and the Jewish community was deafening.** Headlines screamed: "Ineptitude," "Weakness," "Vacillating," "Loss of American Prestige." From Jerusalem, the consul general reported: "Jewish reaction...one of consternation, disillusion, despair and determination. Most feel United States has betrayed Jews in interests Middle Eastern oil and for fear Russian designs." Truman tried to shift the blame to the State Department, claiming it had acted without his approval. However, it is clear that he had personally given approval for the change in strategy.

**In the end, Truman regained Jewish support two months later when he overrode stiff opposition by the State Department and made the US the first nation to recognize Israel as an independent nation on 14 May 1948.**

**Truman's decision had so disgusted Secretary of State Marshall** that he told Truman to his face that he believed the president was acting on Clifford's political calculations to win Jewish support.



George Marshall  
Secretary of State

Donald Neff, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, September-October 1994


# President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the <sup>provisional</sup> Government thereof.

The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new ~~Jewish~~ <sup>State of</sup> ~~state.~~ *Israel.*

  
*Harry Truman*

*Approved  
May 14, 1948.*

US State Department Archives



16 May 1948

Independence Day for Israelis

Nakba (the disaster) for Palestinians

If you can't come to town,  
please telephone 4607

Lighting, Heating, Cooking, Refrigeration

**CARL MARX**  
2 PRINCESS MARY AVE., JERUSALEM

# THE PALESTINE POST

JERUSALEM  
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948

**THE PALESTINE POST**

THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT  
has returned to The Palestine Post  
office, Haasael Street,  
Jerusalem, Tel. 6233.

PRICE: 12 MILLS  
VOL. XXIII, No. 6124

# STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

**Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History**

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Hagana men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with an earnestness which Thursday morning was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Swiss Comsols would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts as some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official raising at 10:41, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the waving in of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the sailing from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within the hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give its full recognition to the Jewish State, with

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

**Jews Take Over Security Zones**

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The struggle of small-area fire and snipers at various points was still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to reoccupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost bloodless, but beyond the western edge of Zone C, Arabs engaged the Jews in Jaffa Road. The Arabs were forced back and the Barclays Bank store was taken.

In other parts of the city fighting flared up. Jews overran one after another the areas vacated by the British. By last night, the question and

**Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down**

No Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 800 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midnight, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio report.

**U.S. Recognizes Jewish State**

WASHINGTON, Sunday.—Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the de facto authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether in Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favorable. He said this step had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lovett before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to grant American recognition

**2 Columns Cross Southern Border**

By WALTER COLLIER  
U.P. Correspondent  
CAIRO, Saturday — A column

**Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.**

Fighting in the Kfar Etzion bloc continued throughout Friday, after Kfar Etzion had

**Proclamation by Head Of Government**

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben-Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.



The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by Ben-Gurion, was to abolish the institution of the High Commissioner, particularly the provisions and orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben-Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to renounce their claims, assuring them full civil rights and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben-Gurion professed the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to return, which were crowned throughout the persecution of their dispersal, until the final moment, proved the sovereignty of the land for a Jewish State.

The Declaration of 1917, confirmed by the League of Nations, had given explicit international recognition to the

**Special Assembly Adjourns**

FLORHUNG HEADQUARTERS, Saturday.—The Special U.N. Assembly called four weeks ago to discuss the U.S. propo-

**Special Assembly Adjourns**

FLORHUNG HEADQUARTERS, Saturday.—The Special U.N. Assembly called four weeks ago to discuss the U.S. propo-

## President Harry S. Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953

A well-worn chapter of Israel's creation myth explains its conquests thus:

When in November 1947, the United Nations proposed partitioning Palestine into two states (General Assembly Resolution 181), **Israel's founders embraced the offer with gratitude, whereas the Palestinians scoffed at it and attacked the fledgling "Jewish state"**.

The result of this alleged Palestinian intransigence? The "fundamental fact", as the pro-Israel spin-doctors is that **had the Palestinians accepted partition, there would have been a Palestinian state since 1948, "and there would not have been a single Palestinian refugee"**.

Thomas Suárez, Middle East Monitor, 10 October 2019



## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953

When Ben-Gurion, Weizmann and others met in London in 1941 to discuss future plans, **the cynical disconnect was chilling**. Would “Arabs” have equal rights in the “Jewish state”? Of course, but only after there were none left. **Would partition be acceptable?** Certainly, if the line were the River Jordan (meaning 100 per cent of Palestine for Israel), expandable into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan itself. One attendee challenged the Zionists; the industrialist Robert Waley Cohen accused them of following Nazi ideology.

**By 1944, the British knew that opposition to partition had “hardened throughout all shades of Jewish [Zionist] opinion,”** and new resolutions among the settlers’ leaders placed “special emphasis on the rejection of partition.”

**But partition’s failure would become the Palestinians’ problem.**

**The British would go home.**



Chaim Weizman & David Ben-Gurion

Thomas Suárez, Middle East Monitor, 10 October 2019



## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953

The day before Resolution 181 was passed, the CIA warned again that the Zionists will ignore partition and “wage a strong propaganda campaign in the US and in Europe” for more territory. Then as today, though, Americans were kept uninformed: **“Americans,”** noted US intelligence figure **Kermit Roosevelt in 1948, do not realise “the extent to which partition was refused acceptance as a final settlement by the Zionists in Palestine.”**

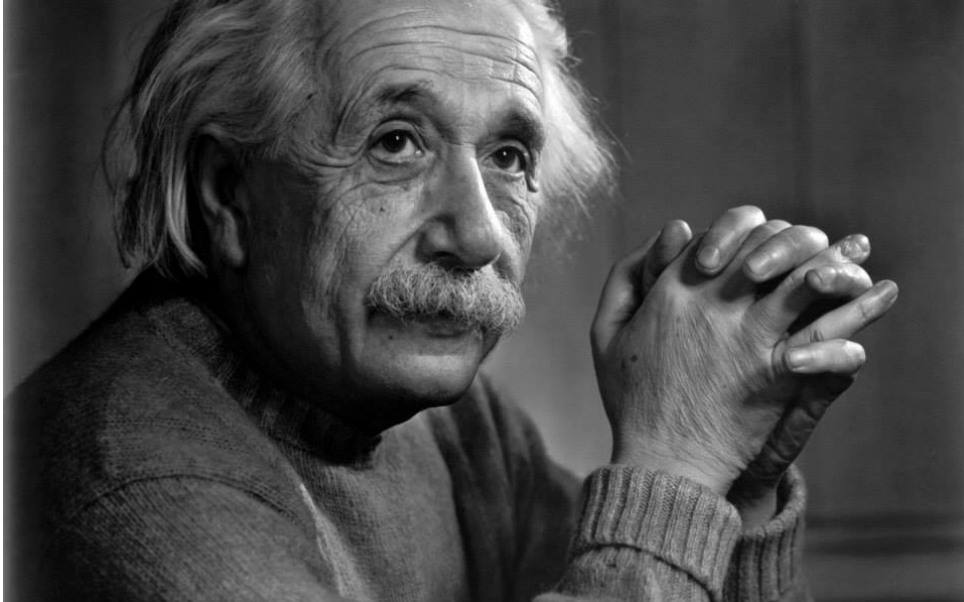


Jerusalem remained Israel’s most urgent concern. **Whereas land under “Arab” rule could eventually be usurped, a Jerusalem administered by the UN might not.** And so when UN Mediator Count Folke Bernadotte composed a new plan for peace in the autumn of 1948, the terror gang Lehi warned him against a “non-Jewish administration” there. However, **Bernadotte kept Resolution 181’s international zone, and the next day Lehi, under future Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, assassinated him.**

Thomas Suárez, Middle East Monitor, 10 October 2019

## Albert Einstein

18 April 1938

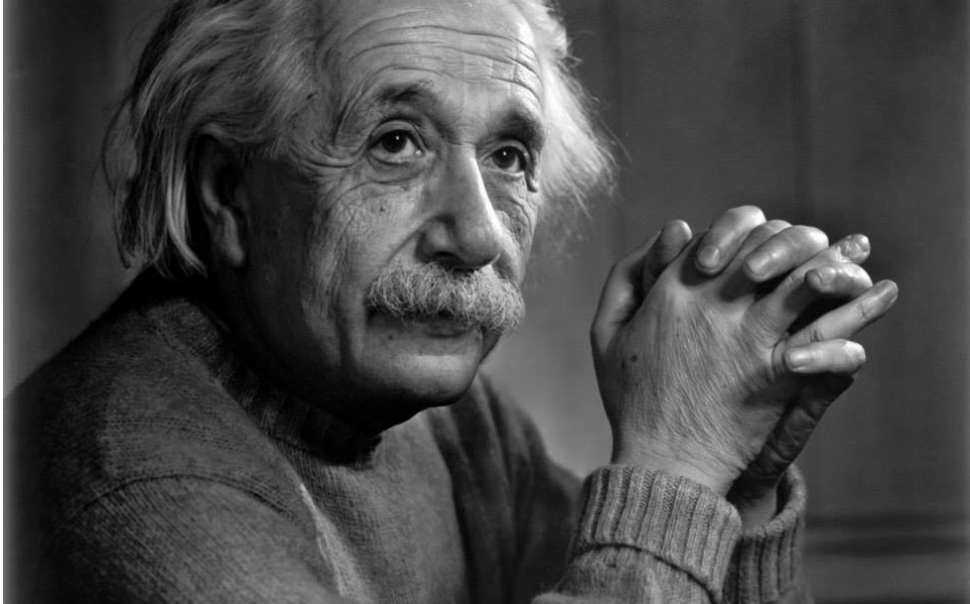


Albert Einstein, speaking in New York City in 1938 said,

**"I should much rather see reasonable agreement with the Arabs on the basis of living together in peace than the creation of a Jewish State.** Apart from practical considerations, my awareness of the essential nature of Judaism resists the idea of a Jewish State, with borders, an army, and a measure of temporal power, no matter how modest. **I am afraid of the inner damage Judaism will sustain..."**

# Albert Einstein

18 April 1948



April 10, 1948

Mr. Shepard Rifkin  
Exec. Director  
American Friends of the Fighters  
for the Freedom of Israel  
149 Second Ave.  
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

When a real and final catastrophe should befall us in Palestine the first responsible for it would be the British and the second responsible for it the Terrorist organizations build up from our own ranks.

I am not willing to see anybody associated with ~~them~~ those misled and criminal people.

Sincerely yours,  
*A. Einstein*  
Albert Einstein.



## Rabbi Judah L. Magnes

First President

Hebrew University in Jerusalem

**"A Jewish Home in Palestine built up on bayonets and oppression is not worth having, even though it succeed, whereas the very attempt to build it up peacefully, cooperatively, with understanding, education, and good will, is worth a great deal even though the attempt should fail."**



## President Harry S Truman

12 April 12, 1945 – 20 January 20, 1953



**How was it possible that our president, Harry Truman, was able to defy the best advice of our state department, our defense department, even Jewish leaders in the United States and push for a partition of Palestine in the United Nations and a recognition of the state of Israel for his own political purpose?**

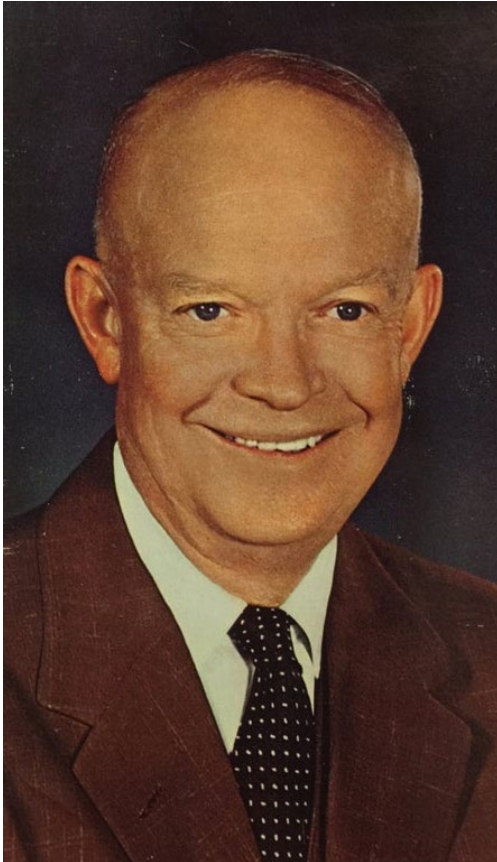
Especially when that purpose defied the American national interest:

- reversed American belief in the rule of law
- reversed American support for majority rule
- reversed FDR's policy toward the Middle East
- reversed the Atlantic Charter and the reason the US fought World War II

Cheryl Rubenberg, *Israel and the American National Interest*, University of Illinois Press, 1986

## President Dwight David Eisenhower

20 January 20, 1953 – 20 January 1961



- Ordered the cancellation of all aid to Israel- \$26 million – until Israel stopped **diverting the Jordan River** in violation of the 1949 ceasefire agreements.
- Orchestrated the CIA coup 19 August 1953 **coup that brought down Iranian Prime Minister Muhammad Mossadegh** in favour of the monarchical rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.
- Reversed the **Israeli, British and French attack on Egypt**, October 1956 by cancelling all aid to Israel except the food deliveries already underway.
- Declared that the US would support a UN resolution imposing sanctions on Israel if **Israel did not withdraw from all of the Sinai peninsula and from Gaza**. Eisenhower also threatened to take away a tax privilege enjoyed by donors to Israeli causes.
- Allowed **South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem to decline a national election** to unify the country as called for in the Geneva Accords in 1956.

## President Dwight David Eisenhower

20 January 20, 1953 – 20 January 1961

**Ben Hecht (1894 - 1964) was an American screenwriter, director, producer, playwright, journalist and novelist.** He received screen credits, alone or in collaboration, for the stories or screenplays of some seventy films. He wrote thirty-five books and created some of the most entertaining screenplays and plays in America. The Dictionary of Literary Biography - American Screenwriters calls him "one of the most successful screenwriters in the history of motion pictures."

**A prolific writer, Hecht received the first Academy Award for Original Screenplay, for *Underworld* (1927).** Many of the screenplays he worked on are now considered classics. He also provided story ideas for such films as *Stagecoach* (1939). Film historian Richard Corliss called him "the Hollywood screenwriter", someone who "personified Hollywood itself." In 1940, he wrote, produced, and directed, *Angels Over Broadway*, which was nominated for Best Screenplay. In total, six of his movie screenplays were nominated for Academy Awards, with two winning.



Kirkus Review, 1961

## President Dwight David Eisenhower

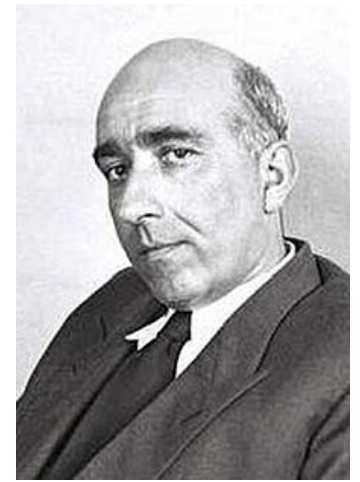
20 January 20, 1953 – 20 January 1961

**Ben Hecht became an active Zionist** shortly before the Holocaust began in Germany and **wrote articles and plays about the plight of European Jews**, such as, *We Will Never Die* in 1943 and *A Flag is Born* in 1946.

Hecht wrote *Perfidy* in 1961 as a courtroom reporter and tireless worker in the cause of doomed European Jewry. He breathes life and vibrance into a horrendous scandal trial – case 54 in the district court in Jerusalem during 1954 and 1955.

**Malchiel Greenwald, an obscure and aged journalist was accused of libel** for stating that Rudolph Kastner, a top official in Ben Gurion's cabinet, was a Nazi collaborator responsible for the destruction of the Hungarian Jewish community. In the trial **Kastner is proven guilty of supporting the delusion offensive in Hungary that sent approximately 400,000 Hungarian Jews to their deaths in Auschwitz in return for saving 1,685 Zionist Jews** who were shuttled to safety in Switzerland. The Zionists were allowed to immigrate to Israel.

The heated controversy which led to the murder of the protagonist still continues in Israel, for if **Kastner was guilty, were not all those responsible** for their self-imposed blindness, deafness and silence also to blame? The Israeli Supreme Court in 1958 overturned the verdict and found **Ben-Gurion, Moshe Sharett and American Jewish leadership** not guilty.



Malchiel Greenwald



Rudolph Kastner

Ben Hecht, *Perfidy*, 1961



## President Dwight David Eisenhower

20 January 20, 1953 – 20 January 1961



Shmuel Tamir

**Shmuel Tamir** was the attorney for Greenwald. He took the case with no evidence in hand, **knowing only that it was unusual for the government of Israel to be prosecuting such a lowly individual as Malchiel Greenwald.** His case was started and built from the evidence provided for the defense of Rudolph Kastner and later from witnesses willing to testify to the truth of Greenwald's publication.

Tamir answered the accusation against his client with the response: "He spoke the truth." Tamir did not deny that Greenwald had written the offending pamphlet. **Quite the contrary—he set out to prove that everything in it was true.** Tamir claimed that had the Jews been informed of the Nazi extermination plan, many of them could perhaps have escaped to Romania, revolted against the Germans, or sent calls for help to the outside world, all of which could have significantly slowed down the Nazi killing process.

Ben Hecht, *Perfidy*, 1961



## President John Fitzgerald Kennedy

20 January 20, 1961 – 22 November 1963



- Beginning in April 1963, **Kennedy insisted that the Israeli leadership accept regular bi-annual US inspections**, or in diplomatic language, “visits,” of Israel’s nuclear complex at Dimona in the Negev Desert.
- **JFK wrote Ben-Gurion**, this government’s commitment to and **support of Israel could be seriously jeopardized** if it should be thought that we were unable to obtain reliable information on a subject as vital to peace as Israel’s effort in the nuclear field.
- **JFK warned Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol** in 1963 that US support for the Israel country would be **seriously jeopardized** if Israel did not allow the United States periodic inspections of Israel’s nuclear reactor.

## President Lyndon Baynes Johnson

22 November 1963 – 20 January 1969



- Johnson was the first president to invite an Israeli prime minister, Levi Eshkol, on a state visit, including a visit to his ranch.
- In 1964, **LBJ abandoned pressure on Israel to come clean about the Dimona reactor.**
- **LBJ increased arms sales to Israel in 1967**
- **In 1968, after Israel's primary supplier, France, imposed an embargo as a means of cultivating ties in the Arab world, the United States became Israel's main supplier of weapons.**
- LBJ approved the sale of Phantom fighter jets to Israel.

## Israel After the 1967 War

In a **pre-emptive attack** on Egypt that drew Syria and Jordan into a regional war in 1967, Israel made massive territorial gains **capturing the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula up to the Suez Canal.**

The **principle of land-for-peace** that has formed the basis of Arab-Israeli negotiations is based on **Israel giving up land won in the 1967 war in return for peace deals recognising Israeli borders and its right to security.**

- BBC News



## President Lyndon Baynes Johnson

22 November 1963 – 20 January 1969

**United Nations Resolution 242**, resolution of the United Nations Security Council, adopted on 22 November 1967, in an effort to secure a just and lasting peace in the wake of the Six Day War, fought primarily between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

- **The Israelis supported the resolution** because it called on the Arab states to accept Israel's right "to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."
- **Each of the Arab states eventually accepted it** because of its clause calling for Israel to withdraw from "territories occupied in the recent conflict."



## UN Security Council Resolution 242

22 November 1967

**The Security Council**, including the United States, expressed its concern with the grave situation in the Middle East:

- ***Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war*** and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security
- **Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from [the] territories occupied in the recent conflict**
- **Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force**
- For guaranteeing **freedom of navigation through international waterways** in the area
- For achieving a **just settlement of the refugee problem**
- **guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area**, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones



## Attack on the USS Liberty

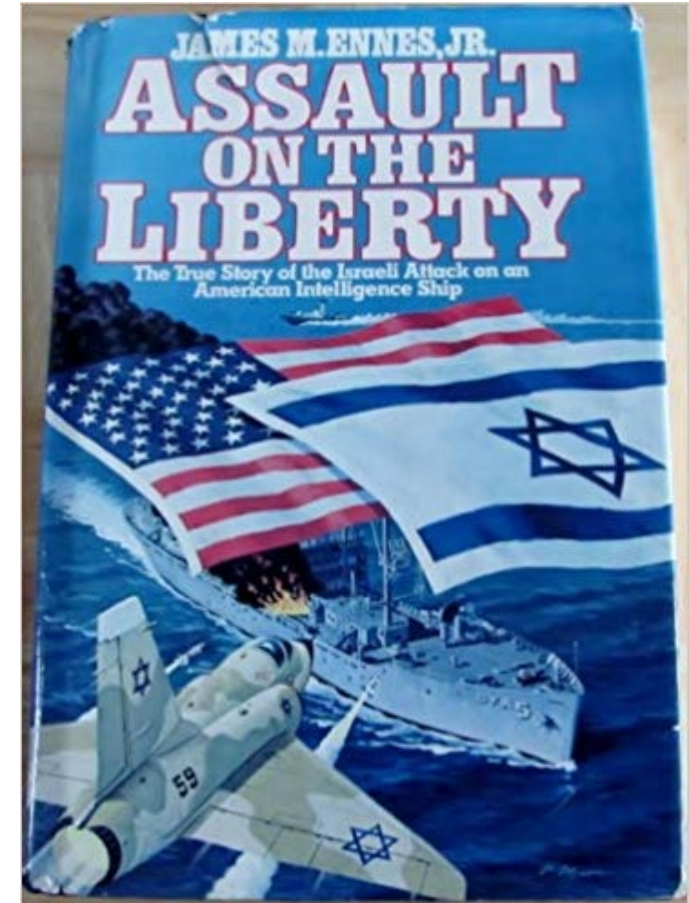
8 June 1967

The lightly-armed intelligence-gathering US ship was **under close Israeli observation for at least six hours** before an air attack began around 2 pm. The ship was **flying a five-by-eight-foot American flag** for most of that time. The flag continued to be flown until being shot down and then replaced with an even larger flag.

The attacking Israeli jets:

- used cannons, rockets and napalm against this basically defenseless ship
- **flew thirty air sorties over a twenty-five-minute period, killed and wounded a number of the crew**
- **jammed the ship's radios on both the U.S. Navy's tactical and the international maritime distress frequencies.**

However, due to the actions of a brave radio operator, the ship was able to **send a distress call to the US Sixth Fleet over 400 miles away.**



James M. Ennes, *Assault on the Liberty*, 1979



## Attack on the USS Liberty

8 June 1967

Before the torpedo boats attacked,

- **four US jets were launched to help the US ship.** However, they were soon recalled on order of the US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara
- about 95 minutes later, **another wave of US planes was launched, but it was subsequently recalled on order of US President Lyndon Johnson**

The US ship did not receive any aid from the Navy until around dawn the next day when two US destroyers finally arrived.

**The Navy ordered the sailors not to discuss the attack with anyone and split up and reassigned the crew.** The Navy convened a formal Court of Inquiry. Strangely, **the Court's mission** was not to investigate the attack, but **to determine whether any shortcomings of the crew had contributed to the injuries and deaths that resulted from the attack.** The USS Liberty was dismantled in Malta.

**Rear Admiral Merlin Sterling**, the Navy's former judge advocate general, later described the inquiry as **"hasty, superficial, incomplete and totally inadequate."**

## After the Israeli Attack



James M. Ennes, *Assault on the Liberty*, 1979

## Attack on the USS Liberty

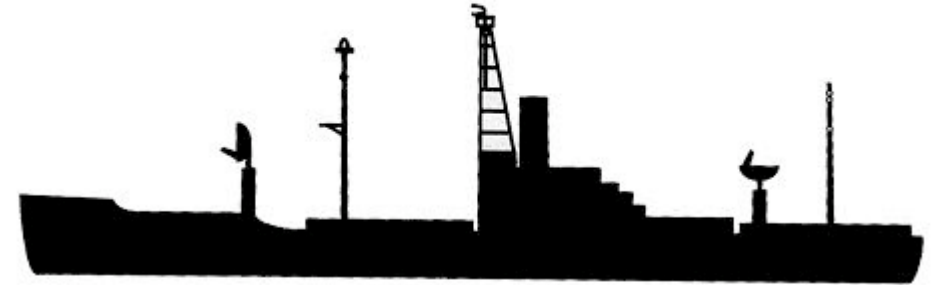
8 June 1967

**After the air attack ended, three torpedo boats appeared and came in for the kill.** They opened fire with 20 and 40-mm guns and torpedoes. One torpedo hit just below the waterline and opened up a 39-foot-wide hole in the US Navy ship, now basically dead in the water. **The torpedo boats continued to fire armor-piercing projectiles into the ship for forty minutes.**

**The attackers killed thirty-four Americans and wounded over 170 out of 294 crewmembers.**

**In their apology, the Israelis said they thought the US ship was an Egyptian ship.**

## Actual Proportions



USS Liberty

455 feet in length, 10,680 tons displacement



El Quiser

275 feet in length, 2,750 tons displacement

James M. Ennes, *Assault on the Liberty*, 1979

## Bobby Kennedy

20 November 1925 – 6 June 1968



Just after midnight of **June 6, 1968**, **Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated** in a backroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. He had just been celebrating his victory at the California primaries, which made him the most likely Democratic nominee for the presidential election.

His popularity was so great that Richard Nixon, on the Republican side, stood little chance. At the age of 43, Robert would have become the youngest American president ever, after being the youngest Attorney General in his brother's government. His death opened the way for Nixon, who could finally become president eight years after having been defeated by John F. Kennedy in 1960.

Laurent Guyénot, *Did Israel Kill the Kennedys?*, 3 June 2018

## Bobby Kennedy

20 November 1925 – 6 June 1968



If we trust official statements and mainstream news, **the assassination of Robert Kennedy is an open-and-shut case**. The identity of the killer suffers no discussion, since he was arrested on the spot, with the smoking gun in his hand. In reality, ballistic and forensic evidence show that **none of Sirhan's bullets hit Kennedy**.

- **According to the autopsy report** of Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner Thomas Noguchi, **Robert Kennedy died of a gunshot wound to the brain**, fired from behind the right ear at point blank range, following an upward angle.
- Yet the sworn testimony of twelve shooting witnesses established that **Robert had never turned his back on Sirhan and that Sirhan was five to six feet away from his target when he fired**.
- The bullet tested in laboratory to be compared to the one extracted from Robert's brain had not been shot by Sirhan's revolver, but by another gun, with a different serial number; **thus, instead of incriminating Sirhan, the ballistic test in fact proved him innocent**.

Laurent Guyénot, *Did Israel Kill the Kennedys?*, 3 June 2018

## President Lyndon Baynes Johnson

22 November 1963 – 20 January 1969



**How was it possible that our president, Lyndon Johnson, allowed the Israelis to attack Egypt, Jordan and Syria and then allowed the Israelis to hold the territory they gained by force, ignoring what President Eisenhower had done in a similar situation?**

### **Why is it in the national interest of the United States**

- to allow the Israelis to attack the USS Liberty
- to prevent the US Navy from defending the USS Liberty
- to take apart the USS Liberty in Malta so that it would not return to the United States in damaged condition
- to punish the officers and crew of the USS Liberty if they broke their silence about the Israeli attack



## President Lyndon Baynes Johnson

22 November 1963 – 20 January 1969



**The Tonkin Gulf Incident on 2 June 1964 in which the US alleged that North Vietnam attacked the USS Maddox was proved to be false. The Pentagon Papers, the memoirs of Robert McNamara and National Security Agency publications from 2005 proved that the US government lied to justify a war against Vietnam.**

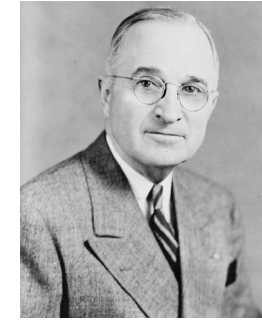
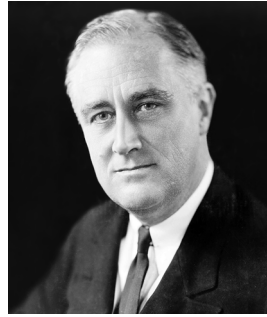
- Not one US casualty, and
- The US went to war with North Vietnam for 12 years

**The attack on the USS Liberty on 8 June 1967 in which Israeli planes destroyed a United States Navy ship resulted in**

- 34 Americans killed and 170 wounded crewmembers, and
- The US accepted Israel's apology for "making a mistake"

## President Lyndon Baynes Johnson

22 November 1963 – 20 January 1969



Harry Truman's  
job approval rating  
according to Gallup  
was 22% in February 1952



Lyndon Johnson's  
job approval rating  
according to Gallup  
was 35% in August 1968

Twice, in less than twenty years, whether by happenstance or design, a president died and the new president adopted a dramatic shift in the policy of the United States toward Israel



And in 1968, America lost Bobby Kennedy, who said he would bring us together

## President Richard Milhous Nixon

20 January 1969 – 9 August 1974



- **Nixon initiated Operation Nickel Grass**, an American airlift to replace all of Israel’s lost munitions when Egypt attacked in the Yom Kippur War October 1973. This was huge – planeload after planeload of supplies literally allowed munitions and materiel to seemingly re-spawn for the Israeli counter effort. **567 missions were flown throughout the airlift, dropping over 22,000 tons of supplies.** An additional 90,000 tons of materiel were delivered by sea.
- **Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir**, with whom the President kept in frequent touch with throughout the ordeal, referred for the rest of her life to Richard Nixon as “my president,” and said, “For generations to come, **all will be told of the miracle of the immense planes from the United States bringing in the materiel that meant life to our people.**”
- **Nixon named the policy of Israel’s refusal to acknowledge its nuclear weapons “Opaqueness”** – the policy arises from a desire on the part of the United States and Israel to avoid an outright confrontation over the latter’s nuclear status.

Richard Nixon Foundation



## President Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr.

9 August 1974 – 20 January 1977



- **Ford was the first Vice President chosen under the terms of the Twenty-fifth Amendment** and in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, was succeeding the first President ever to resign.
- Ford acted vigorously to maintain US power and prestige after the collapse of Cambodia and South Viet Nam.
- **Preventing a new war in the Middle East remained a major objective**; by providing aid to both Israel and Egypt, the Ford Administration helped persuade the two countries to accept an interim truce agreement.
- **Detente with the Soviet Union continued.** President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev set new limitations upon nuclear weapons.

The White House

## President James Earl Carter, Jr.

20 January 1977 – 20 January 1981



- The **Camp David Accords**, signed by President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in September 1978, **established a framework for a historic peace treaty concluded between Israel and Egypt in March 1979.**
- **President Carter and the US Government played leading roles** in creating the opportunity for this agreement to occur. From the start of his administration, Carter and his Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, pursued intensive negotiations with Arab and Israeli leaders



## President James Earl Carter, Jr.

20 January 1977 – 20 January 1981

- **On 20 November 1977, Anwar Sadat**, president of Egypt, became the first — and so far only — Arab leader to **visit Israel and address the Knesset with a call for peace**.
- **Egypt insisted on an Israeli withdrawal to June 4, 1967 borders** in exchange for security arrangements and minor border modifications.
- **Israel rejected Egypt's insistence on withdrawal, especially from the West Bank and Gaza**.
- Israel argued for **some form of Palestinian autonomy** during a five-year interim period followed by the possibility of sovereignty after the interim period expired.
- The impasse over the West Bank and Gaza led Carter to intercede directly in an attempt to resolve the deadlock.



United States Office of the Historian

## President James Earl Carter, Jr.

20 January 1977 – 20 January 1981

- Land given back to Egypt by Israel after the Camp David Accords
- In the end, while the Summit did not produce a formal peace agreement, **it successfully produced the *basis* for an Egyptian-Israeli peace**, in the form of two “Framework” documents, which laid out the principles of a bilateral peace agreement as well as **a formula for Palestinian self-government in Gaza and the West Bank.**
- **After March 1979, Carter did not give Palestinian autonomy the same level of US attention** due to the competing demands of crises, especially those in Iran and Afghanistan.

United States Office of the Historian



## President James Earl Carter, Jr.

20 January 1977 – 20 January 1981

### The assassination of Egypt's President Sadat

- In October 1981, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was assassinated by a group of army officers at a military parade to celebrate Egypt's 1973 war against Israel.
- Anwar Sadat had become the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel two years earlier - a decision that angered many Egyptians and led to violent demonstrations against him.
- Both President Sadat and his wife Jehan knew that the decision to sign a peace deal with Israel was a dangerous step.



## President James Earl Carter, Jr.

20 January 1977 – 20 January 1981



October 1978, Rabbi Hirsch of Jerusalem

“The 12th principle of our faith, I believe, is that the Messiah will gather the Jewish exiled who are dispersed throughout the nations of the world. **Zionism is diametrically opposed to Judaism.** Zionism wishes to define the Jewish people as a nationalistic entity.

“**The Zionists say, in effect, ‘Look here, God. We do not like exile. Take us back, and if you don’t, we’ll just roll up our sleeves and take ourselves back.** This, of course, is heresy. The Jewish people are charged by Divine oath not to force themselves back to the Holy Land against the wishes of those residing there”

## President Ronald Wilson Reagan

20 January 1981 – 20 January 1989



- **“Israel and Jordan are the two Palestinian states envisioned and authorized by the United States”**
- **A militarily strong Israel, which is both democratic and anti-Soviet, is "the only remaining strategic asset in the region on which we can rely" (*Washington Post*, August 1979)**
- **Opposition to the terrorist PLO and rejection of the notion of a PLO state** because it would be a surrogate to the Soviet Union;
- **Strong support for Israel as America's most reliable ally in the Middle East**
- The formula that Reagan repeatedly espoused was that **"the settlements are not unlawful."**



**President Herbert Walker Bush**  
January 1989 – 20 January 1993



- Bush gave the nod to the Marxist Mengistu regime in Ethiopia that led to **Operation Solomon, the mass airlift to Israel in 1991.**
- Following his success in the 1991 Gulf War, **Bush convened the multilateral Arab-Israeli peace conference in Madrid.** It was marked by his tensions with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. But in retrospect, Bush was as tough on the Arab interlocutors and just the fact that Saudi Arabia, Gulf states and North African countries sat at the table with Israel led to Israeli diplomatic inroads in those countries.
- **Pro-Israel activists will never forget — or forgive —** when Bush said he was “one lonely guy” facing off against “thousands of lobbyists on the Hill.” He was referring to lobbyists from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, who in 1991 were pushing back against **his pledge to suspend loan guarantees to Israel unless it froze settlement building.**

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018

## President William Jefferson Clinton

20 January 1993 – 20 January 2001



- Clinton, in his first term, had the luck of working with an Israeli administration whose peacemaking agenda matched his own. In what one reporter called “a triumph of hope over history,” **Clinton brought Rabin and Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, to the White House in September 1993** to shake hands on their first agreement on ending their conflict.
- **Yet to the consternation of the Palestinians, Clinton would never get ahead of Israel.** Although the Oslo track clearly was destined toward statehood for the Palestinians, Clinton did not articulate that outcome until his last weeks in office. In 2000, after the Camp David talks ended without a deal, Clinton broke with protocol and blamed Arafat for the failure.
- **After Rabin’s assassination in 1995,** Clinton thought it important enough to preserve his friend’s legacy that he blatantly electioneered on behalf of Rabin’s successor, Shimon Peres. Rattled by a series of deadly terrorist bus bombings, Clinton pushed Middle East leaders into convening a summit against terrorism starring Peres. It didn’t work. Benjamin Netanyahu was narrowly elected to his first term in office, and the US-Israel relationship turned rocky.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018

## President William Jefferson Clinton

20 January 1993 – 20 January 2001

**Assassination is an unpredictable act.** Historically speaking, high-profile political killings have been as likely to produce backlashes and unintended consequences as they have been to achieve the assassin's goal, if he had one...



Yet the killing of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, in 1995, by Yigal Amir, an Israeli extremist, bids to be one of history's most effective political murders. **Two years earlier, Rabin, setting aside a lifetime of enmity, appeared on the White House lawn with Yasir Arafat**, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization and a former terrorist, **to agree to a framework for limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories**; the next year, somewhat less painfully, he returned to the White House, with Jordan's King Hussein, to officially end a forty-six-year state of war. Within months of Rabin's death, Benjamin Netanyahu was the new Prime Minister and the **prospects for a wider-ranging peace in the Middle East, which had seemed in Rabin's grasp, were dead**, too. Twenty years later, Netanyahu is into his fourth term, and the kind of peace that Rabin envisaged seems more distant than ever.

Dexter Filkens, *Shot in the Heart*, The New Yorker, 26 October 2015

## President William Jefferson Clinton

20 January 1993 – 20 January 2001

The story of Rabin's assassination, told in "Killing a King" (Norton), by the journalist Dan Ephron, inevitably raises the question of what might have been. At the time of his death, **Rabin showed every intention of trying to forge a broader peace** that would have included ceding most of the occupied territories to the Palestinians, and **probably would have resulted in the establishment of an independent state.**

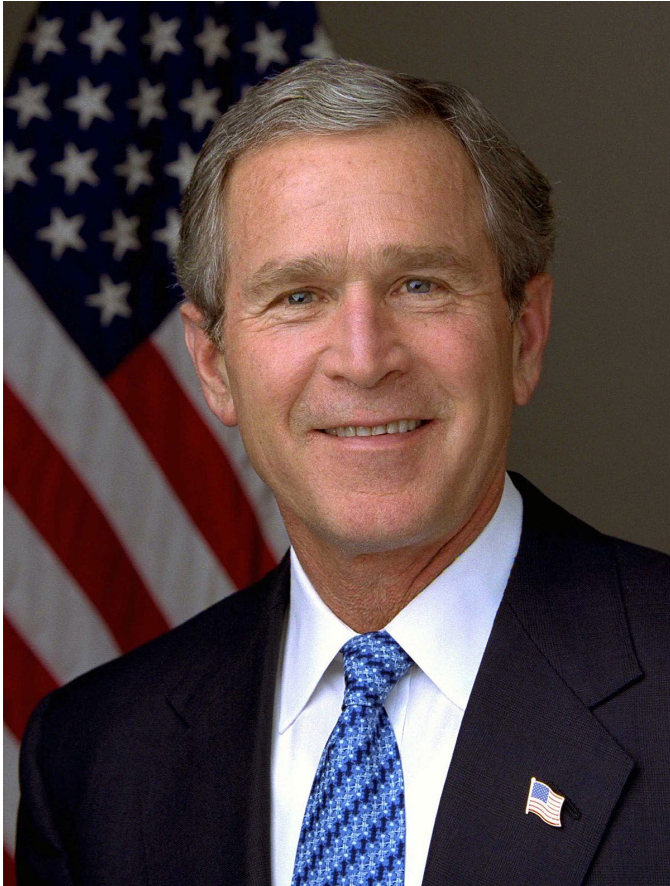


Dexter Filkins, *Shot in the Heart*, The New Yorker, 26 October 2015



## President George Walker Bush

20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009



- The 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 seemed for Israelis to be a turning point in US foreign policy, burying once and for all the American realist strain that posited engagement with bad actors as a dirty but necessary statecraft. **George W. Bush’s “with us or against us” approach** to the war on terrorism, his very coinage of the term “war on terrorism,” was **music to the ears of Israelis** who for years had said that partners in peace must renounce absolutist demands and absolutist means to achieve them.
- Bush extended his outlook to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Relaunching the peace process with his “road map” in 2002, **one explicit condition was that he would no longer deal with Yasser Arafat**, who had steered his PLO factions into participating in the bloody second intifada.
- “The Jewish community started to see a resolve for promoting peace by **motivating the Palestinians to take good actions rather than starting with Israeli concessions**,” Jay Lefkowitz, a former Bush White House policy adviser, told JTA in 2004.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018



## President George Walker Bush

20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009

# American Enterprise Institute Think Tank



BILL KRISTOL  
Regan Chief of Staff  
Quayle Chief of Staff



ROBERT KAGAN  
American Historian,  
Author, & Foreign  
Policy Columnist



Dr. ROBERT KAGAN  
Professor Military  
History at West Point  
G.W. Bush Advisor



IRVING KRISTOL  
Nonconservative Author  
"Two Cheers for Capitalism"



PAUL WOLFOWITZ  
President World Bank  
Deputy Sec. of Defense  
Indonesian Ambassador



RICHARD PERLE  
Political Advisor,  
Consultant, & Lobbyist  
Bilderberg Group Member



JOHN R. BOLTON  
U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.  
Under Sec. of State  
Arms Control



CHAS. KRAUTHAMMER  
Syndicated Columnist,  
Author, Physician  
Political Commentator

The **Project for a New American Century (PNAC)** is a Washington-based think tank created in 1997. Its members are now key Bush Administration players. In September 2000, PNAC produced a report calling for the ability to **wage simultaneous wars, perform global constabulary roles and the control of space and cyberspace**. The report recognized: "... the process of transformation is likely to be along one, absent some catastrophic and **catalyzing event such as a new Pearl Harbor.**" One year later – 9/11

**President George Walker Bush**  
20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009

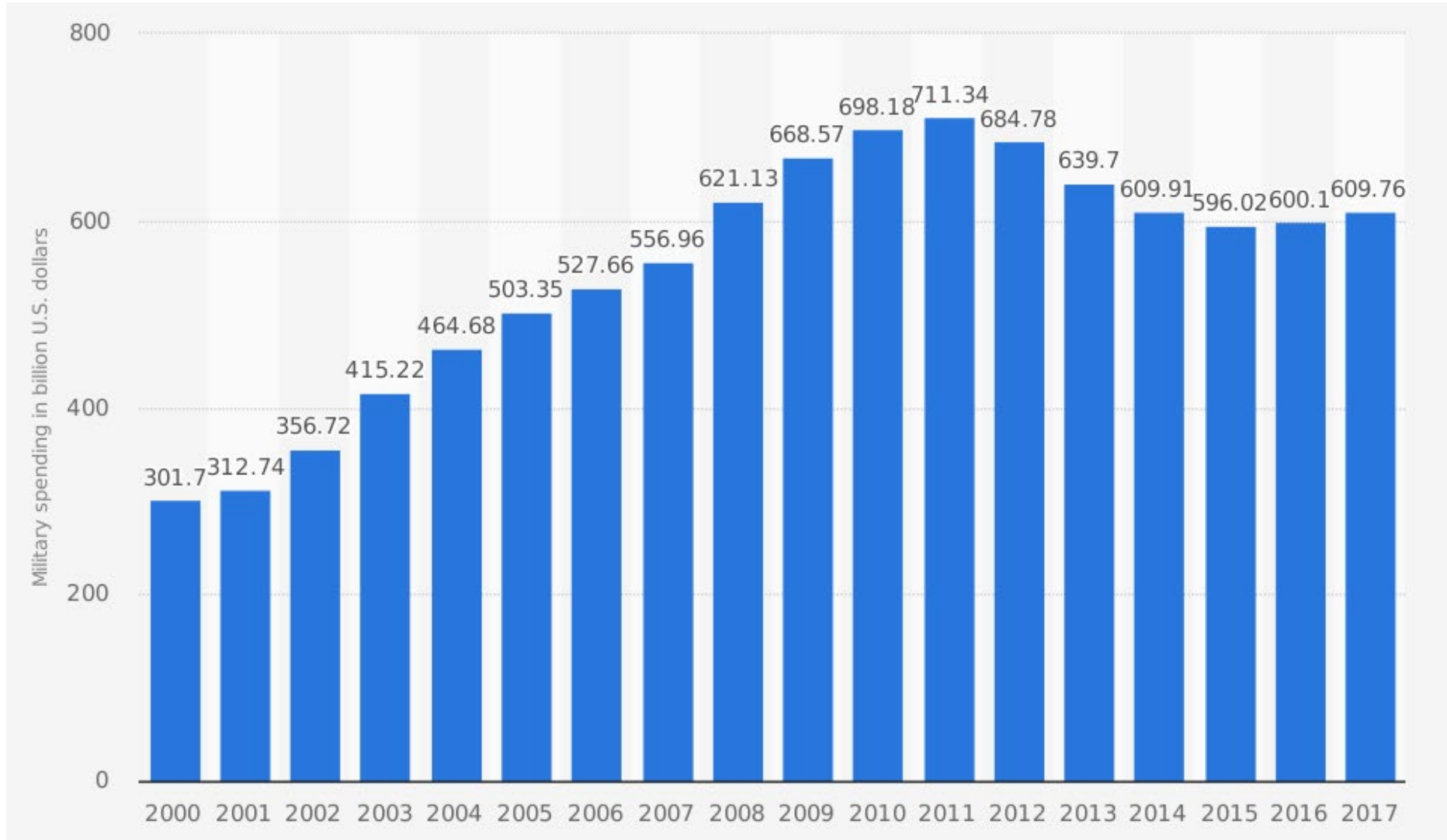


**The attacks of 11 September 2001, aka 9/11**





# US Military Spending 2000 to 2017 (billions of US dollars)



20 December 2019

President Donald Trump approved a defense bill that **authorizes \$738 billion for fiscal year 2020.**

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

## President George Walker Bush

20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009



“We’ve made the decision. We are going to war with Iraq.”

“This was on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 2001.”

General Wesley Clark on *Democracy Now* reveals US plan to invade Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Iran

## President George Walker Bush

20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009

**Rachel Corrie was a 23-year-old American peace activist** from Olympia, Washington, who was **crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer on 16 March 2003**, while undertaking nonviolent direct action to protect the home of a Palestinian family from demolition.

Since her killing, an enormous amount of solidarity activities have been carried out in her name around the world.



19 March 2003

This morning the Corrie family held a press conference on Capitol Hill. Rachel's Congressman, Brian Baird's office arranged the press conference, in which the congressman participated and announced his plan to introduce a resolution in Congress later this week ... **Congress failed to act.**

The Electronic Intifada, March 2003



## President George Walker Bush

20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009

*I should at least mention that I am also discovering **a degree of strength and of basic ability for humans to remain human in the direst of circumstances** – which I also haven't seen before. **I think the word is dignity.** I wish you could meet these people. Maybe, hopefully, someday you will.*

– Rachel Corrie, in an email to her mother, 28 February 2003



## President George Walker Bush

20 January 2001 – 20 January 2009

**7 February 2003**

... They know that children in the United States don't usually have their parents shot and they know they sometimes get to see the ocean. But once you have seen the ocean and lived in a silent place, where water is taken for granted and not stolen in the night by bulldozers, and once you have spent an evening when you haven't wondered if the walls of your home might suddenly fall inward waking you from your sleep, and once you've met people who have never lost anyone, **once you have experienced the reality of a world that isn't surrounded by murderous towers, tanks, armed "settlements" and now a giant metal wall**, I wonder if you can forgive the world for all the years of your childhood spent existing—just existing—in **resistance to the constant stranglehold of the world's fourth largest military—backed by the world's only superpower**—in its attempt to erase you from your home.



## President Barack Hussein Obama II

20 January 2009 – 20 January 2017



- **Candidate Obama sought out the council of Israel's then-opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu** and a range of pro-Israel figures in the United States on the threat posed by Iran and on the means to achieve peace.
- **As president, he expressed affection for the state** — and for the Jewish community — in ways that suggested his belief in the US-Israel alliance stemmed from his perspective as a black man.
- **Obama put an end to the linking of loan guarantees to Israel's spending on settlement construction and increased defense assistance to Israel to the unprecedented level of \$38 billion over 10 years**, making permanent hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance to Israel's anti-missile programs.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018

## President Barack Hussein Obama II

20 January 2009 – 20 January 2017



- **Netanyahu decried the Iran deal as a deadly one**, saying its “sunset clauses” removing some restrictions **simply delayed for a few years Iran’s nuclear weapons**. He arranged with the Republican leadership in Congress to speak out against the deal in a joint meeting, infuriating Obama and prompting a rift between Israel and Democrats that persists until this day.
- **AIPAC threw itself into trying to stop the deal**, intensely lobbying lawmakers to kill it and other Jewish organizations to speak up against it.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018



## President John Trump

20 January 2017 – present



- On 6 December 2017, he made good on his promise **to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and move the US Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv without consulting the Palestinians and against International Law.**

“While previous presidents have made this a major campaign promise, they failed to deliver,” Trump said. “Today, I am delivering.”

- Trump not only delivers, he delivers with a vengeance. Recognizing Jerusalem and setting a schedule to move the embassy would have been enough for his Jewish base, but **Trump accelerated the process and the embassy opened in May, albeit in temporary quarters.**

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018



## President John Trump

20 January 2017 – present



- Similarly, **Trump said he would reconsider the Iran nuclear deal; he has scrapped it.**
- **“With President Trump, I have fewer disagreements,” Netanyahu said** when he was asked to compare his interactions with Obama and Clinton. **“It’s fair to say I don’t have any disagreements.”**
- Trump wants to **revive Israeli-Palestinian talks** and has entrusted the task to a team of three, all with solid pro-Israel ties, **led by his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who is Jewish.**

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 2018

## American Evangelicals

**Evangelicals support the United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel because of how they interpret the Bible.**

- Some evangelicals prioritize the covenantal promises of Genesis, arguing that God promised the land of Israel, including Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories, to the Jewish people.
- Others stress that **Jewish possession of Jerusalem, especially the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, is essential to a number of prophesied events that will accompany the Second Coming of Christ.**
- The Bible also suggests the political benefits of such a stance. Christian Zionists cite Genesis 12:3 to argue that God will bless the United States if it “blesses” Israel with recognition of Jerusalem.



Walker Robbins, The Washington Post, 18 December 2017

# PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND 1946-2010



The Israelis say that the Palestinians:

- **Never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity**
- Want to destroy Israel
- Never have a plan for peace
- Always want the Israelis to give without the Palestinians giving in return

The truth is that **the Israelis have been and are continuing to this day to destroy Palestine.**

March 2002, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia announced the Arab Peace Initiative at the Beirut Arab League Summit **as a proposal for the Arab world (22 Arab states) to:**

- **fully recognize the State of Israel**
- **exchange embassies**
- **open borders**

**In return, Israel was to withdraw its territorial control to the 4 June 1967 lines.** Later 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation endorsed this plan.

**The Israeli response to this proposal is to take more and more Palestinian land** – Tom Segev quoted David Ben-Gurion, Founder and first Prime Minister of Israel as saying, **“We want one Palestine complete”**.

Lebanon (1983) and Jordan (1994) signed peace treaties with Israel

On 13 August 2020, Israel and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to forge a path toward normal diplomatic relations





## Joe Biden on Palestine-Israel



**Biden has been a strong supporter of Israel** throughout his political career, **calling himself a Zionist**. He says his commitment to Israel's security is "ironclad" and that, while he promises to place "constant pressure" on Israel to resolve its conflicts, he would not withhold aid.

Biden backs a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, which he says Trump's unilateral approach has made more difficult. **He supports keeping the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem after Trump moved it there in 2018.**

Biden says Israel must stop settlement activity in the occupied territories and provide more aid to Gaza, while Palestinian leaders should stop the "glorification of violence." **He calls on Arab states to normalize relations with Israel.**

- **Biden criticizes the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement**, which seeks to put economic pressure on Israel, and says it "veers into anti-Semitism," and that he would oppose any BDS efforts in Congress.



*More than 65 Israeli laws already exist that discriminate against Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories*



A Palestinian boy walks past the rubble of a demolished house in East Jerusalem

- While Israel passed a "nation-state" law that further marginalizes Palestinian citizens, such legislation is nothing new
- There are currently **more than 65 Israeli laws that discriminate** against Palestinian citizens in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories such as Palestinians need a permit to build a house, to add to an existing house or to start a business. These permits are almost never granted.
- **More than half of these laws were adopted since 2000.** From 2009 to present, elections have brought to power the most right-wing government coalitions in the history of Israel, led by **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**
- Critics say Israel's newest **Jewish nation-state law** passed on Thursday is just the latest effort to entrench ethnic superiority by promoting racist policies

Adalah, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, July 2018

## President John Trump

20 January 2017 – present

### Pro-Israel Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions

**2019 PAC contributions:** \$1,018,285

**Total PAC contributions 1978 – 2019:** \$64,166,088

**Total number of recipients 1978 – 2019:** 2,683

#### Top Five Career Recipients of Pro-Israel PAC Contributions

House		Senate	
Engel, Eliot L. (D-NY)	\$454,418	McConnell, Mitch (R-KY)	\$620,892
Hoyer, Steny (D-MD)	\$328,025	Durbin, Richard (D-IL)	\$408,921
Lowey, Nita M. (D-NY)	\$277,623	Reed, Jack F. (D-RI)	\$181,850
Deutch, Theodore E. (D-FL)	\$156,750	Collins, Susan M. (R-ME)	\$160,900
Pelosi, Nancy (D-CA)	\$149,150	Inhofe, James M. (R-OK)	\$142,800

Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, June-July 2020

## Pro-Israel Campaign Contributions – 2020 Election Cycle

Rank	Contributor	Total All Groups	To Candidates and Parties			Total Outside Spending Groups
			Total	Democrat	Republican	
1	Jstreet PAC	\$1,063,650	\$1,063,650	99.5%	0%	\$0
2	Abraham Center Middle East Peace	\$1,044,600	\$794,600	100.0%	0%	\$250,000
3	NorPAC	\$830,845	\$830,845	34.1%	65.9%	\$0
4	Republican Jewish Coalition	\$542,176	\$367,176	0%	98.6%	\$175,000
5	Pro-Israel America PAC	\$454,586	\$454,586	64.4%	35.6%	\$0
6	Joint Action Cmte for Political Affairs	\$188,785	\$188,785	100.0%	0%	\$0
7	US Israel PAC	\$122,000	\$122,000	29.1%	70.9%	\$0
8	To Protect Our Heritage PAC	\$114,500	\$114,500	38.4%	61.6%	\$0
9	Citizens Organized PAC	\$109,500	\$109,500	48.4%	51.6%	\$0
10	National Action Committee	\$103,925	\$103,925	71.6%	28.4%	\$0

## The Adelson Primary

Senator Marco Rubio



It is the **biggest financial prize in Republican presidential politics: the endorsement of Sheldon Adelson**, the multibillionaire casino magnate legendary for his willingness to spend huge sums to promote the candidates of his choosing.



Sheldon & Miriam Adelson

But this year the bidding to become the winner of what is informally called the “Adelson primary” has gotten complicated. After being wooed by virtually all the major GOP contenders, the 82-year-old **Adelson was believed to be close to announcing his backing of Florida Senator Marco Rubio** shortly after the Dec. 15 Republican debate — an event that, conveniently enough, is being held at the Venetian Las Vegas, a hotel Adelson owns.

That scenario, however, has run into resistance from a surprising source: **Miriam Adelson**, the megadonor’s strong-willed and equally hawkish wife. An Israeli-born physician, Miriam Adelson has become enamored of late with Ted Cruz, according to four Republican sources close to the couple. **The Texas senator has impressed her with his unwavering toughness on national security issues, especially his support for Israel**, the issue that the couple cares most passionately about. “He really likes Marco, but she really likes Cruz — and it’s a standoff,” said one well-placed Republican fundraiser familiar with Adelson family dynamics.

The Guardian

## The Adelson Election

The billionaire casino owner **Sheldon Adelson**, an **ardent pro-Israel conservative**, is **expected to donate at least \$100 million to boost Donald Trump's 2020 re-election** efforts and Republican congressional candidates this fall, say three Republican fundraisers familiar with Adelson's initial plans.

Adelson's hefty checks are expected **to be written to several Super PACs** – political groups that have to disclose their donors – **as well as "dark money"** not-for-profit organizations that can keep their donors secret, say the fundraisers.

One source predicted that Adelson, who in tandem with his Israeli-born wife, Miriam, donated more than \$100 million to Super PACs and dark money groups in each of the last two presidential cycles, **could wind up contributing close to \$200 million in 2020** given their recent spending patterns and appreciation for Trump's policies.

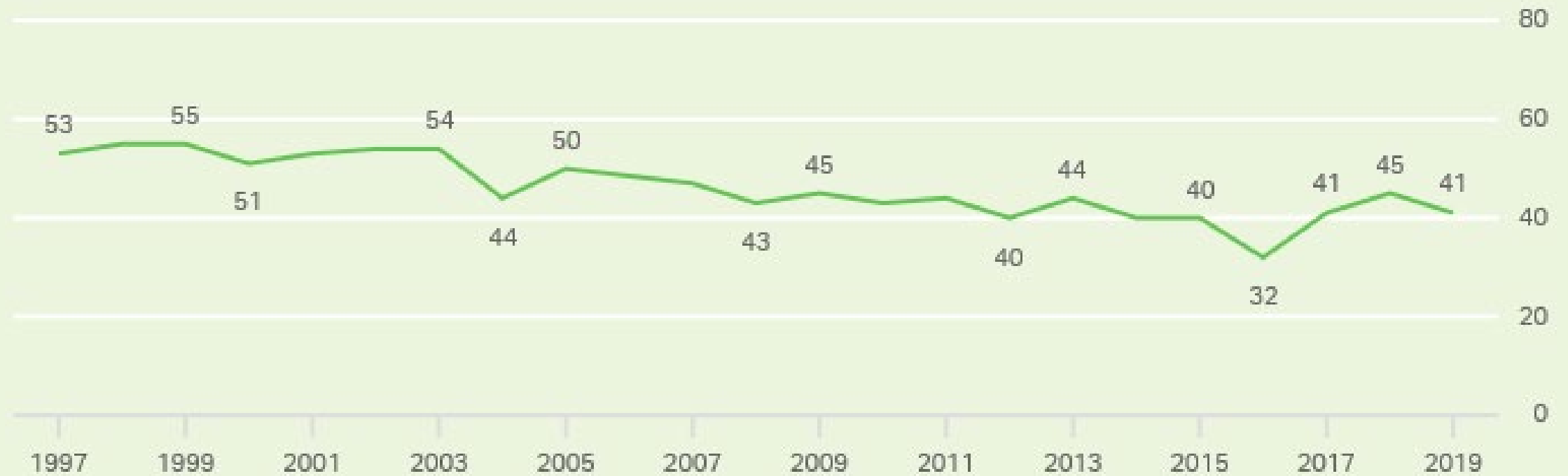




# Americans' Trust in Mass Media

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media -- such as newspapers, TV and radio -- when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately and fairly -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much or none at all?

■ % Great deal/Fair amount



GALLUP

**Pew Research - % who trust the government in Washington always or most of the time**



## Israel Demolishes Palestinian COVID-19 Testing Center



Israeli authorities have demolished a Palestinian drive-through coronavirus testing centre in the city of Hebron, south of the occupied West Bank.

The West Bank is struggling to contain a second wave of coronavirus infections, after appearing to successfully ward off the pandemic with a strict weeks-long lockdown implemented in March.

Middle East Eye, 23 July 2020

## US Police Trained by Israelis

Law enforcement officers move toward demonstrators during a gathering to protest the recent death of George Floyd on 31 May 2020 in Bellevue, Washington.

**Amnesty International reveals** how the police from a surprising wide expanse of the US have been **receiving training from Israeli forces and services**, warning that the violence that is being exercised by the law enforcement **has come to match Israeli brutality.**

Reporting late last month, the UK-based rights group said the American police members have been either travelling to the occupied territories to receive the training or have been trained inside the United States by Israeli forces



Amnesty International, 1 June 2020





**Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) isn't at this year's American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference. But he's on everyone's minds.**

Sanders, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, is an avowed opponent of the Washington group, which he has criticized as providing a platform for bigotry and opposition to Palestinian rights.

**As a result, he's been a target of speakers at the group's annual conference.**

The Guardian, 3 March 2020





Speaking to Democracy Now, Noam Chomsky said: **“Israeli intervention in US elections vastly overwhelms anything the Russians may have done**, I mean, even to the point where the prime minister of Israel, Netanyahu, goes directly to Congress, without even informing the president, and speaks to Congress, with overwhelming applause, to try to undermine the president’s policies - what happened with Obama and Netanyahu in 2015.”

In March 2015, at the invitation of then Republican House Speaker John Boehner, and assisted by Israel’s Ambassador to the US, Ron Dermer, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin **Netanyahu addressed the joint houses of Congress about the yet to be signed Iran nuclear deal. He did so without formally informing the White House**, something said to have infuriated Barack Obama, whose administration would the following month join a seven-party agreement to limit Iran’s alleged nuclear weapons ambitions.

**Women in Black** (Hebrew: נשים בשחור Nashim BeShahor) is a women's anti-war movement with an estimated 10,000 activists around the world. The first group was formed by Israeli women in Jerusalem in 1988.



San Francisco



Jerusalem



Washington



Melanie S. Rich & Kalpana Misra, *Jewish feminism in Israel*, Brandeis University Press, 2003





## Journey to Peace

10,000 Israeli and Palestinian Women March for Peace  
24 September – 10 October 2017



Arriving in Jerusalem after two-week walk, 'Women Wage Peace' rally participants demand Israeli-Palestinian deal... Sunday's arrival in Jerusalem coincides with the week-long Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which commemorates the Jewish journey through the Sinai after their exodus from Egypt.

The Times of Israel, 8 October 2017



How is it that we do not hear these words more frequently:

- George Washington said, “**Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all**”
- George Washington said, “**So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter without adequate inducement or justification.**”



## Peace to Prosperity – The Kushner Plan January 2020

- Approximately 97% of Israelis in the West Bank will be incorporated into contiguous Israeli territory. **Israel will annex the Jordan Valley.**
- Approximately 97% of Palestinians in the West Bank will be incorporated into contiguous Palestinian territory. Land swaps will provide the State of Palestine with land reasonably comparable in size to the territory of pre-1967 West Bank and Gaza.
- Access routes will be subject to Israeli security responsibility.







- When we hear, “The Palestinians have no plan for peace” or that “The Palestinians want to destroy Israel”
  - Remember that the Palestinians support **UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 336 – Land for Peace**. The United States and Israel signed these resolutions.
  - **The Palestinians support peace based on a recognition of Israel as a state with a return to the 1967 borders**
  - **Palestine would become a state on 22% of the British Mandate of Palestine**. Israel would have 78%
  - 22 Arab countries support this plan
  - 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation endorsed this plan



## How many states currently recognize the State of Palestine?

- **Palestine is officially recognized as the State of Palestine by 139 countries out of 192 member states (72%) of the UN recognize the State of Palestine**, including 9 out of the 10 most populated countries in the world. 162 countries recognize the State of Israel.
- Palestine is a non-voting member of the UN
- **Over 80% of the world's population lives in countries that have recognized the State of Palestine.** The list includes a variety of nations such as South Africa, China, India, Sweden, Russia, Iceland, the Holy See and Brazil, among others.
- In addition to the entirety of the Arab League and the vast majority of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The latest country to recognize Palestine is Saint Kitts and Nevis.



In all the discussion of the national interest of the United States during the Cold War and after, the focus seemed to be on strategic interest:

- Making sure that the world did not turn Communist – **the Domino Theory**
- Making sure that we had **one reliable ally in the Middle East - Israel**

Without a lot of discussion about:

- **America's core values** of self-determination and majority rule
- **America's belief in the rule of law** as a better way to resolve disputes than war and violence



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 July 2018, New York, London, Berlin, Tel Aviv

**Jewish Voice for Peace proud to stand in global solidarity against harmful definition of antisemitism** and with human rights and freedom to protest. For the first time ever forty Jewish organizations across the globe came together **condemning attempts to stifle criticism of Israel.**

The **statement warns of a growing trend of legislative campaigns to target organizations** that support Palestinian rights, particularly the nonviolent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

“From our own histories we are all too aware of the dangers of increasingly fascist and openly racist governments and political parties,” the global letter states. “The rise in antisemitic discourse and attacks worldwide is part of that broader trend. At times like this, **it is more important than ever to distinguish between the hostility to or prejudice against Jews on the one hand and legitimate critiques of Israeli policies and system of injustice on the other.**”



## List of Endorsing Jewish Organizations

Academia4equality (Israel)	Een Andere Joodse Stem – Another Jewish Voice (Flanders, Belgium)	Italian Network of Jews Against the Occupation
Arbeter Ring/Workmen’s Circle, Southern California	European Jews for a Just Peace	Italian Network of Jews Against the Occupation
Boycott from Within (Israeli citizens for BDS)	Free Speech on Israel (UK)	Jewish Anti-Fascist Action Berlin (Germany)
Coalition of Women for Peace (Israel)	Gate48 – critical Israelis in the Netherlands	Jewish Socialists’ Group (UK)
Collectif Judéo Arabe et Citoyen pour la Palestine (France)	Independent Jewish Voices (Canada)	Jewish Voice for Democracy and Justice in Israel/Palestine (Switzerland)
Dayenu: New Zealand Jews Against Occupation (New Zealand)	Independent Jewish Voices (UK)	Jewish Voice For Labour (UK)
Een Ander Joods Geluid (A Different Jewish Voice) (The Netherlands)	International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network	Jewish Voice for Peace (USA)

## List of Endorsing Jewish Organizations

Jewish Voice for Peace members in London (UK)	JIPF – Judar för Israelisk Palestinsk Fred (Sweden)	SEDQ Network- A Global Jewish Network for Justice
Jews Against Fascism (Australia)	Jüdische Stimme für gerechten Frieden im Nahost e.V. (Germany)	South African Jewish Voices for a Just Peace
Jews against the Occupation (Australia)	Junts, Associació Catalana de Jueus i Palestins (Catalonia, Spain)	Union des progressistes juifs de Belgique (Saint-Gilles, Belgium)
Jews for Justice for Palestinians (UK)	Los Otros Judíos (Argentina)	United Jewish People’s Order (Canada)
Jews for Palestinian Right of Return (USA)	Manchester Jewish Action for Palestine (UK)	Union Juive Française pour la Paix (France)
Jews of Color & Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews in Solidarity w/ Palestine (USA)	Quebrando Muros – Judeus Brasileiros Pela Descolonização da Palestina (Brazil)	Boston Workmen’s Circle, Center for Jewish Culture and Social Justice
Jews Say No! (USA)	Scottish Jews Against Zionism	

## For Further Reading

- ***Against Our Better Judgment*** by Alison Weir, Alison Weir Publishing, 2014
- ***All That Remains*** by Walid Khalidi, Institute for Palestine Studies, 2006
- ***One Palestine Complete*** by Tom Segev, Picador press, 2001
- ***Israel and the American National Interest*** by Cheryl Rubenberg, University of Illinois Press, 1986
- ***Bitter Harvest*** by Sami Hadawi, Caravan Books, 1979
- ***Assault on the Liberty*** by James M. Ennes, Random House, 1979
- ***What Price Israel*** by Alfred M. Lilienthal, Infinity Publishing, 1953

